

Inside Wyoming

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Ave. Baptist Church

Vol. 18, No. 5, July 20, 2003



Headed to Africa!

by Walter Rice, Jr.

Tomorrow, Lord willing, I board an airplane on my way to the West African country of Ghana. Now why would I be headed to Africa? It's a long story...

At the beginning of this year, I received an e-mail from Joseph Sun, the director of academic programs at Penn's Engineering School. I had met him while I was in school, and worked with him and a few other students to start the Penn Engineering Christian Society. It was through Joe that I was privileged to go to China in the summer of 2001, to set up a computer lab for a new Christian university that was opening just outside of Beijing, the capital of China.

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Inside Wyoming is published by and for the members and friends of the Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church.

Contributions of articles and information are most welcome! Contact the editor, Walter Rice, Jr., at 215-820-0165.

Anyway, Joe invited me to lunch. The old saying that there's no such thing as a free lunch holds true, for I was hooked (willingly, I might add) into a mission trip to Ghana, with a team from Narberth Presbyterian Church and the Church of the Good Samaritan. Along the way, my father joined the team, and while he isn't able to join us in Ghana, he's worked with us all the way in getting ready for the trip.

The primary purpose of our trip is to support the local church in Ghana by setting up 80 computers at the Christian Service College in Kumasi, Ghana. As an integral part of our trip, we will be working to train the staff and some of the students on the computers, in basic tasks such as word processing, but also on the use of digital reference software for scripture study and research.

The Christian Service College (CSC) is a training school for pastors and ministry leaders in Ghana, and is quickly expanding to meet the need for quality Christian education. In West Africa, Ghana is a missionary-sending country, greatly increasing the impact of a school like the CSC.

One of the exciting aspects of the trip is that in partnership with the churches in Kumasi, we will be able to open the computer lab to recently graduated high school students, who will join us for two

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days of Bible study, worship, and computer training. The theme of the camp is the "Fruit of the Spirit." It may sound like an odd mix of activities, but this serves to build up the body of Christ, allowing our team to fellowship with the Ghanaians, while teaching some of the skills with which the Lord has blessed us.

During the computer setup, I will focus primarily on the technical aspects of setting up the computers, and troubleshooting when things don't work right (with 80 PCs, this is bound to happen!). For the camp, I have double duty, teaching two of the Bible study sessions Monday and Tuesday morning, one on Peace and Patience, and the other on Kindness, Goodness, and Faithfulness. In the afternoons, I will lead training sessions for the staff of the college.

A lot of work has already taken place to prepare for this trip. A team member's employer was gracious enough to donate all the computers, and to prepare them for shipment to Ghana. The computers were boxed and put on pallets and shipped May 1, and left from Norfolk, Virginia by "slow boat to Africa"... it took more than two months for them to get across the ocean!

Our team has been hard at work praying and getting ready for the trip, learning about Ghana and the Ghanaian culture, as well as preparing the materials for the Bible studies and for the computer training. This is where my father has had a significant part on the team, putting together all the computer books that we will use.

The Ghanaian symbol on the cover is GYE NYAME which means "Except for God." It represents the sovereignty, supremacy, and power of God.



Please pray for this mission trip to Ghana. Specifically, pray for our physical safety, particularly for safe travel. Pray for the unity of our team, that even when things get hectic or don't go as planned, that we would demonstrate by our actions the fruit of the Spirit that we hope to convey by our words. Pray that He would enable us to setup the computers quickly and smoothly, and that this cooperation between the American and the Ghanaian church would bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

Look for a report and photos of my trip in a future issue of Inside Wyoming.



Profiles of Our 2003 Graduates



Dr. Manuelita Buenaflor

On February 28, 2003, Dr. Buenaflor graduated from Union Institute and University, in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Child and Family Counseling.

We know the new Dr. Buenaflor (PhD) better as “Q P.” Q P is a member of both our Church (since 1988) and Sunday School, where she is currently a worker in the children's Sunday Bible School. She also serves “Wyoming” as a member of the Diaconate, the Board of Christian Education, the Music Committee, and the Choir.

She received the Lord as her own personal Savior, and was baptized when she was 13 years old. Her life then, as now, was deeply involved in her church. She began teaching Sunday School at about 15, and continued until she attended college.

Prior to her emigration to the United States, Q P lived in the city of Mindanao, in the Philippine Islands. She grew up in a home where both her mother and father were Christians. Her mother is still living in the Philippines. She also has three sisters, Nancy, Eden, and Nehemiah, and two brothers, Nathaniel, and Joseph



She completed her undergraduate studies at Doane Baptist College in the Philippines, and earned her Masters of Religious Education degree at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary in Michigan, where she lived when first arriving in the U.S. in 1985.

Even though Q P did much of her recent work for her doctorate at home, she flew frequently either to the Cincinnati campus, or to Washington, DC, to meet with her doctoral advisors. In the process, she accumulated about 60,000 air miles.

She says her doctoral dissertation, entitled “Can Spiritual Beliefs Change Behavior,” was somewhat controversial with her doctoral committee of five professors. It seems all of them are humanistic in their

spiritual understanding, and could not comprehend why Q P laid such heavy emphasis on Christianity in proving her theme. They attempted to convince her to change her subject, or at least to tone down the prominence of the Christian faith in her writing. She refused, stating that if she did, she would have nothing to write about.

Q P is currently employed at the Multi-Ethnic Behavioral House here in Philadelphia.

Congratulations, Dr. Buenaflor, and may God bless all your endeavors.

Rev. Daniel Ndimantang

In May of 2003, with the enabling of the Holy Spirit, and after much prayer and study, the Rev. Ndimantang received his masters degree in Biblical Counseling from Biblical Theological Seminary, in Hatfield, PA. While the studying was his own, the feat was not accomplished without the dedicated support of his loving wife, Rose.

Before we speak further of Daniel's educational and career achievements, we relate a bit of their family information. Daniel's father and mother, Moses and Hannah, had six children. There are five surviving. Rose has eight siblings.

Daniel and Rose, who were married in 1973, also had six children, of which five survive. Starting from the eldest, they are Silas, Naomi, Hosea, Victor, and, the youngest, Bernice. Naomi, is studying at Eastern University, in the Philadelphia suburb of St. Davids, and Bernice is

attending the Christopher Doc Christian High School in Lansdale. The rest remain back in Cameroon under the guardianship of relatives.

Daniel met the Lord in 1956, and was baptized in 1957, in the Chotmakulang River. He started his lay ministry in his local church in June of 1963.

Before his latest degree, Daniel had received his education both in Cameroon and in the U. S. In Cameroon, after graduating from high School, he received training in two areas, from 1964 to 1992. The first was in teacher's education at the Kom Baptist College. That launched his teaching career, which lasted for 19 years, at several Christian elementary and high schools.



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Sunday School Picnic!

Wyoming held its annual Sunday School Picnic on Saturday, June 28th, in Burholme Park. We were blessed with excellent weather (in the midst of a rainy couple of weeks) that wasn't too hot.

The ever-popular water balloon toss was again held, and while most participants were kids, Shirley Parcell joined in the fun and braved the threat of water. And of course the after-toss activity of all-out soaking ensued, leaving quite a few drenched kids and teens. Some people remembered last year and were smart enough to wear their bathing suits! Other activities included horseshoes and a traditional game of Scrabble.

Dinner was provided by the Sunday School, with hotdogs, hamburgers, and chicken hot off the grill, and side dishes brought by various people. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make dinner and bring food. You helped make our Sunday School Picnic an excellent occasion!

After dinner, we sang a few hymns. Debby Crockett gave a short devotional, using an illustration to show us how sin entangles and binds us like chains from which we cannot break free. Debby then related the good news that Jesus came to break cut those chains and set us free.



Food for Thought, *cont'd from page 8*

from Genesis to Revelation, "My house shall be called a house of preaching"?

Does it ever say, "My house shall be called a house of music"?

Of course not.

The Bible does say, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." Preaching, music, the reading of the Word - these things are fine; I believe in and practice all of them. But they must never

override prayer as the defining mark of God's dwelling. The honest truth is that I have

***They will call on my name
and I will answer them.
Zechariah 13:9b***

Graduates, *cont'd from page 5*

During this period, Daniel continued his education in the second area of learning, and earned his Bachelor of Theology degree in Pastoral Ministry from the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary.

On May 28th, 1992, while already having served as Chaplain for Saher Baptist College in Limbe, and the Baptist High School in Buea, Daniel was ordained to the gospel ministry. Shortly after that, he was called to serve as the first Pastor of the newly-formed Faith Baptist Church in the capital city of Yaounde, a position he held from 1993 to 1998, when he was authorized, by the Cameroon Baptist Convention, to come to the U. S. for post-graduate studies.

He and Rose became members of "Wyoming" in 2000. He now serves on the Board of trustees, and she on the Board of Missions.

On first coming to the U. S., you may remember, Daniel studied at Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside for a few

years, and earned his Masters degree in Urban Missiology from that school in 2002.

His plans for the future include serving as the Assistant to the Pastor here at "Wyoming," a position to which the Deacons called him, while seeking to raise funds from various sources for the establishment of a Christian high school in Cameroon, in 2004.

The school would provide a unique seven-year post-elementary curriculum, with the goal of training students not only in academics, but also in a useful vocation. The uniqueness of the schooling lies in the fact that it would be specifically designed to help the students use that vocation as a springboard to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. To accomplish that, their training would include practical evangelistic field experiences.

The entire Christian family of "Wyoming" salutes you and congratulates you on your latest success. We pray for your continued advancement in the Lord's work.

PRAYER CORNER

Food for Thought

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED that Jesus launched the Christian church, not while someone was preaching, but while people were praying? In the first two chapters of Acts, the disciples were doing nothing but waiting on God. As they were just sitting there... worshipping, communing with God, letting God shape them and cleanse their spirits and do those heart operations that only the Holy Spirit can do... the church was born. The Holy Spirit was poured out.

What does it say about our churches today that God birthed the church in a prayer meeting, and prayer meetings today are almost extinct?

The feature that is supposed to distinguish Christian churches, Christian people, and Christian gatherings is the aroma of prayer. It doesn't matter what your tradition or my tradition is. The house [our church] is not ours anyway; it is the Father's.

Does the Bible ever say anywhere

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