



GEMS update • January Newsletter



NEW2

New Year

We began 2018 with our fourth Prayer Camp in Ghana West Africa. This year was very different as Pastor Hooker and I both stayed in the U.S. due to Brooke's health situation. God had provided ahead of time by allowing a man named Josh Brown to visit Ghana with me in October of 2017 and Josh was up to the challenge of returning to Ghana with Bro. Joe Carpenter who had previously been to Ghana back in 2008. Together they followed the guidance of God's Holy Spirit and working with several local pastors and missionaries conducted another amazing Prayer Camp! It was so difficult for me to not be there, but God was reinforcing to me that the work is not mine but His and He will continue to do the work that He started. Josh and Joe also took charge of our annual Christmas Crusade and many people were saved in the lake village of Ankaase. It was so awesome to see the mighty power of God work through Josh and Joe - it was like having modern day Timothy and Titus! They went to encourage the churches we started which, in turn, encouraged me by the report they brought back. God is the same yesterday and today and forever, Hallelujah!



New Baby Boy

On January 21st, 2018, Asa Daniel was born. One half hour later he passed from our arms into the arms Jesus. Please allow me to share Asa's amazing story:



Late in the first trimester of this pregnancy, which had already been riddled with numerous complications, the fetal medicine doctors detected a tumor in the placenta as well as signs of deformity in our baby boy and immediately began suggesting that maybe we should terminate the pregnancy as the risks for mother and baby were great. Of course, we did not consider this a moment but the giant of fear nevertheless loomed great before us. Brooke was reading the book of Daniel in her devotions one day and the passage *Daniel 3:16-18* jumped out at her. She asked me if we could name our baby boy Daniel as

a reminder that we would not bow to the demands of ungodly men no matter the personal cost. It

was then that we decided to call him, Asa Daniel Williams.

At 17 weeks along, Brooke's water broke, and another series of complications began. Brooke was placed on strict bedrest being allowed to get up only to go the restroom. As each day went by the complications and pain grew worse for Brooke. We prayed daily that our little man would survive, and we fought with everything humanly possible to protect his little life. We were told that if Asa made it to 23 weeks, he would then be taken via C-section and begin a new journey of survival in the NICU; if he was born earlier, nothing could be done to save him. Six days before the 23-week mark, while at the doctor's office, Brooke began hemorrhaging and was rushed to the hospital. She was admitted, a series of tests were begun and soon a blood transfusion administered because of the amount of blood loss. Though she stabilized, she continued to lose large amounts of blood and on Saturday afternoon the 20th of January the fetal medicine doctor once again recommended we consider terminating the pregnancy to save Brooke. He told us that if we did not terminate the pregnancy we would risk Brooke bleeding to death as they couldn't keep giving her blood to compensate for the blood she was losing. We were scared but we responded that as Christians we believed only God had the right to choose to end little Asa Daniel's life and we would rather place Brooke's life in the hands of the Lord than to grab it with our own – we would not bow... to fear, to man's wisdom, to pain, to questioning...we would not bow. Later that night we prayed together and as tears streamed down our faces Brooke told God she was placing both of their lives in His hands and I begged God for supernatural intervention. We then sent a message around the globe asking God's people to pray that either God would allow Asa to be born naturally, or He would miraculously stop Brooke's bleeding. On Sunday morning the 21st of January at 4:00am Brooke went into labor naturally and at 5:30pm Asa Daniel was born. God's people had prayed, and God answered with His perfect will. Asa lived for thirty minutes and we will ever be thankful to God for that precious gift of time we were allowed with him. We were able to hold him, talk to him, sing to him and love on him before he went to be with the Everlasting Father.

Though we wept with broken hearts, the sweet peace of Jesus flooded our souls. God seemed to immediately tell us that Asa was born and died so that through his short life God could be glorified. You see, God had answered the prayers of thousands of people and in the end, it was Almighty God Who had chosen between Asa and Brooke - not man. We had not bowed, and not only had God had been merciful but His power was witnessed by many. God taught us and we learned the message of Asa Daniel's short life was, "We believe God can; We believe He will; But if not... We will not bow". It is our prayer that the story of our little son life will rally God's people, when faced with fiery trials, to also say, "We believe God can; We believe God will; But if not... We Will Not Bow". Satan would like nothing better than to see God's children bow under trials to bitterness... worldly wisdom...anger... bad decisions...etc. Let us be as the Hebrew children and say with calm assurance of trust placed in the Keeper of our souls, "We will not bow!"



New Branch of GEMS : GEMS Germany



In our last update we mentioned we were about to begin a new branch of GEMS in Germany. The story of this goes back to the two years Brooke and I spent in Germany from 2009 to 2011. When I arrived in Germany there was a couple named Patrick and Christelle Njaboue in the church that were on fire for God. It didn't take long before I asked Bro. Patrick to be my assistant pastor and I loved every day we served together. Fluent in the language and culture, and very well respected, Bro. Patrick and Christelle were tremendous helps to us and won many souls to Christ. In fact, when God moved us out of Germany, I recommended to the church that they ask Bro. Patrick to be the pastor. Bro. Patrick felt at that time that God wanted him to go to the U.S. for Bible School, so he agreed to be the interim pastor and led the church until they found a full-time pastor then he and his wife moved to the U.S. for school. Patrick has since completed Bible College and God has asked him to return to Germany and plant churches there. Patrick has joined GEMS and we are so excited to be partnering with him to reach Germany and into other parts of Europe for the cause of Christ. In December 2017, Patrick and I took a trip to Germany and spent a wonderful time with veteran Pastor Michael Falkenberg with whom Bro. Patrick will be working for two years while he prays about where God would have him to start a church. The Njaboues will be going to the field "by faith". We have agreed that they will travel for approximately one year to raise awareness of GEMS Germany before going to the field. As GEMS' missionaries, they will not be focusing on raising personal support, but rather looking to minister to those churches to which God sends them and endeavoring to encourage and hopefully inspire others by what God is doing through the Mission and what we hope and pray He will do in the future in Germany and Europe.

If you are interested in Bro. Patrick and Ms. Christelle visiting your church, you can reach him at:

Phone - 678-485-7258

Email - nchristrick29@protonmail.com

Facebook - GEMS Germany



New Missionaries being added

In recent days, a new family has come looking to be added to GEMS Ghana Mission. Please pray with us as they go through the application process and we prepare to send them to Ghana West Africa, “by faith”.

For His Glory,

Michael Williams
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