



Community Transformation in Ghana

Mike Squires Newsletter March 2013



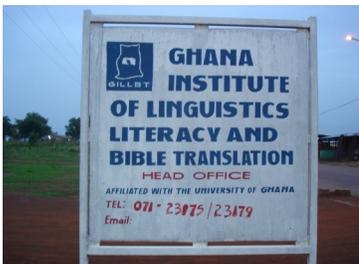
Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT): Praise God our partnership with the Scriptures in Use department of the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT, in Tamalé, the closest big city, 1 1/2 hours northeast of our village of Buipe) is going well. We will be working hard to prepare oral Bible tools and training materials in multiple languages to launch church planting movements. Operation World notes that Bible translation has made great strides over the past 30 years; GILLBT and the Bible Society are presently working on 34 language projects. Already 20 languages have a New Testament due to GILLBT's work. The continued surge to translate Scripture into written and audio formats is a powerful driving force behind recent church growth and discipleship. Only five languages had the Bible in 1965; now the majority of Ghanaians have at least the New Testament in their mother tongue. The work of GILLBT and the United Bible Societies (UBS) is crucial to this. Every language in Ghana still needing a Bible translation has a work in progress! Hundreds of churches have been planted largely due to people's response to newly translated Scriptures in their language.

Need for Scripture Use Media in Ghana: Christian films are used with great effect. The JESUS film is in use in 34 languages with four more in progress; it is a key to the annual Church Planting Project, coordinated by the Ghana Evangelism Committee (GEC). Audio cassettes are being used in 67 languages where literacy is low. Radio, TV and websites are all areas where Ghanaian churches and ministries are beginning to flourish in their ability to evangelize, encourage and disciple.

Praise God for GILLBT's Scripture Use (SU) program, which encourages Christians to use Scriptures translated in local languages to enable us to better communicate the gospel message. This involves such things as working with local church or community leaders, carrying out research to assess Scripture Use, listening to the community's needs and aspirations, advocating for Scripture Use / Engagement, helping develop strategies for SU, helping others apply Scripture to their daily lives, helping train SU workers in local churches, helping develop and market SU materials, helping identify funding for SU endeavors, and developing at least one area of expertise, such as: HIV-AIDS, change dynamics, church-based literacy, marketing / distribution, and so forth. Would you like to get involved?

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.



Learning to read and write in their heart language or mother tongue.



Mike teaching at the West Africa Transformational Development Conference in Accra, Ghana in February 2010.

Praise & Prayer:

- Praise God for our partnership with the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT).
- Praise God for relationships we are beginning to develop with local pastors in the Buipe area.
- Pray for us as we begin developing oral tools through GILLBT to help launch church planting movements.
- Pray as we form a partnership with Good News Productions to help with the equipment needs, training in video and audio recording of Ghanaians to provide orals tools in the languages of least reached people groups in Ghana and beyond.
- Pray for the sponsoring church or churches that will help this become a reality.
- Pray for the nationals we need to recruit and train to do quality recordings and a way to sustain them financially without creating dependency.
- Pray for the translation software downloads I will need to translate my lessons from French into English.



February 2013 Finances

Ministry and Personal Expenses Budget:	5,080.00
Balance 2/1/2013	4,327.36
February receipts	3,943.00
February expenses	1,000.00
Balance 2/28/2013	7,270.36

Churches:	723.00
Individuals	3,220.00

Expenses Detail:	
100 Salary	500.00
150 Housing allowance	500.00

A more detailed financial report is available upon request

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 Great Commandment 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.

From Team Expansion's President

Dear Praying Partner in the Great Commission,

It's not often you have the chance to pray "live" with your favorite Team Expansion worker, no matter where he or she is in the world. But that's exactly what's happening on April 17, 2013. Join the "Global PrayerCast" that night at 8:30pm (EDT), 7:30pm (CDT). (That's 12:30am UCT on Apr. 18th.) It will be streamed from Overland Park, KS, "live" to the entire planet. To learn more, watch the 3-minute video at www.U4theU.com and keep watching that site for more instructions and the link. Workers and groups will be praying "live" from points all over the planet. Make it an event for your church or group. You're invited! Want to volunteer to pray on the broadcast? If so, just email me at DLucas@TeamExpansion.org and make the subject, "Global PrayerCast: I'm in." Thanks, and hope to see you on the PrayerCast! (but the PrayerCast is not merely a Team Expansion event; it's global)

Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

www.teamexpansion.org



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
510-427-5547
squirestoghana@gmail.com

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

Reach Mike:
510-331-9023
msquires@teamexpansion.org

Skype: [mike_squires](https://www.skype.com/user/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_go0).