



GEMS update • September E-Newsletter



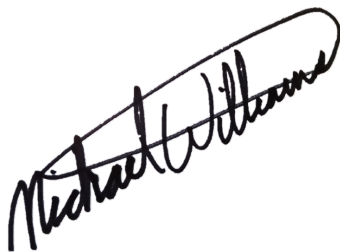
As my family and I looked for a house to rent near the church in Memphis, TN, we were more than a little daunted by the cost, the location, etc. We wanted a place with a little more space and a quiet setting, yet close to the church. For several months we looked and prayed, yet nothing worked out. Then one day I was praying around the city of Memphis, and when I was 15-20 minutes from the church in a country area, I saw an older house with a "For Rent" sign. Long story short - the house is surrounded by hundreds of acres of woods and farmland on 3 sides and a very nice, quiet park on the fourth side, making enough space inside and out for our family while being close to the church.

When we announced that we had found a house, the windows of Heaven opened, and God poured out a blessing so big we couldn't contain it all. People began to bring things to us to help us set up house and,

let me tell you, I'm not talking about junk! Every basic need that we need for a home was supplied in a matter of a few days! On top of that, it seemed God began to smile upon my lovely wife who had done without so much for so long as we lived by faith. It seemed whatever she uttered to me in private God gave her publicly. She mentioned that the cement area outside the house would be great for a patio table and chairs to host people with, she got it! She mentioned how it would be nice to have a crockpot as she must leave each day to teach our children school at a different location – the very next day two were delivered by people we didn't even know and a third one came in a day later! We were even given the small things like laundry hampers, irons, lamps, etc. It was simply amazing and my wife cried and cried. Well, though we were so thrilled and astounded by all this provision, I must admit I began feeling a bit jealous of my wife and this crazy connection she had with God. Then, one Saturday afternoon I went to get something at Lowe's, and I was looking at all the sheds and thinking, "Man, I would love to have a nice shed." On Sunday evening, a man came up to me at church and asked, "You need a shed?"... I about fell over! "What?! Wow! Yes!!" I have to say that I would have to make a pretty large salary to be able to afford all God has given to us in such a short time. We feel so unworthy yet so grateful for all that has been done. Praise be to His Holy Name! What an Employer! What a Provider!

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

For His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Michael Williams
Pastoral Director
GEMS Ghana Mission
GEMS Germany Mission

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GERMANY



"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Mat 28:20

Dear praying friends,

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Praise the Lord for six souls saved during the months of July and August. We are also thankful for new partners and friends in the ministry. We hope you will be encouraged as we give a full account of one of the many works that the Lord has done.

PRAISE - During one mission conference, I went soulwinning on Saturday with "James." While we knocked on doors, he indicated that he had not witnessed to total strangers in 4 years; he had become discouraged because he saw no fruits. Meghan opened the last door we knocked, and the Lord opened the heart of this Catholic young lady so that she believed the words that were spoken. After hearing the gospel, Meghan bowed her head and asked Jesus to save her soul. As soon as we finished praying, I first observed her moistened eyes, and then the free-flowing tears of joy. She tried hard to regain her composure until she could utter these sweet words: "Thank you, thank you for coming here today. I needed this." As we left the house, James began to quiz me regarding soulwinning; he noted the verses and the structure I had used and kept shouting, "This is unreal, this is unreal!" Now, a couple of days after the mission conference, James texted that he had just led a man to Christ; I texted back: "Praise the Lord!!!" Then James fired this: "I knew it was real because he cried." Well, I don't know about the crying part, but I am sure thankful to the Lord Jesus that one of His soldiers has been encouraged and is on fire afresh to win souls.

PRAYER - Please pray for safe travels and the blessing of heaven upon our upcoming meetings in LA, MO, and OR. Please continue to pray for God's guidance and help as we prepare to sell our house in GA. As German believers would say, "Der Herr sei gesegnet!"

Yours to bring Jesus to the people of Germany,
The Ndjaboue family

If you are interested in Bro. Patrick and Mrs. Christelle visiting your church, you can reach him at:
Phone - 678-485-7258
Email - nchristrick29@protonmail.com
Facebook - GEMS Germany



The Brown Family

For those of you we have not had the pleasure of meeting, we are the Brown Family. My wife Emily and I (Josh) have been blessed with 4 children; Autumn 16, Joshua 14, Amaris 13, and Abigail 10. We have been serving at Calvary Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, since 2002 in many of the church ministries under Pastor Robert Hooker.

My wife and I met as teenagers at Metro Baptist Church in Belleville, Michigan. I accepted Christ at the age of 9, and Emily was saved at the age of 13. My wife and I both surrendered to the mission field as teenagers. It is with great regret that we admit that we were lured away from God's

calling by the cares of this world.

For 15 years, I was blessed with a successful career as a manager in the transportation industry. As the years progressed, on three occasions our decision to put God and family first (God first and family second) was tried due to work scheduling. Each instance resulted in us walking away from otherwise good positions. Three years ago I left the industry due to being mandated to work on Sundays. At this point, I chose a new career which we thought would be a better one for our family and ministry. This career too ended up resulting in the same issues we had before. Although these situations were trying and frustrating, looking back, we can now see that this was God testing us to see if we were willing to seek His Kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).

During the last of these transitions, God led Bro. Michael Williams and his family to Calvary Baptist Church. In September of last year, Bro. Michael asked if I would be interested in joining him on a trip to Ghana the following month. At that time I did not understand why the door had opened but told him I would pray about it. I did not believe going was a real possibility since I did not have a Passport, Visa, Yellow Fever shot, or funds for a plane ticket and only had four weeks to prepare. But with God all things are possible! The passport came back in a week and a half when I was quoted a 5-week processing time! The Visa was processed in only three days! God also provided the money for the plane ticket in the few short weeks! Through the following months, the Holy Spirit's leading was evident.

God continued to work and show Himself Faithful in bringing me and a fellow church member back to Ghana for the Annual Prayer camp in January. It was while on this trip that God confirmed to me his calling to join the GEMS Ghana Mission. There is not enough time to list all that took place from January to May 2018, but God continued to reaffirm his calling to Ghana. Praise God for second chances!

The Churches

We are now finishing our second month here in Ghana, and the Lord has been faithful in this transition. In the past two months, God has continued to bless the churches in Apewu and Dompaa. The members are faithful and have a desire to learn and grow.

We recently held a service at the lake and 10 of the new (and some not so new) converts came forward in obedience to the Lord in believers' baptism. God is working, and the people are yielding!



We are in the process of planning a trip to the Pastors and Workers Conference in Kumasi August 14-17th. The church members who memorize the scripture verses we have been reviewing will be provided transportation and no cost to attend this conference! We have many so far who have already completed the challenge and many who are still working hard. It's so good to see Christians excited about hiding God's Word in their heart. Palms 119:11

We recently went to sign papers needed for the purchase of land for the churches in Apewu and Dompaa so we can begin the process of building a church for each village! Please pray that God will continue to direct us as we begin the process of building in the future.





Prayer Requests

We thank you for your prayers and we ask that you continue to pray for spiritual growth for the churches at Dompaa and Apewu.

We are planning to have open-air meetings in villages where the truth is not currently preached. Please pray that God will guide us to the locations, open the doors, and prepare the hearts of the people to hear and accept the Gospel.

We are also planning the Annual Prayer Conference in January 2019. There are already people from several churches planning to join us and there is room for more to those who are interested. Please pray that God will give direction in the preparation and that God will use the meeting to advance His Kingdom.

Please pray The Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers. The work is plenteous, and the people are in great darkness and many are perishing without the Gospel.

Pray for us as we continue to become more acclimated to a new culture and most importantly for the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and empower us in His great work.

We also ask that you pray that our Work/Residents Visas will be approved without any delays.

Psalm 127: 1 Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Thank you again for your Prayers and Support.

In Christ,
Joshua Brown
Field Director
GEMS Ghana Mission
Phone 901-318-9337
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Another GEM



One of the families we met when we first arrived in Memphis was the Thompson Family. What a joy it has been getting to know this sweet family better. Theirs is a very interesting and unique story, especially concerning wife and mother, Lois, who was born into and raised in a communist country. God has moved in the heart of the Thompsons to join GEMS and go to Romania to be used in whatever capacity God desires there. Bro. Roy is retired from the military, and, thus, he and his family are not seeking personal support, but are rather asking for prayer and spiritual support. On November 23, 2018, the Thompson family will move to Romania and begin a new chapter of their journey with God! Please pray with us that God will enable them to accomplish “His will on earth”.

I asked Bro. Roy to write an article for this update in hopes it would inspire others to follow his course!

Much of our lives in the Western world is centered around convenience. Amazon shopping is likely the best example. With a few touches of a handheld screen, we browse, shop, and receive our orders two days later. The Western world excels also in leisure, entertainment, and sports. So, as we move into retirement, our thoughts gravitate towards all of the above together with the ideal climate, safety health care, and travel.

For we who are followers of Christ, this perspective ought to be tempered with a growing realization that there remains still Christ's commissioning to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching all that He commanded. Most of us in the Western world work as laborers, carpenters, plumbers, builders, doctors, engineers, managers, and a whole host of other services and professions. While working those day jobs, God's people add Sunday school teacher, deacon, elder, mission's coordinator, usher, or music director to the list of responsibilities for evenings, nights, and weekends.

As God gives to some health and strength to live beyond the years of a working profession, our vision ought to shift. Here in the West, Social Security, IRA's, government and private pensions enable some retirees to live without the need to work even part-time. Rather than plan a retirement dream location and home, whether in the States or overseas or Latin America, American retirees who are followers of Christ do well to focus their dreams on the Great Commission and how their new-found abundance of free time can be used to further the work of the Kingdom of God.

For this reason, let us encourage one another in our retirement years to consider local church or missions support as our new profession. For some, remaining close to family will be the best fit and our highest calling as we continue to serve in our role as brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, parents, and grandparents together with service to our local church. To ensure accountability, we do well to establish a dialogue with our pastor and church leadership three to five years in advance of our retirement and begin to outline what our roles and responsibilities might look like. Then, as we approach retirement, the transition is full of vision and a sense of mission as we fill a position that has already been clearly defined. And while Amazon's simplicity of shopping will remain available, we will be serving not ourselves but the Lord in those future years.

For others of us, the call will be to serve in missions with a similar three- to five-year outlook planning window. But for most missionaries, a myriad of conveniences will be absent. However, our lives cannot be valued in our retirement years by the degree to which we are able to check off our access to conveniences, leisure, luxury, travel, healthcare, and entertainment. Rather, the standard set before us will be what we did for the least of these and our obedience to the Great Commission. Henceforward, our retirement income, as well as our new-found freedom from daily reporting to work, will be used with gratitude as our lives are focused upon missions and/or service to others born out of a sense of desperation and a desire to spend our remaining days on the things which last for eternity.

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