



Issue #7
April 2021

GEMS

GLOBAL EVANGELISM MINISTRY SERVICES



Faith Baptist Church of Apewu

GEMS Projects

Faith Haven



Michael Williams Family



FAITH HAVEN A Place of Rest

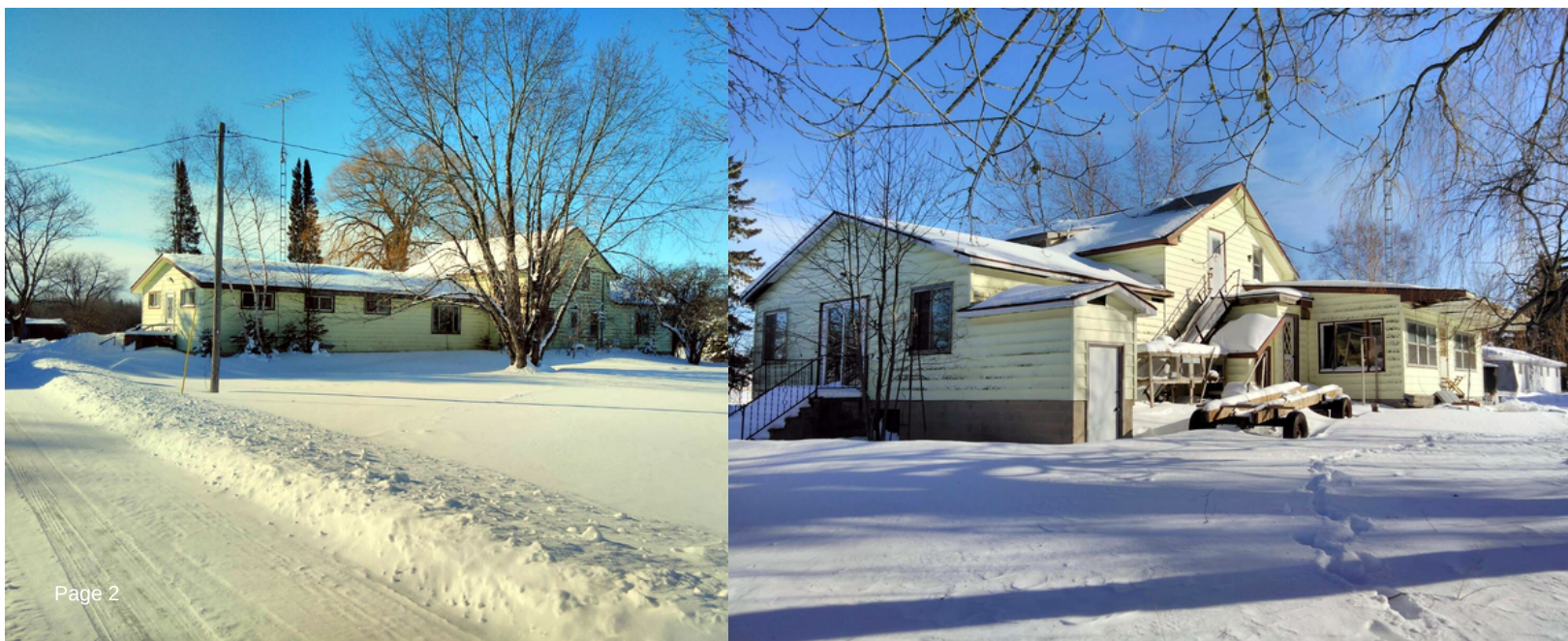
By Michael Williams,
Director of GEMS

In November of 2020, I felt extremely impressed by God to take a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to spend a few days seeking God. I was not sure of the purpose, just that I had to go. When I arrived, I told God I had no “agenda;” I was simply there as He had requested. I basically said, “OK, Lord I’m here at your request show me why.” He did! During an amazing, sweet time of fellowship with the Saviour, He revealed to me that I was to restore a 3,500 square foot house that has been sitting in dis-

repair for many years. I was not at that time even sure of the reason I just knew that is what God was asking me to do. So, I told my wife and we began to pray that God would send us some extra money for the project without us “raising funds” to confirm that was His plan. While we waited for that money, I began to see the purpose of it all as God divinely orchestrated for me to take a missionary who had come home with “shattered dreams” there to seek God. It was on that trip that God met with him to give him renewed passion to know God. Upon seeing these things, God brought back to my mind how He had first impressed upon my heart in 2012 the desire to restore that home as a haven for missionaries who needed a place of rest and restoration.

The home was originally operated by my grandparents, Harold and Ethel Ney, as a rest home for handicapped adults who had a heart to help those in need. It was called “Hiawathalands Haven of Rest”. Therefore, when it is restored, we are going to dedicate it in their honor and call it “Faith Haven – a Place of Rest”; It will be used to help missionaries who need time and help getting back on their feet and/or back into His service; It will also be used as a place for men of God and/or their families to get away to rest and seek God when they get weary.

God has in recent days given us the first \$2,000.00 towards restoring the home. While the amount is far from what it will take to restore the Haven, it came at a time we were praying for money to confirm this as God’s timing to go forward. We would ask you to pray with us that God will use this place to help many men of God and their families to be aided and/restored as we seek to be a part of God’s plan for the Redemption of Man.





Patrick & Christelle Ndjaboue

"...but the word of God is not bound." (2 Timothy 2:9)



— **By Christelle**

As the Lord gives us another year to serve Him, Patrick and I want to thank you for your faithful financial support and for your help by prayer and words of encouragement. Although 2020 has been a most challenging year, the Lord has again shown Himself greater than the storms. I gladly testify that He has been faithful through it all. Some effects of the current health crisis has been that scheduled meetings were cancelled and some financial supporters discontinued their contributions; but God has opened other doors, and new churches are partnering with us for the furtherance of the Gospel among the German people.

The Lord has opened unexpected doors of ministry. A few ladies have reached out from overseas. And between church meetings, the Lord is enabling me to use the Word of God to help them. Whether it has been about salvation, marriage struggles, or depression, the Spirit of God has been working in their hearts. I spend many days helping those ladies and translating teaching materials into German. I am grateful for the technology that allows me to progress in that work, while we travel and visit churches.



— **By Patrick**

Since our last update, we have mainly visited churches in South Carolina and Florida. While traveling, I have been able to use the internet technology to continue to disciple Kenrick (my neighbor). He pleaded with me to record the Gospel truths that I had shared with him, so that he might share it with relatives and friends (many of them living on the Dominica Island).

As far as travel into Germany is concerned, the European Union still has travel restrictions in place for non-European travelers. The German government will review its lockdown policy by May 9th. *"And all things still work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."*

Please pray for:

- God's power to be manifested through the video ministry.
- Wisdom while we minister to those the Lord sends our way
- Physical protection while we are on the road
- An open door to get into Germany



It was a blessing to have Bro. Patrick and Mrs. Christelle visit Calvary Baptist Church in Memphis, TN. They sang for us and Bro. Patrick preached.

GEMS (Global Evangelism Ministry Services) is a ministry out of Calvary Baptist Church, 3812 Kirby Parkway, Memphis, TN 38115-5288. These ministry updates are published at least four times a year and may be requested at no cost by mailing to the above address or by going to our website at <http://www.gems4christ.com>



"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."
Psalm 127:1

The first quarter in 2021 has been an exciting time, but we know that the Lord is our builder and He gives the increase. We rejoice in the work that God is accomplishing in Ghana.

"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."
I Corinthians 3:7

Apewu Building Project Update

We know the biblical church is not a building; it is a group of people called out from the world that assemble together as they separate unto our Lord. This separation has become more evident as March 21st marked the last Sunday service held in the village school. The last several months have been a time of great joy as we witnessed how God blessed this church with the funds to begin and continue the work in His time. On November 19th, 2020 the work began with leveling the land and clearing vegetation and debris. By November 29th sand and cement were delivered to begin forming blocks to lay once the foundation was poured and cured. In December gravel, sand, cement steel rods, and wood forms for the foundation delivered. By February 15th the walls were completed, and supplies were ordered for the roofing. By the end of March the roof doors and window frames were completed. Though services will be held in the building, the work is still ongoing. Please pray with us as we continue the work. The next steps include, electrical wiring, plumbing, plastering walls with cement inside and out, finishing floors, and painting.



From youngest to oldest, many helped to build the new church by hauling sand, forming the brick, and making the walls.

Soulwinning Camp

Last December we held our first soulwinning camp for some of the faithful young men. It was a time of teaching and training on soulwinning. God used this time to add knowledge to zeal. As a result these young men have been faithfully sharing the Gospel in the communities and have led many to Christ and have several of their converts attending church. Please pray for these men as they continue to share the Gospel.



Above: These young men attended our first Soulwinning Camp.



Left: Soulwinning Converts



Right: Sharing the Gospel



First Church Service



Future Building Project in Domba

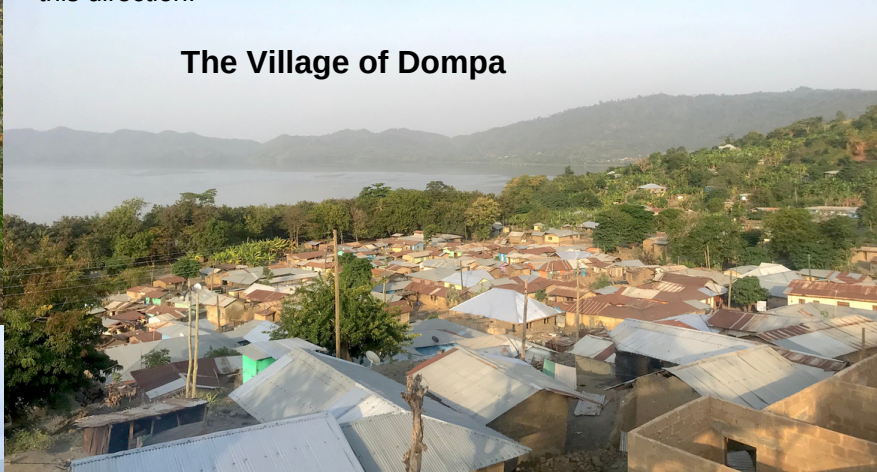
In addition to the land in Apewu we also acquired 4.3 acres in Domba that will be the location for our next church building project. The Lord has also led us to use this location as a site for a future mission house. Domba is centrally located and is within walking distance to the other churches. Currently travel time can be as much as one hour and fifteen minutes to church, and at certain times we are unable to reach it due to roads being unpassable during the rainy season. This location in Domba will allow us to live among the people we are endeavoring to reach and can be used as a training site as well. We are excited to see the revealing of God's will for the churches and GEMS as the Lord leads in us this direction.

Our Land for the New
Domba Church

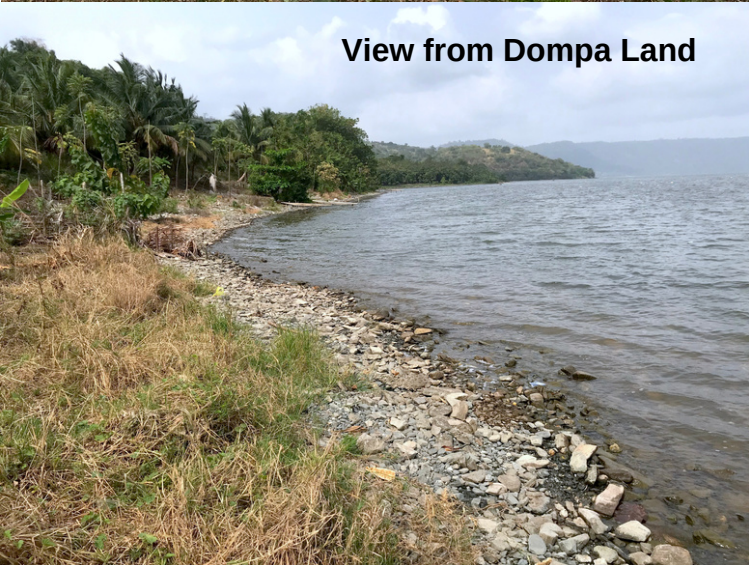


The Village of Domba

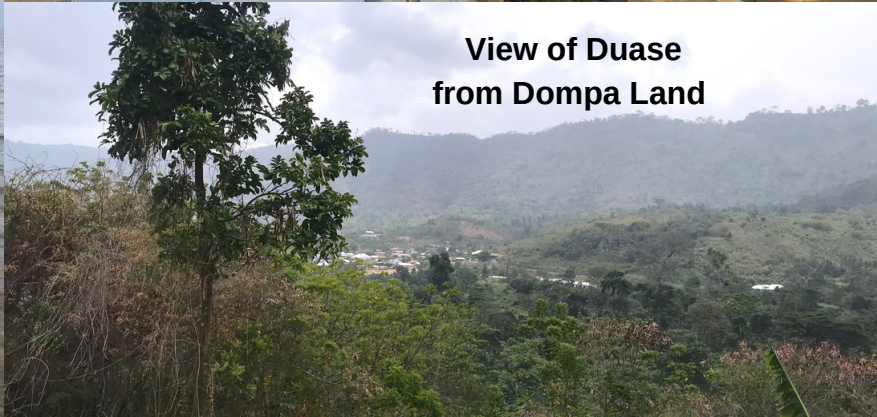
The Village of Domba



View from Domba Land



View of Duase
from Domba Land



Prayer Requests

On March 18, my family and I returned to the States for our first furlough since joining GEMS in 2018.

- Please pray for us as we travel and serve the Lord here in America.
- Please keep the churches of Apewu, Domba, and Ankaase in your prayers.
- Please pray for wisdom, protection, and provision in regard to ongoing and future building projects.

Right: Amaris and Abby Brown are joyfully reunited with their friend Gracie at the Memphis airport upon their return to the U.S.





Roy and Lois Thompson

This report is being written in mid-February from the U.S. We returned as a family in late January for a period of 3-4 months to reevaluate our mission, our vision, and the way ahead in the light of the events which have transpired during our first two years in Romania.

Lois' Family

Lois and I have spent much of the past six months in efforts to make sense of what happened to her father and to seek God to keep us free from bitterness and hatred as we continually were in prayer for her family in Bucharest. We were very much encouraged by her father's nephew Virgil, and Lois' many cousins who live in the country village where her father grew up. We feel that the Lord has used them to carry us and to strengthen our faith in God as they supported us in our care for her father until his death and continuing to do so afterwards.

The Way Ahead

Having worked for the military for many years, I am used to receiving orders which are very clear in terms of when and where to report, the position I was to fill and at least a general knowledge of what my duties and responsibilities would be. Working for God is not at all like that and the past two years have not been at all what I am used to in terms of employment. Our work has felt very much like we are working for God directly. When I say directly for God, I mean our work in general mission service to Lois' home town, her family, the church, and the general community in which we live. And in particular, a pastor of an independent Baptist church works very much directly for the Lord!

In order to gain clarity as to the way ahead, I realize that first and foremost I need to be with the Lord in prayer, to seek a deeper relationship with Him before I can reasonably expect to receive clarity as to what is next. The words of God spoken to Moses in Deuteronomy 6.4-5 ring profoundly true. First and foremost, we must learn to love the LORD our God with all of our heart, and with all of our soul, and with all our might. God will make the way ahead clear, oftentimes despite our lack of listening. But He wants men and women who want to know Him, not just work for Him. Having a right relationship with God comes before working for God. We oftentimes neglect the former and do the latter expecting God to bless our efforts which frequently He does despite our wayward, independent hearts.



For this reason, I am deeply grateful for Bro. Mike's invitation to spend some extended time alone in prayer and Bible study in the locale of his northern Michigan roots in early February. I am asking the Lord to make a way for continued opportunities for extended periods of time, waiting on Him, reading His Word, seeking His face, growing in His grace and knowledge of Him. I am confident as I grow in my relationship with God in extended prayer and Bible study, He will make the way ahead very clear. But first, I want to know Him better. Then, the orders will come!

Thanksgiving

1. Bro. Aaron Hiltibidal has been able to resolve much of his medical issues and plans to return to Romania in early March to assume the pastoral work in Ploiesti. He has already begun to communicate with the church through videos which he sends weekly.
2. We are profoundly grateful to be able to return to our church home and to be able to stay at the Mission House for the duration of our stay.
3. We were able to work with Lois' father's relatives in Vizurești to secure a gravestone. Few things are easy to accomplish in Romania. This was one of the few exceptions for which we are grateful.





Electronic Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE

PAID

MEMPHIS, TN
PERMIT NO. 928

GEMS
Calvary Baptist Church
3812 Kirby Parkway
Memphis, TN 38115



**How to support the
Proclaimer Audio Bible ministry:**

Send checks to GEMS with "Operation Proclamation" in the memo or donate online via our website:
<http://gems4christ.com>



Visit our website at:
Gems4Christ.com

Prayer Requests

1. We are grateful to God for His faithfulness to us these past two years, we now look to Him for His vision and His guidance for our lives going forward. The pastoral position in Ploiesti has been filled in answer to our prayers. Now we need to hear from Him as to whether we are to remain in our home in Romania to serve, to serve elsewhere in Romania, or return to the U.S.

2. We have left behind aged church members with whom we visit in their homes, maintaining continual contact to ensure their well-being. Pray for Bro. Doru and Bro. Georgescu especially as well as a village neighbor, Marin, who has been coming with us to Ploiesti to church on Sundays and stopping by to visit with us during the week.

3. We want to support Bro. Aaron as he assumes the pastorate. He will commute from Cluj but wants to find suitable housing and move to Ploiesti as soon as he is able. We are praying for God's mercy and grace for him and his wife and children as they make that transition.



Above Right: Calvary Baptist Church of Memphis enjoyed meeting the Hiltibidal family and hearing Bro. Aaron Hiltibidal preach.

Left: The Thompson Family and the Hiltibidal Family at Calvary Baptist Church of Memphis, TN.

