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# BRINGING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES IN GHANA, WEST AFRICA

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STARTING WITH AFRICA'S COMMUNITY LEADERS



Volta River in Buipe, Ghana



Teaching Malaria Prevention

M i k e S q u i r e s

Missionary to Ghana, West Africa

## Why a Mission to Ghana?

The need for Church Planting Movements in Ghana, on the south coast of West Africa and a little smaller than the state of Oregon, is that some people groups are only 2% Christian. The Gospel was brought to Ghana many years ago, but the ethnic groups I will serve have been resistant to the Gospel message since it wasn't taught in their language, so they think it is alien, foreign to their culture. That is why we are working hard to provide the Gospel message in the language they speak at home.



Training African Church Leaders  
in Leadership Skills



Motorcycle Taxi

“Mike displayed a loving servant heart and a passion for growth among local people, discipling Christians to follow Christ radically and using the Holy Scriptures to solve their problems. He is uniquely skilled in organizing and conducting training that meets the needs of African villagers. Mike brought a unique blend of humility, generosity, very tough and hard work, and discernment to the task of ministry... he was able to serve Muslim communities and communicated God’s love to them in a very sensitive way, while also serving Christian churches. Mike’s ministry is a real blessing to the Church in Africa.”

*Antonin Azoti  
Wycliffe Togo and SIL  
International*

## Team Expansion

Team Expansion, which was founded in 1978 and is based in Louisville, KY, is an evangelical church planting mission that is committed to holistic ministry, helping people improve their lives both spiritually and physically. Team Expansion ([www.teamexpansion.org](http://www.teamexpansion.org)) exists to transform communities among the unreached people of the world by planting Biblical churches. They have been around for more than 30 years, and they have about 300 workers serving in more than 40 countries.

Team Expansion believes that the Church is God's instrument to complete the missionary task. Team Expansion advances the work of the body of Christ through a wide variety of **word and deed** ministries by identifying, selecting, training and sending men and women and integrating them into church planting movements. **Word and deed or holistic ministry** is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all of its fullness and demonstration of Jesus Christ through meeting spiritual, physical, emotional, social or cultural needs, helping people improve their lives both spiritually and physically, in the context of church planting.



Tree Nursery in Ghana

“As an agricultural advisor, I am guilty of inspiring the planting of thousands of trees in Africa.”

-Mike Squires



## Church Planting Movements

A church planting movement is a Spirit-directed, vision-driven, sustained expansion of Christ's Kingdom among a particular geographic area or ethnic people through the planting of self-reproducing, self-supporting, and self-governing churches. Church planting is the only means to maintain real change and real hope from generation to generation in this world as nothing lasting happens apart from changing beliefs.



Transformation of circumstances without transformation of belief to support changed practice will not endure. The goal is to see national churches planted and led by national pastors and national lay leaders, thus it is our desire to disciple and equip nationals so that they are leading their own churches and reaching others in their country for Christ. This involves local people creating laymen-led house churches, which then create other laymen-led house churches and so on, as the early churches did.

## Our Mission in Ghana

I serve with Terry and Amy Ruff ([www.ruffupdate.com](http://www.ruffupdate.com)), and Bobby and Mandy Graham in Buipe, Ghana, where we are starting Church Planting Movements among Unreached People Groups. We are helping develop a recording studio and oral tools for the oral learners as there is an 85% illiteracy rate in our area, and preparing oral Bible tools and training materials in multiple languages to launch church planting movements. Our emphasis is on evangelism, discipleship, leadership training, literacy, health and agriculture.



### Bible Translation

Bible translation allows people to hear directly from God in the language they speak in their homes, so we encourage Christians to use Scriptures translated in local languages to better communicate the gospel message. When people are able to understand God's love and respond to it, their lives are transformed. The continued surge to translate Scripture into written and audio formats is a powerful driving force behind recent church growth and discipleship. Hundreds of churches have been planted in Ghana largely due to people's response to newly translated Scriptures in their language. Practical applications of Christian values are used to educate people in the relevance of the Gospel message to address life's obstacles, stressing the role of the Scriptures and literacy in the development of the community.

*“When people are able to understand God’s love and respond to it, their lives are transformed.”*

Our materials help people understand and apply the Scriptures to their daily lives, renewing the mind and heart through changing attitudes and behavior, repentance and forgiveness, education, training and spiritual growth leading to spiritual maturity and transformed lives, because what we believe largely determines how we behave.

## Community Development Beginning with Leaders

Community development, teaching people how to work together to accomplish goals and objectives and solve problems, is a large part of our vision of sharing Christ with those with whom we work. Community development provides a platform for entering villages and a means of building relationships with community leaders, and blending community development with church planting reaches out to the whole person as Jesus did. “We are all things to all people so that we might win some.” (I Corinthians 9:1-22.)



Trained leaders are scarce in rural Africa; therefore our ministry is based on lay leadership training, helping communities and their leaders take initiatives in resolving their problems themselves, improving lives and strengthening the local churches, so that the local church can become first autonomous and then independent. As the leaders learn how to prioritize community challenges and come up with a plan for solving challenges with resources already at their disposal, opportunities to share and discuss Bible stories will also take place.

As Bible story-tellers are identified they can be trained to not only establish a church in the community but also identify surrounding villages where they can replicate both community development and church planting. This approach will plant churches that plant churches, which is the DNA of church planting movements.

## How We Empower Ghana's People

- **Through our community organizing meetings** people discover that their own behavior is the cause of most of their problems, encouraging changing their way of thinking and behavior by taking responsibility for their behavior and situation.
- **Starting from where the people are now**, not teaching people 'WHAT to think and do,' but instead 'HOW to accomplish' what they themselves decide to do.
- **Educating people in the problem-solving process**, teaching cause and effect or consequences, stewardship, organizing themselves to work together to overcome their problems, conflict transformation and institution building, and better understand the consequences, causes and possible solutions to their problems.
- **Teaching people how to work together** to solve problems using participatory decision making enables them to plan, achieve and evaluate actions to strengthen the church and improve living conditions such as improve their health and agriculture, and protect the environment. Examples include teaching the role of the Christian, how to improve water resources, how to prevent AIDS and malaria, and how to improve soil fertility to increase food production.
- **Helping people identify their needs and major problems**, the resources they possess for meeting those needs and how to do things for themselves enables them to be less dependent on others.



As an opportunity for your hands-on involvement we host work teams from the US for 1-2 weeks or interns for 8 weeks to help us do all of this in Ghana. Learn how to get involve at [www.teamexpansion.org](http://www.teamexpansion.org).

## Transformational Development

God created each of us to serve Him, the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, to love Him and our fellow people, despite obstacles. Our evangelism and servant efforts elsewhere are only a partnership extension of what each of us is called by God to do in our own community, where we are.



Transformational development focuses on reconciliation of broken relationships with God, self, others and creation. Teaching transformational development in a community leads to community transformation.



Community Literacy Program

## My Experience as a Missionary to Africa

“Mike encouraged us and helped train us in writing Scripture lessons based on community development... it is very gratifying to see how they are helping transform lives in African villages. These lessons help people to better understand the consequences and causes of their problems and what they can do to solve them. Mike helps African Christians use Scriptures translated into local languages to enable us to better communicate the Gospel message. He will help train Ghanaian church leaders to organize and lead their congregations. He is a cornerstone for West African church development.”

Miboika Lari Dapokle,  
Missionary with Wycliffe Togo

I serve as a missionary with the Team Expansion church planting team in Ghana, West Africa, teaching Bible lessons, and helping train church leaders involved in Church Planting Movements among Unreached People Groups. I started studying West Africa when I was 12 years old, it has always fascinated me. I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer 1977-80 in Mali, West Africa and 1988-94 in Togo, West Africa.

Missionaries led me to Christ in 1978 while I was serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the town of Gao in the Sahara Desert of northern Mali, West Africa. One way I show my gratitude is by serving as a missionary myself since 1994. Missionaries served as role models during the nine years I served in secular community development, and my involvement in mission churches was the equivalent of an apprenticeship, an on-the-job training in how to serve as a missionary in African villages.

I have already served in West Africa for 21 years: the Peace Corps- nine years in Mali and Togo; the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod- six years in Togo; and the Wycliffe Bible Translators- six years in Togo. Team Expansion Ghana works closely with the Wycliffe Bible Translators in local language media to spread the Gospel, so I am able to use the same skills I used with Wycliffe.

I give people hope that they can improve their lives both spiritually and physically, teach people how to work together to solve problems, and train leaders. This training has led to previous co-workers becoming the president and secretary of the national church, and the church becoming an independent, self-governing partner church. They are carrying on the work in Togo, freeing me to serve across the border in Ghana, about 250 miles from where I served in Togo for 16 years. Since my vocation is teaching people how to work together to solve problems, and the villages of West Africa have many problems to solve, I feel quite needed there.

# Opportunity for Involvement in God's Work

**Partners** are a vital part of church planting, Bible translation, literacy and community development. I need a partnership team who will encourage me, pray with me and invest the finances necessary for me to do the work God is calling me to do. I invite you to join my team of prayer and financial partners and become a part of the mission of getting God's Word to the world. Team Expansion's task is to transform communities among the unreached people of the world by planting Biblical churches. However, churches and individual Christians are the true sending agencies. The mission agency serves as a sponsoring agency, only facilitating and helping coordinate the task by channeling funds to the missionaries and by providing training and certain support functions for them. Therefore, they want to work closely with you as you help me succeed in the work God has called me to do.

Please Consider Joining with Me to Help Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Ghana – to touch and transform hearts and lives in Ghana.

When God uses us together to share the life-giving hope of the Gospel with Ghanaians, men, women, and children will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. People touched by our ministry, those who are brought to life spiritually and transformed by God's grace, will be life-givers to other Ghanaians. They will grow in spiritual maturity and be equipped to lead their own churches.

**Financial Needs.** No Team Expansion missionary receives a guaranteed salary, all Team Expansion missionaries are required to raise support to meet monthly and special financial needs required for service in a foreign field. Regular financial support provides the fuel that enables ministry to occur. The income received from financial partners pays for housing, monthly living expenses, transportation, program supplies, training, health, life and retirement insurance, and visas. In addition, I will have a special expense for a vehicle needed to do extension work. I cannot begin my assignment until I have 100% of my monthly support quota pledged.



God, as the  
One who calls

**The Missionary -**

under the authority of the mission agency, as the one who goes.

**Partners -**

caring, praying, and giving people who make it possible to fulfill the missionary's calling!

# Will You Get Involved in Our Missionary Work?

Will you partner with me to reach the people of Ghana for Christ?

Will you partner with me to bless the people of Ghana through Christ?

Will you partner with me to support Ghana, Africa.

Will you pray for me and the people of Ghana.

Together we can be used by God.

We need to raise \$4,500 for me to begin my work in Ghana, Africa.

We need monthly contributors on all levels of financial support.

Whether your contribution be \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or more, God's work requires resources. Prayerfully consider your support.

## The Best Way to Contribute Financially is Through Recurring Donations

Financial Contributions may be given monthly, quarterly, or annually online or by check. Your donation to Team Expansion is tax-deductible.

Setting up recurring support payments is by far the best way to give financial support. After all, it isn't until I have \$4,500 per month in recurring donations before I can begin my ministry in Ghana.

## Setting up Recurring Donations (by check or credit card)

1. Go to online to "**www.teamexpansion.org**"
2. Click on the top navigation "**give online**" link.
3. Click "**online!**" in the phrase "If you are paying by check or credit card, you can make a donation or set up recurring payments **online!**"  
*This will bring up the Team Expansion web-form.*
4. Where it asks, "Would you like to make this a recurring donation?" Be sure that "**Yes**" is selected.
5. Where it asks, "Missionary/Project Name," Enter "**Mike Squires**"
6. Be sure to click, "**Review & Submit**" at the bottom of the form.
7. Review your details and click, "**Donate.**"

If you have any questions or get stuck during this process you may contact Team Expansion at 1-800-447-0800.



## Other Method of Donating (by check)

If you'd rather pay monthly (or a one-time donation) by mail, simply mail contributions to "Team Expansion, c/o Mike Squires, 38451 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont, CA 94536-6030." Make the checks out to Team Expansion. Include a separate note (aside from the check) to indicate your interest in the ministry of **Mike Squires**.

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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 seeing his Message made available to everyone in the language they understand best.



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## Resources and Ways to Connect

### Newsletter:

If you or anyone you know would like to sign up for my missionary newsletter, they can write to me at [msquires@teamexpansion.org](mailto:msquires@teamexpansion.org).

**Blog/website:** [www.mikesquires.blogspot.com](http://www.mikesquires.blogspot.com) (includes past Newsletters)

**Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/mike.squires.568](https://www.facebook.com/mike.squires.568) (includes photos)

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/in/mikesquires1](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mikesquires1)

**Video:** Watch my support video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=08s8-Uw\\_go0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08s8-Uw_go0)

### Phone/Email/Snail Mail:

Mike Squires 510-331-9023

[msquires@teamexpansion.org](mailto:msquires@teamexpansion.org)

38451 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536-6030

**Skype:** mike\_squires

**Ministry affiliation:** Team Expansion, 4112 Old Routt Road, Louisville, KY 40299;

**1-800-447-0800;** [www.teamexpansion.org](http://www.teamexpansion.org)

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