



GEMS Ghana Mission update • April Newsletter

BY FAITH

As we began the year 2017, we had four pressing needs: [1.] Nearly \$1,000.00 was needed for government paperwork to renew the Williams Family visas. [2.] An injector pump for our vehicle was needed at a cost of about \$300.00. [3.] security wire was needed to secure our residence after we had moved from our old residence to make way for a new family- the security wire would cost almost another \$1,000.00. [4.] A water storage tank also needed at the new residence would cost about another \$500.00. All totaled, about \$2,800.00 was needed. Well, early in the new year a check was received for \$3,000.00!!! God provided for our needs once again!



On March 12, village elders from Apewu came and honored us after church with gifts of plantains, cassava, a crate of eggs, and a live rooster. This meant so much to us as we knew that for them this was huge. I wonder sometimes if gifts such as these are extra dear to the Lord... Mark 12:43-44 "...Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that had, even all her living."



LIFEREACH MEDICAL

(Reaching Across Borders because every Life matters)

LifeReach is a vital part of GEMS Ghana Mission as we can show the love of Christ to others by: giving medical supplies to villages, helping those who need first aid, provide transportation to hospitals, and fund medical care through this program. The following examples will help you to understand what we do through our program LifeReach:

The Value of a Life....the Value of Love.

Written by Brooke Williams

Let me introduce you to Ama (*pictured below second from left with her husband, Kwabena, beside her*). Ama is wife to Kwabena, a shepherd, and mother of 9 children. Ama lives in a hut in the village of Dompaa, a hillside village overlooking Lake Bosomtwe. Ama sells fish and cooks other food items to sell to help supplement their income. Some weeks ago Ama almost died.

If you who are reading this support us financially; if you pray for us; if you send cards, letters, packages to encourage us and help us keep going..... You helped save a life.

This is the story:

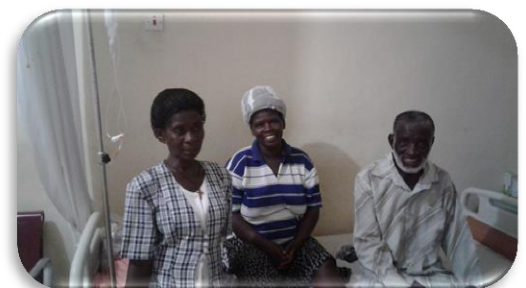
Ama, who has been healthy most of her life, who has given birth 9 times , who walks miles each day selling her food, is suddenly doubled over in pain. “You have eaten bad food”, one family member says. “It is an ulcer in your stomach”, another says. “You have been cursed and this is the evil upon you”, yet another one says. Kwabena is worried for his wife of 20 years. With help, Ama is carried to the nearby local hospital but the circuit doctor will not make his round there for some time. The overseeing Physician’s Assistant cannot diagnose Ama. The little hospital does what they can for her giving her IV fluids and pain medication but there is nothing more that can be done and Ama is sent home. Will she die? Kwabena watches nearly helpless as his strong wife writhes in pain. Each hour seems like an eternity. Ama grows weaker and the intense vomiting increases; it is apparent she is in distress. Kwabena has no money now for he spent everything they had at the last hospital. He does not wish to beg, he is a man of honor who is used to caring for his own, but he cannot bear to see his wife die like this. “I will call Pastor Mike,” he decides. “Pastor Mike will help us. Pastor Mike will come.”

It is not too long before he receives a message back from his friend.... Pastor Mike is coming.

It is 2 a.m. when Pastor Mike gets the call for help. He quickly packs what he needs, grabs a cup of coffee and heads out the door. “Pray for Ama”, he says to his wife, Brooke. “Pray for safety as I travel and pray the car makes it”. He gives her a kiss then out into the darkness he goes. Traveling rough, bush roads at this time is not the wisest thing but there is nothing else to do; to wait for light could mean death for Ama. The only other way for Kwabena to get Ama out of the village would be to find some men to carry her the many miles out to the main road where they would then simply have to wait for a passing car willing to take them to a hospital or clinic. But they need not worry... Pastor Mike is coming.

Nearly two hours pass before the little party pulls into the parking lot of a private hospital. Kwabena cannot afford this hospital. This is a private hospital that only “rich” people go to but his only worry at the moment is for his wife so he does not argue with Pastor Mike over the choice. Unbeknownst to Kwabena, Pastor Mike has already told the hospital to do whatever is necessary for the woman he is bringing in, he will pay the bill.

Ama is sedated and an IV started. Tests are begun by the nurses. A doctor soon arrives but after assessing Ama and looking over tests results, he tells Kwabena and Pastor Mike he will contact a surgeon right away. More tests are done and soon the surgeon arrives for further testing. It is not too long before the decision is made. If Ama is to live, and hopefully it is not too late already, immediate surgery must be performed. Ama has complete intestinal blockage and her body is going septic, there is no time to lose. There is fear in Kwabena’s eyes but he gives his approval. Ama is taken away and surgery begins. The waiting....the waiting is so hard. What will happen? Kwabena wonders.



Will he ever see his wife again? What will his children do without their mother? Time seems to stand still but finally the surgeon appears. Kwabena quickly stands to his feet bracing for the worst. “Ama will be just fine”, the surgeon kindly says to him. Kwabena sits down in utter relief and begins to cry. The tough exterior that his culture demands is gone for the moment. He cannot and will not hold back his emotion. His wife will live!

It is a relieved yet weary Pastor Mike that drives home many hours later. It is now mid- day. It is hot and bright and noisy but it doesn't matter, he will sleep. He will sleep soundly and heavily as if it were the darkest of night. All is well. A life has been saved!

Reaching a Village

A few months ago, we were able to give a barrel of medical supplies to the village of Apewu for their clinic. This was made possible because one of our supporting churches donated these supplies and we were able to ship them in a barrel to Ghana. This gesture is priceless when it comes to the impact it makes on a small village. This is the second time we have been able to give a considerable amount of medical supplies to this village (*first donation pictured above*). This is a gesture we hope to continue in the future and reach out to many more villages through caring for physical needs they have.



CHURCHES AND PROPERTIES

Faith Independent Baptist Church in Apewu and FIBC in Dompaa are both moving full steam ahead with securing property and building buildings for their churches. I am thrilled that while they could sit and hope finances would come from the U.S., they have not! Currently both churches have raised their own funds to purchase their land and also have some money set aside to begin breaking ground. I am very excited to see them pressing forward with these plans.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the work of the Lord in Ghana, West Africa.

**Pictured below are views of the pieces of land being purchased by the churches.*

For His Glory,

Michael Williams
Pastoral Director
GEMS Ghana Mission

