



Community Transformation in Ghana

Mike Squires Newsletter February 2013



Orality

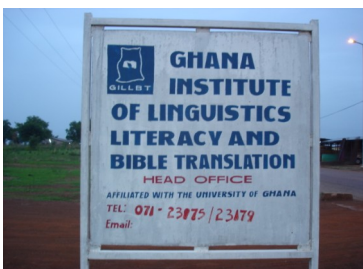
We are developing a partnership with the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT) in Tamalé, the closest big city, 1 1/2 hours northeast of our village of Buipe. We will help improve the recording studio at GILLBT for recording quality audio and video tools, partnering with Good News Productions, and training Ghanaians in quality recording practices. We will help develop oral Bible tools and training materials in multiple languages to mobilize those who cannot read and write - in many of the villages the literacy rate is less than 15% - to be involved in evangelization, discipleship and church planting movements among the least reached people, those who have little or no access to the Gospel. Working with those who cannot—or prefer not to - read and write, we use oral methods such as local language Bible storying, Bible lessons on MP3 or cell phones, radio, satellite TV, or other media.

Purely oral societies pass along everything that matters from one generation to another without putting anything into writing. They have to work more at remembering things, so they tend to repeat well-known, treasured sayings and stories. Oral cultures put every important truth or piece of information into easily-remembered forms. Proverbs are memorable ways of storing truths. Poems or songs are often easier to remember than simple lists of truths or facts. Oral cultures develop standard ways of structuring proverbs, poems or stories for ease in recall and organization. We can use Chronological Bible Storying, Bible Stories on Topics, Film & Story, Bible on video, Bible stories in sign language for Deaf communities, Visual Arts, Proverbs, and Radio.

In a YouTube world, films have wide appeal. Where direct gospel presentations get little hearing, a film can open the way for spiritual conversations. In just a few minutes short films can introduce universal themes in a visually engaging way and provide opportunities to discuss these themes from a Biblical standpoint. Short films can be shown on large screens or smart phones, in theaters or while sitting with friends in a café. Digital visual storytelling is used to spark spiritual conversations around the world.

Timeline for arriving in Ghana

I hope to arrive in Ghana in July 2013, only four months from now. For that to happen I must have pledges for 100% of my \$5,080 monthly support for my ministry and personal expenses before I will be permitted to leave for my missionary post. I need 50 more prayer partners and 25 more financial partners before returning to Africa. In a future newsletter I will start listing how much funds remain to be raised. In addition there are start up expenses to pay rent for the house (paid in advance in Ghana), moving expenses, and to buy a vehicle. I have to pay \$3,000 advance rent for my house. Contributions can be sent to: Team Expansion c/o Mike Squires, 38451 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536-6030. Please contact me if you would like more information.



We will be partnering with the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT) in Tamalé, Ghana. I visited them in May 2010.



Mike with members of the GILLBT staff, and two members of SIL Togo-Benin.



Teaching a GILLBT literacy class near Tamalé, Ghana.

Praise & Prayer:

- Praise God for our developing relationship with the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT).
- Pray for the partnership we are forming with Good News Productions to help with the equipment needs and recording of their 88 New Testament stories into the languages of least reached people groups in Ghana and beyond.
- Praise God for relationships we are beginning to develop with the council of churches in Buiepe.
- Praise God that Calvary Lutheran Church in San Lorenzo, CA will support my missionary service in Ghana!
- Praise God for the Regional Outreach Conference I attended in Sacramento, CA January 22-23.
- Pray for the financial support I will need to begin serving in Ghana.

Serving God Where We Are While Supporting Those Who Serve God Elsewhere. My service is an example of how we are all called to obey God's command to love Him and our fellow people. God created each of us to serve Him, despite obstacles, thus we are only fulfilling the purpose for which we were created. ***Our evangelism and servant efforts far away are only an extension of what each of us is called by God to do in our own community.*** How kind and forgiving are we to those around us? Do we reflect God's love?

From Team Expansion's President

Dear Partner in the Great Commission,

Last week, the point person at JoshuaProject.net was interacting with several of our workers (to launch a section about the Wall of Unreached Peoples on their website). Afterward, he wrote me this note: 'When you recruit Team Expansion staff is there some kind of encouragement quotient they have to meet? Every single person I have had contact with in Team Expansion have been such encouraging folks. They all peg the encouragement meter! You have a marvelous staff, Doug. I think you ought to rename the organization to 'Team Encouragement.' [end of Dan's note] I second the impression. Team Expansion personnel ARE encouragers! That's one of the reasons it's so fun to work for this team of people -- and I trust it's also one of the reasons you support and pray for the work of your favorite Team Expansion missionary. And when you do, you're "passing along" the magic of encouragement. May God bless you for continuing the cycle! And may He richly bless you this month!



Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

www.teamexpansion.org



January 2013 Finances

Ministry and Personal Expenses Budget:	5,080.00
Balance 1/1/2013	2,962.36
January receipts	2,365.00
January expenses	1,000.00
Balance 1/31/2013	4,327.36

Churches:	150.00
Individuals	2,215.00

Expenses Detail:	
100 Salary	500.00
150 Housing allowance	500.00

A more detailed financial report is available upon request

Thank You

Thank you for being my prayer and financial partners. I couldn't do it without you, and feel privileged to be on the same team with you, honoring God by helping people improve their lives both spiritually and physically. It's your faithful support in prayer and financial gifts that allow me to use the gifts that God has given me to serve in Africa. Together, we can bring the good news to the people of Ghana. Your financial contribution is tax-deductible. Thanks to the churches, individuals and businesses for partnering with our effort financially.

Contact Us

Please send financial support to:

Team Expansion
c/o Mike Squires
38451 Fremont Blvd.

Fremont, CA 94536-6030

Make the checks out to Team Expansion. Include a separate note to indicate your interest in the ministry of Mike Squires.

Mike's Forwarding Agents:

Hugh and Sheri Logan
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Got a question or a story for the newsletter? Contact us at goodnewsforghana@gmail.com

Reach Mike:
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msquires@teamexpansion.org

Skype: mike_squires

Here is how to access my **Facebook** page so you can see photos of our work in Africa: <http://www.facebook.com/mike.squires.568> It is a good way for us to keep in touch.

Video:

Watch my YouTube video at (http://youtu.be/08s8-Uw_go).