



March/April
2025
Newsletter

Praising God for you!

DOWN MEMORY LANE OF THE GOOD NEWS CENTER OF ABLE MINISTRIES

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus, who was and is and is to come.

With elated and gladsome hearts, we give God the praise, glory, adoration, and thanks for how far He has brought this ministry. All glory to God in whom we live and move and have our being. Hallelujah!!!

In early September in the year 2000, Grandpa Dick and Mama Lily Shanks, landed on the shores of Ghana to begin a mission work by recruiting, training, sending and sponsoring zealous believers to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to give out Bibles and other gospel literature to new believers in various localities and areas. The sentiments most had then was, why will Americans, leave the comfort of the American society to come to Africa for the sharing of the gospel of Jesus? Well, time and results have proved that it was the fire of God in them which compelled them to make this divine missionary journey.

Before they arrived on the shores of Ghana, young and zealous believers were ready to be trained and commissioned to do the work that had been recruited. Offices in market areas in various localities were secured as Good News Centers to receive people and to share the gospel of Jesus with them and to offer counseling to those who needed it: Centers **WHERE GOD MEETS PEOPLE AT THE POINT OF THEIR NEEDS**. Initially four full time and two part time missionaries were recruited and they were given training and orientation with our unique principles of sharing the gospel. They were commissioned and sent out to share the gospel of Jesus in the centers. Over time we extended our operations to the Hospitals, Prisons and Rural communities with the recruitment of more missionaries. By the grace of God our operations were further extended to other West African countries beginning in Nigeria. Our operations were later extended to Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Liberia. The ministry's operation was also represented in Polokwane in the Northern Province of South Africa.

Able Ministries

By 2012 the ministry had reached a peak of over 200 missionaries and prayer teams operating in seven West African countries listed above and the Northern Province of South Africa. But due to financial constraints we now have a missionary force of twenty-two in four West African countries namely Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and Burkina Faso. We are trusting God that His grace will abound and make provisions so we can even surpass our 2012 peak of our missionary force in number to fulfill **Luke 10:2, Matt 24:14 and Rom 10:14-15.**

From a humble beginning of sharing the gospel and praying with a few people each day, the missionaries collective work, reached a peak of sharing and praying with an average of 100,000 people per month by 2012. In the year 2012 the missionaries collectively shared the gospel and prayed with almost 1.3 million people with over 1.2 million people making a first-time commitment to Jesus. Our current missionary force however is sharing the gospel and praying with an average of 10,000 people per month. Millions of people have had the gospel preached to them and over ninety percent of this number have prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and personal Savior. Many others have rededicated their lives to Jesus and many others also have received counseling and help in many issues affecting their lives.

Marriages have been saved and restored. Some children who couldn't go to school for lack of funds were put back in school. Many homes who had no food to feed were helped in some measure. Some very poor rural folks were given some money to start some local family business to be able to feed the family. Some were also provided with accommodation. Many others who contemplated suicide because of how life treated them were saved. Many have had their medical needs met and others have been clothed. Many who could not afford medical bills were assisted. Other who were detained after they were discharged but could not afford their medical bills were assisted and released.

Prisoners who gave up all hope because of their incarceration were restored. And many prisoners who gave their lives to Jesus by our missionaries became a beacon of Hope to other prisoners. Some of the prisoners were released earlier than their sentences for good behavior because of the Holy Spirit who was at work in them. And they are no longer a burden to their families and communities, but assets. Hope and faith in God and life has been restored in millions of lives by the grace of God, by the preaching of the **GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.** A number of hospital patients have been saved in the nick of time and departed into eternity just after they have prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior with our missionaries.

One of our standard operations is the checking of the blood pressure of people we meet and share the gospel with. Incidentally about 80% of the people we check have High Blood pressure but are unaware. So those people are counseled and advised to see the doctor immediately and by this, many lives have been saved from untimely deaths. We also check the diabetic status of the people, but due to the cost of the test strips we have not been able to sustain that.

One notable thing is that due to the unique principles of the presentation of the gospel, which is by the principles of the Evangelism Explosion Manual book, the missionaries achieved over eighty percent success in sharing the gospel and praying with Muslims, who willingly accepted Jesus as their Lord and personal Savior. Ironically many people who were church goers, and even playing leadership roles in churches and so thought just by being church members were saved and have eternal life, prayed to received Jesus as their Savior for the first time after hearing the gospel by the principles of the Evangelism Explosion manual.

We have had the privilege of meeting many people who were ministered to over the years who have become Pastors, Elders, deacons and deaconesses, Choir leaders, and many others playing dedicated leadership roles in their various churches in all countries where the ministry has been represented.

The Bible says, whatever is born of God abides forever. Undoubtedly this ministry is God breathed and so has abided through thick and thin, through all challenges. With grateful hearts we thank and give all the praise to God who has been gracious to keep this ministry, which is His heart beat, operating.

- We believe that the highest call and assignment for each and everyone is the sharing of the gospel of Jesus which has eternal value (**Acts 20:24**). All other assignments and achievements are of temporary value.
- We believe that the gospel of Jesus can produce more social and economic change than all the efforts of the world put together. If Paul had not sent the gospel to Europe and consequently to America, we would not be enjoying the freedom, social and economic advancements we have now.
- We believe, only the Gospel of Jesus can save a person from sin and eternity in hell. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul in hell fire?

**RESCUE THE PERISHING—CARE FOR THE DYING AND NEEDY
OUR GOD IS MORE THAN ABLE**

If we really had a thousand tongues to sing as David said, we would have used every tongue just to praise God...and even that would not be enough!

Indeed our God is so good and His mercies surely endures forever. Someone made a comment: THANK GOD FOR GOD. Yes, indeed we thank God for being God. Hallelujah!!!

I heard a leader of a global ministry with a world wide following, giving account of their activities last year. And in summary, he said their expenditure last year amounted to a little over 12.5 million dollars and by the grace of God through their ministry they brought a little over 250,000 souls to Jesus. **GLORY BE TO JESUS.**

The Good News Center with less than \$100,000 expenditure last year, God brought a little over 117,000 souls to Jesus.

GLORY BE TO JESUS

Our hearts will not be at peace if we fail to thank our Heavenly Father, the tireless hours of our missionaries, and all the donors for the operations of this HEART BEAT MINISTRY OF GOD.

May God, who is our Great Provider, Reward and Bless you all abundantly!

Edmund Osei Akoto
The Good News Center
Accra, Ghana

**With your help, Able's evangelists in
Ghana, Nigeria, Benin and Burkina Faso
have lead 28,050
to first time commitments to Jesus in the year 2025!**

+ **Romans 10:9-10** "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

*Board Members: Mike Danielson, Jeff Jordan, Jarvis Schlafmann,
Chris Duffy, Nate Towell*

Able Ministries, 312 N. Mullan Rd, Spokane Valley, WA, 99206, www.ableministries.info