



Community Transformation in Ghana

Mike Squires Newsletter April-May 2013



Computer problems delaying departure My 8-year old computer died on April 18, which is why you haven't heard from me. I now have a new computer to get back online after two months. Unfortunately this situation has delayed my support raising efforts and thus my departure for Africa. Also, the mission agency requires me to be fully funded for two months before they will allow me to report to my assignment. Therefore I am hoping to arrive in Ghana in December.

Our first Recording Project Completed at the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT): The Ruffs spent Tuesdays and Wednesdays for two months getting the GILLBT studio in Tamale (the major city of northern Ghana with 250,000 people, 1 1/2 hours NE of our town of Buipe) reorganized and additional equipment purchased. Recently 12 Gonja Christians from Buipe recorded 44 culturally traditional songs accompanied their cultural talking drums. Now we are recording Gonja story sets in Buipe. Audio recordings have proven very helpful in equipping story tellers with the tools they need to lead people to Christ, disciple them and plant churches in villages. Cultural music is also very helpful in reaching the unreached. In our partnership with GILLBT we've begun working alongside Lutheran Bible Translators missionary Chris LaBoube (my next-door neighbor in graduate school in Dallas) in digitizing cassette recordings to preserve the work that has been done in so many languages over the years in the Vernacular Media program of the Scripture In Use Department. We were able to secure a two-room apartment to use while we work in Tamale. We can now have our Ghana residency permits in our passports from GILLBT, what had been an arduous process has become a quick and simple process.

The Ruffs were part of a Kairos training team in Kumasi, a large city in southern Ghana. (Kairos is an introduction or shortened version of the Perspectives on the Worldwide Christian Movement course.) These students captured the vision of God's heart for the nations and are poised to ignite a student movement for the Kingdom. What a joy to see God at work! And it was a real treat for the Ruffs to host the missions ministry team from Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in my childhood hometown of Bloomington, IN and travel to Saboba, on the border with Togo, for the Easter Convention. Two of the visitors were Rod and Beth Hasler, who helped recruit me to serve with Team Expansion. We love having visitors so when will you visit us?

Timeline for arriving in Ghana I hope to arrive in Ghana in December 2013, only six 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 addition there are start up expenses to pay such as \$3,000 advance rent for my house, moving expenses, and to buy a vehicle. 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.



Ordination of pastors in Ghana during the Easter Convention.



Lutheran Bible Translator missionary Chris LaBoube (my neighbor in Dallas), with whom we are partnering in digitizing cassette recording of Scripture verses in local languages.



Rod and Beth Hasler visiting the market place in Buipe, Ghana. The Haslers put me in contact with the Ruffs who recruited me to join them serving with Team Expansion. They are friends with both the Ruffs and Chris LaBoube.

Praise & Prayer:

- Pray for us as we continue developing the studio at the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy, and Bible Translation (GILLBT) to produce oral tools for 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 meetings with representatives from GILLBT to begin transferring the Permaculture Training Center property to GILLBT.
- Pray for the translation software downloads I will need to translate my lessons from French into English.

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.



March 2013 Finances

Balance 3/1/2013	7,270.36
March receipts	3,168.00
March expenses	1,500.00
Balance 3/31/2013	8,938.36
Churches:	2,273.00
Individuals	895.00
Expenses Detail:	
100 Salary	500.00
150 Housing allowance	500.00
700 For More Support	500.00

APRIL 2013 Finances

Balance 4/1/2013	8,938.36
April receipts	2,060.00
April expenses	2,750.49
Balance 4/30/2013	8,247.87
Churches:	973.00
Individuals	1,087.00
Expenses Detail:	
100 Salary	500.00
130 Social Security	1,133.93
150 Housing allowance	500.00
700 For More Support	236.56
740 Mission Share	400.00

From Team Expansion's President

Dear Fellow-helpers,

A field worker recently confessed to me that the main reason she was drawn to apply as a missionary with Team Expansion was because several of our team members wrote her on a regular basis over the course of a year, gently encouraging her toward missions and praying for her along the way. If only we knew the impact of the words we utter daily, both in spoken as well as in written form. In like manner, if we could only see with our very eyes those who are becoming discouraged or disenchanted, and, as a result, deciding not to apply for or not to continue their work in cross-cultural evangelism and discipleship. A long time ago, I made up my mind that, God willing, I would always stop and pray any time the thought of a prayer need even blipped across the radar in my mind. But we become so busy with the hustle and bustle of daily living. And there are so many distractions, some of which are helpful -- and others, not so much. Today, I'm thankful for any of the moments you have given to write, pray for, and encourage your favorite Team Expansion worker. Someday, he or she will probably share a testimony with me about the difference you've made. But in the meantime, may God bless you directly for your ministry on behalf of unreached peoples. Team Expansion is able to move forward with momentum because of the way God is at work in your life, empowering and undergirding the Team Expansion family that you know. May God

bless you.

Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion



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:

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

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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).