



Issue #2

# GEMS

GLOBAL EVANGELISM MINISTRY SERVICES

## Second Quarter 2019



**Faith Independent Baptist Church  
Ankaase, Ghana, West Africa**







### Michael Williams Family

who has the master plan. In fellowshiping with Him we will also be given the faith to do what He asks.

**“How then to have our faith increased? Not a striving to have faith...but a looking off to the Faithful one seems all we need...”**

**Hudson Taylor**

Please take time to read the article below, written by high school graduate Joy Yarn of her experience in Ghana in March of 2019. I pray this will excite you to also want to be a part in January 2020 or a later date.

I am so excited as I see many youth who are searching for Him being shown their part in His plan for the Redemption of man. In January of 2020, Lord willing, we will have many young men and women (teenagers) traveling with us to Ghana to “preach the gospel” in a place where God has an active plan for the Redemption of man! You could also be a part and, if you are interested and feel God would have you to be involved, our contact information is listed in this magazine.

## Ghana by Joy Yarn



I never wanted to leave the U.S., but over the last few years that has changed. On March 14-April 2 of 2019, my grandmother, my mother, and I went to Ghana, West Africa, to visit my uncle Josh Brown and his family. We were there to see the churches, try the food, experience the way they live, and to be a help to them in any way that we could.

As soon as I got there, Autumn Brown and Dorothy Konadu started teaching me Twi. The first Sunday that we were there it had rained the night before, and the roads were so muddy that we couldn’t go to church. So, we had church at the house, and my uncle preached on “The Four Types of Hearts.” Monday was market day and the first time that we rode in a tro-tro. It was so much fun! The nationals drive so fast and the roads are so full of potholes that you are just bouncing up and down the entire time.

My mom and I went to one of the services on Wednesday night. My Uncle Josh took us around Dompa and we were able to meet all the people that go to the church; they were all so nice and excited to meet us. The church is in a school and it does not have lights, so the people bring lanterns. The Sunday that we did get to go to church, we first went to Dompa, and, after that, to Apewu. It is a fun ride to the churches, because we have to cram into the car.



Before Jesus left this world He told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. While most think this preaching of the gospel is foolishness, we who are saved understand it is the power of God unto salvation.

The result of this command of Christ is that many agonize greatly in knowing the “where” of God’s will for their lives. However, my belief is that we should focus on our fellowship with Him rather than on our service for Him. When we focus on our fellowship with Him, doors will begin to open for “places” where we may preach the gospel, and we will have His power in doing so. In effect, God reveals to us our part in His plan for the Redemption of man as we become more and more personally acquainted with the Redeemer

The churches are wonderful. The buildings may not be much, but the people are amazing. They are so kind, and they love to be at church. When they sing, they are very spirited, and it's so fun to watch. I don't know Twi, but watching them makes me want to sing with them. I wish that we had the spirit that they have when singing in our church.



The food is a little intimidating, but Mrs. Rhoda is a great cook. She made fish, and I was going to eat the head. I was a little scared at first, but I toughened up and ate it, AND IT WAS AMAZING! But my favorite food is fufu and peanut soup. It is so good I could eat it all day.

Ghana really is wonderful, and some of the views are breathtaking. It's a shame that it took me going to Ghana to realize how blessed I really am, and how great my life really is. God has really blessed me with all that I have. He is so wonderful.



**Patrick and Christelle Ndjaboue**



Diether and his wife, Mrs. Christelle, and Bro. Patrick

During the second quarter of 2019, we visited 30 churches, drove about 8,000 miles, and were privileged to see 13 souls saved. The Lord gave us good meetings and new supporting churches in Mississippi, Arkansas, Florida, and California.

**A German gets saved.** A pastor contacted me a while back indicating that there was an unsaved German sporadically visiting his church with his saved wife. We visited that church, and, after the morning service, we shared the gospel in German to Diether. The good Lord opened his heart and he trusted Jesus as his Savior. God also allowed us to lead a lady to Christ after the service in the same church.

***Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."***

**A German gives** - In Florida, we met a German Christian lady from New York. Her husband and she were on vacation in Florida and attended one of our

meetings. As with the apostle Paul, her great desire is that her people will be saved. The Holy Spirit moved upon their hearts, and they donated the largest financial amount any individual has ever provided to this ministry.

**More Germans** - While visiting a store in North Georgia, I overheard a conversation between two young German tourists. After introducing myself to them, I handed them gospel tracts. They were very surprised to receive literature in German. I told them that the Lord knew they needed it: why would I otherwise carry German tracts in an English speaking country? May the seed of the Word of God lead them to Jesus!

**GEMS (Global Evangelism Ministry Services)** is a ministry out of Calvary Baptist Church, 3812 Kirby Parkway, Memphis, TN 38115-5288.

These ministry updates are published at least four times a year and may be requested at no cost by mailing to the above address or by going to our website at <http://www.gems4christ.com>



**Ministering to Students** - In April, my wife and I also enjoyed the opportunity to share the call to Missions with Christian school students. We were greatly encouraged by the impact that the Word of God had on students and teachers alike. I preached both the Saturday and Sunday Easter services; a lady and an older gentleman put their faith in our risen Savior during the Easter weekend.



**An unusual appointment** - In Arkansas, we arrived at the hotel on Saturday for a Sunday meeting, and we gave a gospel tract to the receptionist. However, the Lord urged me around 1 AM to go out and speak to him. I found that Tommy was a regular church attendant but totally confused about the way of salvation; he was trying to establish his own righteousness, and had, therefore, not submitted to the righteousness of God. The Word of God went to work to establish the completeness of the sacrifice of our Lord, and the sufficiency of faith in Jesus for salvation. By 4 AM Tommy was born into the Kingdom. I can still see him shouting, "I believe! I believe! Jesus did more than enough to save me!"



With Pastor Floyd in California

**Outlook-** We just returned from a 5-week deputation trip in California. We will be meeting churches in Virginia and New England during the next 6 weeks.

As you pray for Germany, allow us to bring a particular suburb of the Frankfurt metropolitan area to your attention: Officially called Offenbach Am Mein, this township has a population of 125,000 people, 30% of whom are immigrants. Its population has grown by 12,000 people during the last 8 years; to our knowledge, there is no New Testament Church reaching these precious souls. Would you take time this month to lift up Offenbach to the throne of grace and ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers to this field?



**Prayer Requests:** (1) Travel Mercies (2) God's hand upon us as we endeavor to be a blessing to those we meet (3) God's blessings upon the labors of the Baptist Church of Niedderau, Germany.

We thank the Lord Jesus for your faithful financial and prayer support.



## Josh and Emily Brown



*"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32*

The truth of these verses is unmistakable as we review the past months. Though we strive in our labor for the Master, it is evident that it is *His* work. We are grateful to be witnesses as He works to draw the people of Lake Bosomtwe. Here are a few of the highlights of what He has been doing over the past few months:

### Resurrection Sunday (pictured on the cover)

We had a wonderful day as we celebrated the resurrection of the Savior. The Saturday prior we celebrated the wedding of a man and woman in our church. This was not only an exciting time due to the wedding, but the Lord used it to bring many visitors to church on Sunday to hear the Gospel. At the close of the service, many gave a testimony salvation and 15 came forward for believer's baptism. As we reflect on how the Lord drew people to hear the plan of salvation. It is wonderful to see how He used the joining of a man and a woman in marriage to help join people unto Himself.

### Prayer requests

- The Lord will continue to draw the lost to the Savior.
- The members of the churches as they continue to grow in knowledge and grace.
- The building programs in Apewu and Dompaa. Please pray as for God's guidance and provision.
- God's leading in regards to a new meeting.
- Please pray that God will continue to guide and protect our family as we continue the work in Ghana.



**Bible Club in Ankaase**

### Bible Club

We held Bible Clubs in April in the village of Ankaase in preparation for a new church plant. This was a great opportunity to clearly teach and share the Gospel to children as well as parents. There was a great response from the community as many children and adults attended with many professing faith in Christ! It was also a great way to get to know the people of the community. Later we met many who were receptive to the Gospel while out soulwinning in the village. During one visit, I had the opportunity to share the Gospel with the village chief. It was at this time he explained how the Lord had already been doing a work in his heart prior to our meeting! The Lord was clearly drawing this man, and I was blessed to witness as he wonderfully placed his faith in Christ for salvation.



## Faith Independent Baptist Church of Ankaase

On May 5, 2019, we held our first Sunday Service in Ankaase! It was a great time as we had many members of our other churches travel to Ankaase to rejoice over the new church being planted in this new village. It was encouraging to the new believers to see many other like-minded Christians



## First Sunday Service



Through the past month and a half, it has been a joy to see these new believers desire to learn and grow as they faithfully attend the services. It has also been exciting to see the way the Lord has been working in Ankaase and the surrounding villages drawing new people to the Savior. Please keep these new believers in your prayers as they grow in knowledge and grace.

## Possible New Field Office

Each Tuesday, we have a Men's Prayer Meeting and Bible Study which has been a wonderful time of fellowship and discipleship. Currently, the men travel 2-3 hours one way to meet since they are from the different churches. We have been praying for a location that would be more centrally located to the churches so they would not have to travel so far; this would also allow more men to attend the meeting and for us to have additional meetings since it would be much closer. Recently, I was made aware of an unused government building that is in an optimal location. I have met with government officials and they are saying the building is available for rent, but there appears to be some red tape. Please pray for God's leading as we continue to investigate this option.



## Provision

Praise the Lord that our prayers for a new vehicle have been answered!

We thank you for your support, words of encouragement and especially your prayers.



Visit our website at:  
**Gems4Christ.com**





**Roy and Lois Thompson**



*Ploiesti church after a Sunday morning service*

Romania has wholly embraced Western values. Materialism places God into a distant second or third. Western foods have brought associated illnesses. Rarely seen during communism, Lois' father suffers from Alzheimer's disease (now commonly referred to as Type III diabetes).

### **Thanksgiving**

1. A stabilized routine for Lois' father and continued positive interaction with Lois' family.
2. Deferring to current ministry needs, a decision to postpone grounds changes for a basketball ministry and easier parking.
3. Good health and strength for us all.

Lois and I met and married while I was serving in Romania with the U.S. Navy in 2001. Six years ago, we began to discuss returning to serve in her home country. I now serve as interim pastor of a Baptist church in Ploiesti, 50 kilometers north of home. Lois translates sermons, counsels the women of the church, and is glad to be able to serve within her own culture.

Christina and Roy have engaged the neighborhood children with baseball and ping-pong.

### **Prayer needs**

1. Continuing wisdom to train our children well, our most important ministry.
2. Continuing wisdom and guidance in the role of interim pastor (for both the pastor and his wife!).
3. A better understanding of the culture and the language.

## **Romania**

**by Christina Thompson**

This is how it is (sigh), in Romania:

We're driving down the main road leading to our home, passing the newly-opened Kaufland (a German grocery store) when I catch sight of a fire truck in the parking lot! It's parked near the grass, the hoses out. I imagine the whole store burning down, brand new! But, wait. It's not there to put out a fire. I rub my eyes and take a second look. I'm not seeing an optical illusion. They're watering the grass! With fire truck hoses! I can't help laughing.

This is the way things are here. You see many such sights in everyday life. Some are funny, such as the fire department hired to water the grass. In our village, as with many others, gypsies ride by in carts pulled



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by straggly-maned horses. As they ride, they yell in a sort of yodeling sound, "We buy junk metal! Junk metal!"

Another hilarious scene was when my siblings and I were at the park. We spoke English to each other, and as we did, some of the Romanian kids around us glanced at us. As we continued to speak English, they stared and whispered. They obviously thought we didn't understand Romanian, for they said out loud:

"They're American."

"They don't speak Romanian."

"They're crazy, the way they play."

Their faces were unforgettable when we started speaking Romanian!

But some of our unusual experiences were very sobering. Once we were in the hospital, sitting in the ER waiting room. The ambulance entrance and the waiting room are in the same place. Consequently, we saw everyone who was wheeled into the building. Crudely-bandaged legs and arms, bleeding eyes, decrepit old people most likely fallen in the streets -- it was absolutely shocking. Macabre as that was, that wasn't the worst of it. The reason we were there was because my grandfather had gotten lost in the city and had been picked up by the ambulance. Only one person was allowed in the ER at a time, so my mom went into the Minor Emergency Room to look for my grandfather. When she came out, she reported that he was there. But she was shocked at the conditions. My grandfather had obviously



Christina recently celebrated her birthday with family in Romania

been drugged, but not attended to, just left in a bed. A nurse was scurrying around, but my mom noticed she omitted the sterilization of tools and hands. I was dazed.

Many of those living in the United States don't appreciate the many blessings they have: good roads, homes, hospitals. I have to admit that before I came here with my family six months ago, I had really no idea how fortunate I had been living in the States. Our family didn't have to deal with numerous potholes in the mostly narrow roads, shoving, jolting lines in the grocery store, slow renovations, and more. I just would like to encourage American Christians to think more often of others overseas, and thank God for all the great blessings they have in America.