



THE WIDENER FAMILY

GHANA, AFRICA

"Taking the Gospel to the Gold Coast"



JUNE 2007

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

On Saturday afternoons we have several ministries ongoing: a Ghana Sign Language class for church members learning to interpret to the deaf, a teacher and worker's meeting, and evangelism. I want to report on how God has been working in these respective ministries.

There are six members who are taking the sign language class to learn how to interpret to the deaf. They have learned over 500 signs and are practicing in church by communicating with the deaf. On Sunday evenings some are practicing by interpreting the songs and announcements. Please pray that each one will develop the ability to interpret the preaching services to the deaf. Currently, I preach and teach in both voice and sign language simultaneously for all the services. This also helps those learning as they observe the signs being used with voice.

Last month we started using some of the faithful men in our church to teach the children's Sunday school class, and to preach in children's church. Previously my wife was doing all the teaching to the children through interpreters. Now, she is helping the men who are teaching with the songs and memory verses. It is a real blessing to see some of the men taking the responsibility to teach in our children's ministry. That is a step towards our goal of having an indigenous, Independent Baptist Church.

For many weeks now we have spent our evangelism time preaching to the fishermen mending their nets at the village near our church. Our men will gather a group together on the beach, and we have a preaching service. We are happy that four of the men have since visited our church. Please pray for these fishermen to come to the knowledge of the truth. After one preaching session, during the question and answer time, they revealed their spiritual blindness by believing good works was essential to salvation.

We also would preach at some of the student hostels in the village. A group of students would be gathered and we preach the gospel to them with an opportunity for questions afterwards. It saddened us to hear a few weeks ago that one young teen age girl we preached to was killed in an act of mob justice. She had taken some woman's husband and was killed after the adulterous act. After we heard about this tragedy, we went back to the hostel to preach, but many of the girls staying there had left for another place. However, we did preach to two teenagers, and one boy named Eric made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior. He has visited our services after making a profession, so please pray for him to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

We want to praise the Lord for providing for our children's home school materials. Much thanks to Mt. Pleasant B. C. (Cadiz, KY), Fellowship B.C. (Perryton, TX), and Northside B.C. (Killeen, TX) for their love offerings this past month. Please continue to pray about our visa situation as we are still working on obtaining our renewed work permits.

Grateful for His Grace,

Bro. Johnny Widener

Received with thanks: _____

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