

PRISONERS *for* CHRIST  
OUTREACH MINISTRIES



**“AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY”**

# **GHANA 2011**

*Outside the Tarkwa Prison, Left to Right:  
Don Szolomayer, Pastor Martin Richards,  
Bob Jordan, Jeff McVey, Ray Wing*



**The night before the trip, Left to Right – Dee and Don Szolomayer, Leslie and Bob Jordan, Sally and Jeff McVey, Ray and Chang Wing**

Our theme for this campaign is from [Acts 8:4-8](#) *And there was Great Joy.*

*Acts 8:5-8 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. 8 And there was **great joy** in that city.*

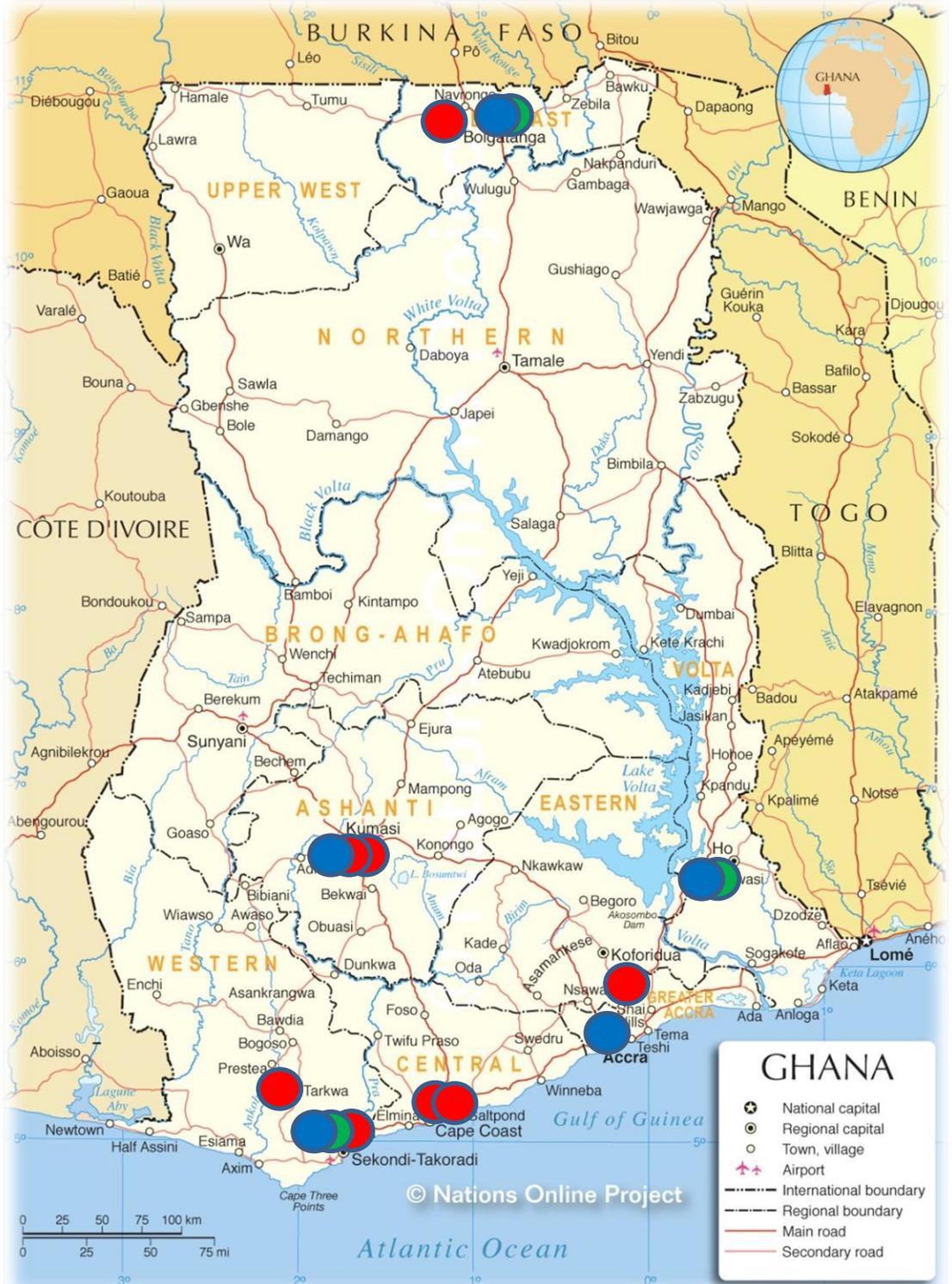
There will be great joy because once again our missionary team will see the hand of God providing for us to go on the trip. We'll have the excitement of preparing for ministry to those lost and forgotten third world prisoners who are still people and are still loved by God and who have no hope. Like Phillip we will lay hands on the sick, we will, should we need to, cast the devil out of those oppressed by the devil. We will preach and teach the beloved Word of God and see God confirm His Word with signs following. We will preach Christ. We'll preach his sinless life, we'll preach his great love, we'll preach how he was a friend of sinners, and we'll preach his death, burial, and resurrection. We'll preach his ascension to heaven. We'll preach how he sent the Holy Spirit. We'll preach it all. And we'll have great joy in doing so, our foreign missionaries will have great joy in being encouraged by us, our foreign volunteers will be trained and we'll have a time of laying on of hands and blessing them for the work of the Gospel and they'll have great joy, and the inmate will hear the words of life and receive Christ as Savior and Lord and there will be great joy in their hearts and lives.

Our ministry model is to provide training, equipping, vision, and encouragement to our national teams wherever we have foreign ministry. To provide for year-around ministry we locate and train local missionaries in the specific work of prison ministry. When we come to a location we first are planting – seeing if the people, leadership, and locale will sustain prison ministry. Once planting has occurred we begin the watering part – nurturing, equipping, ongoing communications, to bring the area to where it can start bearing fruit. The payoff (as it were) is in seeing ministry thriving, carrying on month after month, year after year, with established volunteers and regularly scheduled ministry taking place consistently

month after month. This trip to Ghana is a microcosm of the PFC ministry model. We are forever grateful to our prayer and financial partners. Without the backing of the home-front, none of this could occur. But because of you, it did occur, and in the midst of economic uncertainty in America we were still able to minister abroad and continue advancing the kingdom of Heaven.

The map shows in red where we ministered in prisons, in green where we held conferences, and in blue where we stayed in hotels.

(see page 22 for where Ghana is on the African Continent and info on the Ghana flag.)



## Campaign Summary Statistics:

### Prison Crusade Attendance

Prison	Attendance	Confessions	Gifts for Inmates
Ekuase	150	40	50kg Rice; 25kg Sugar; Soccer Ball
Tarkwa	120	60	100kg Rice; 8 Bibles; Soccer Ball
Communicable Diseases	40	13	100kg Rice; 4 Bibles; Soccer Ball; 20 bottles miscellaneous vitamins/supplements
Ankaful	65	7	100kg Rice; 4 Bibles; Soccer Ball
Manhyia	200	190	100kg Rice; 10 Bibles; Soccer Ball
Kumasi	127	15	100kg Rice; 20 Bibles; 2 Soccer Balls
Navrongo	120	40	100kg Rice; 10 Bibles; Soccer Balls
Akuse	128	35	100kg Rice; 11 Bibles; Soccer Balls
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>750kg (1,650 lbs.) Rice; 25kg (55 lbs.) Sugar, 9 Soccer Balls, 20 bottles vit/supplements</b>

### Conference Attendance

City	Conference Attendance
Takorandi	30
Bolgatanga	50
Ho	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>

### Daily Travel Miles

Day	From	To	Miles
2	Airport	Accra	10
3	Accra	Takoradi	150
4	Takoradi	Ekuase	15
5	Takoradi	Tarkwa	100
6	Takoradi	Ankaful	120
7	Takoradi	Kumasi	205
8	Kumasi	Kumasi	5
9	Kumasi	Bolgatanga	335
10	Bolgatanga	Navrongo	40
11	Bolgatanga	Ho (via Kumasi)	540
12	Ho	Ho	5
13	Ho	Accra	115
14	Accra	Airport	10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,650</b>

Prison	Emcee	Testimony	Short Sermon	Long Sermon	Gift to OC
Ekuase	Don	Ray	Jeff	Bob	Bob
Tarkwa	Jeff	Bob	Ray	Don	Bob
CDP	Don	Jeff	Bob	Ray	Ray
Ankaful	Bob	Don	Ray	Jeff	Don
Manhyia	Ray	Bob	Jeff	Don	Jeff
Kumasi	Don	Ray	Jeff	Bob	Bob
Navrongo	Bob	Ray	Don	Jeff	Don
Akuse	Jeff	Don	Ray	Bob	Jeff

## Ghana 2011Team



**Jeff McVey** is married to Sally and they have two sons, Joel and Danny. He is Director of Information Services for Quality Business Systems, a Xerox company. Jeff has served with PFC at Monroe Minimum Security Unit since 2005 and previously ministered in the Snohomish County jail with a group from Northshore Christian Church from 2000 to 2004. Jeff has previously served on PFC international missions trips to Nigeria in 2008 and Uganda and India in 2010. Jeff is a member of the PFC Board of Directors and will be the finance minister and communications chief for this campaign. His family attends Valley Foursquare Church in Duvall where he serves on the worship team.

**Greg Von Tobel** and his wife Rhonda serve full-time at Prisoners For Christ. Greg founded PFC in 1989 with a vision to reach men, women, and juveniles behind bars in Western Washington. That vision has now gone around the world. Greg founded PFC International and is a veteran of almost 30 international campaigns. Greg sees ministry to inmates in the developing countries as the last frontier of missions. Greg is a PFC Board member and is the campaign coordinator for this trip, having been to Ghana in 2007. Greg and Rhonda have three grown children and grandchildren and attend Canyon Hills Community Church. Greg is an ordained Christian Minister.



**Don Szolomayer** has been married to his wife Dee for 40 years. They live in Yakima Washington and have one daughter and two grandchildren. They attend Selah Covenant Church where Don serves on the worship team among other activities. He has been involved with PFC for over 12 years and has ministered in various institutions. He serves on the PFC Advisory Council for International Missions and has been on four previous mission trips to Africa; Don is a member of the PFC Board of Directors. This will be Don's first trip to Ghana. Don is assistant leader for this missionary trip and will lead the three separate all-day conferences PFC will sponsor to train Ghanaian volunteers for the ongoing work in jails and prisons.

**Ray Wing** is married to Chang and both are retired and have a heart for missions. This is the first overseas mission trip for Ray. He has served with Bill Glass Weekend of Champions in 15 prisons as well as local evangelistic outreaches in the Puget Sound. He also ministers in the local juvenile and adult prisons and mentors youth. Chang has served as a short term missionary to China and Eastern Turkey. Ray attends Faith Assembly of Lacey and is the team leader for his church in the Thurston County Jail.



**Bob Jordan** is married to Leslie and they have eight children; he is VP of Engineering for a private defense manufacturing company. Bob has served with PFC for 19 years and has been in jail and prison ministry for over 30 years. Bob is Chairman of the Board for PFC. He is Dean of PFC University and visits jails and prisons monthly. This is Bob's sixth PFC International missionary trip, and his third to Africa (and first to Ghana). Bob is group leader and in-prison leader for this missionary trip to Ghana. His family attends Cedar Park Assembly of God in Bothell where Bob is a Certified Minister of the Gospel.

**Pastor Martin Richards** is the PFC International Director for Ghana, having served with PFC since 2007. He has two sons, Mark (12) and Abraham (14). Pastor Martin travels extensively through the entire nation of Ghana and has developed relationships with the administration and inmates of virtually every prison in Ghana. A tireless worker, Pastor Martin is known for his optimism, passion for the Gospel, and deep knowledge of every region in Ghana.

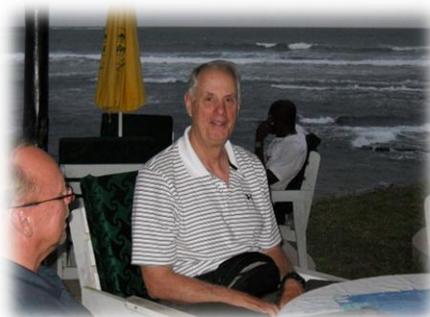


**Days 1, 2 (Air Travel)** – The team met at SeaTac International Airport in Seattle for the first leg of the trip, flying to Amsterdam. The night before we met at the PFC offices for packing of gifts and then out for a nice pizza dinner. The flight to Amsterdam was pleasant, though 7.5 hours is a long hike regardless! Our layover was another 7.5 hours, and we were pretty spent when we got on the plane for Ghana.

The flight from Amsterdam to Ghana was uneventful (just as we like it). We slept a good part of the way. We arrived in Ghana at the capital city of Accra at 8pm local time. (Ghana is 7 hours ahead of Seattle). We were greeted by our missionary partner Pastor Martin Richards. We were driven to our hotel and then had a nice dinner at an ocean-front restaurant. We then returned to our hotel and bedded down for the night.



*Jeff and Bob; Amsterdam layover*



*Don and Ray on the beach; Takoradi*



*Our hotel in Takoradi*

**Day 3 (Takoradi Conference)** – The team arose and were on the road by 7am for the three hour drive to Takoradi from Accra. Traffic was a nightmare. We left an hour early for the 3 hour drive and ended up being an hour late. We arrive at noon and commenced the conference. Don is the conference leader for all conferences; Don emceed the event and was the lead teacher for the modules. All men taught – Don, Jeff, Bob, and Ray. Each man shared a little about himself. We taught for 3.5 hours and completed all training modules. We did not use an interpreter; Ghana is striving to make English its official language and it's evident. Every street sign, billboard, or advertisement we've seen have all been in English. Here is the format and assignments for all of our conferences on this trip:

Introductions and Opening; about PFC	Don
Why Do Prison Ministry?	Jeff
Code of Conduct	Bob
The Four Divisions of PFC Ministry	Don
How to Start & Grow a Prison Ministry	Ray
Break	
The Importance of the PFC Network	Don
Working with Staff at the Prison	Jeff
What it is to be a Volunteer	Ray
Group Leader Responsibilities	Bob
Recall and Reward; Close	Don and Jeff
Prayer Line; Consecration	Don, Jeff, Bob, Ray

The conference was a major success. All of the team shared in the teaching and all added their own experiences to their materials which made it personal and all the more relevant for the hearer. We had handout notes for each attendee. Bob held a baby as the attendees enjoyed hearing he had eight children of his own. At the end we had a commissioning prayer for those wanting to pursue prison ministry as led by the Holy Spirit. This first conference was very well received, and there was indeed Great Joy. Men and women were blessed, there was personal laying on of hands and prayer and God

brought liberty and vision to those in attendance. PFC provided lunch for the delegates and this too was a blessing. One of the pastors at the conference invited Bob to preach at his church the next day, but the logistics would not work.

Just for the record, the most important part of any PFC international missions trip is the conference training. It is the training aspect of our ministry that provides the foundation for our locals to minister in local jails and prisons all year long. PFC, from the beginning, is driven toward consistent, regular, standardized, effective, biblical ministry to the inmate community, be it in the United States or on foreign soil. The American team trained for many weeks in preparation for this. The goal is to establish our volunteers and then have local leaders carry the gospel into the jails and prisons of Ghana.

That evening we met up with Pastor Moses from Liberia. He has been working with PFC for two years and this was our first face-to-face meeting. After dinner Don and Bob conducted a formal missionary candidate interview with Pastor Moses. The interview took about an hour and a half.



*Conference Leader Don teaching*



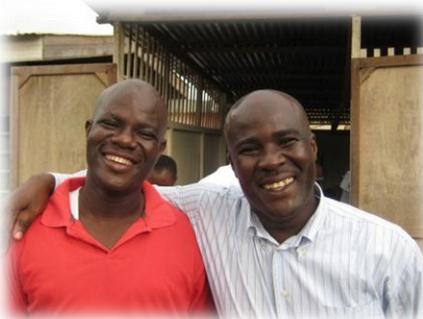
*Bob and baby Jared teaching*



*Jeff teaching as Don looks on*



*Ray teaching as delegates listen*



*Conference host leaders; right is Pastor*



*Jared with his mom*

**Day 4 (Ekusa Prison, Church Service)** – With Pastor Martin and Pastor Moses the team departed at 7am for our first prison crusade. We obtained humanitarian aid for this prison – 50kg of rice and 25kg of sugar – as a gift to the inmates. This was the only prison we were allowed to take photographs. The inmates had a band playing and they were worshipping as we arrived. Don was the emcee for this service, and he led the service by introducing our team, sharing about PFC, and bringing up each speaker per our schedule. Ray shared his personal testimony that

included him receiving Christ as Savior at the tender age of 48! Jeff followed up with a short message about the Lost Son (Prodigal Son), and Bob brought the main message for this prison on “Jesus Friend of Sinners” using the example of Zacchaeus, the adulterous woman, the maniac of the Gadarenes, and the thief on the



*Bob & Martin (soaked!) at Ekusa Prison*

cross, among others. Bob did the altar close and all of the team laid hands on the men as they received Christ the Lord for the forgiveness of sins. Jeff led the healing prayer time and many men had stomach issues; the Lord spoke to Ray about this, being a parasite issue, and prayer was given accordingly. Don closed with presenting a soccer ball which was joyfully received. There was indeed Great Joy at this prison!

The prison superintendent said that our team came to their prison and physically touched them and that that was the first time this has ever happened in their prison. We always shake hands, walk among the men, lay hands on them to pray, and embrace them. Don wrote down his exact works, which are: "Officer in charge very gracious to us, speaking to the prisoners at the end of the service he said to them 'do you see how much these men love you? They even touched you with their hands. This has never happened here before.'"



*Don as emcee*



*Jeff ministering among the inmates*



*Ray sharing his testimony*

After the service Jeff presented a gift bag to the superintendent as is our custom. We provide a folio, PFC prayer pen, neck tie, soaps and perfumes for the wife, and candies for their children. The superintended said after the service, in the presences of the in mates, that God has touched all of them in a way that has never before happened. He was deeply grateful to our team, and we praised God with Great Joy! Following is our standard prison crusade format. The names are for this service specifically, but all of us will rotate through all of the assignments over the course of the campaign.



*Jeff presenting gifts to the Officer-In-Charge*

Emcee  
 Testimony  
 Short Sermon  
 Long Sermon  
 Altar Call  
 Healing Prayer  
 Gifts for Inmates

Don  
 Ray  
 Jeff  
 Bob  
 Bob  
 Jeff  
 Don

We use this format to not only be effective and allow participation and preparation for our American Team, but also to model for our national prison ministry team and team leaders how to conduct an in-prison Christian church service. Any music or choir portion of the service will occur first, with the local missionary leading that. He then turns the service over to the American team and the Group Leader welcomes the congregation and gives some background on Prisoners for Christ.

The Emcee then conducts the service. He'll introduce each team member, provide an exhortation, and then introduce the next speaker along with a tidbit of what they'll be sharing on or about. There are designated time frames for each role, and the emcee monitors the service. PFC always preaches a pro-

Christ message versus an anti-Anything message. We are there to lift up Christ the Lord, and He is altogether attractive.

**Church Service** The team then traveled directly to a church service. One of the pastors there went to Bible College with our host Pastor Martin. This was a blessing to all of us. During the service there was discussion about forgiveness, and why it is that some people will not forgive unless someone first asks for forgiveness. The pastor came over to our team and asked if we would answer this question. Bob then arose and spoke of how before coming to Christ we were by nature given to revenge, resentment, envy, and unforgiveness, to name a few attributes of the unredeemed. But that after coming to Christ, and coming out of the kingdom of darkness and into the



*Sunday Church Service praise and worship time.*

kingdom of light, that we have to learn new behaviors. This takes the help of the Holy Spirit, and discipleship, and to go God's way we have to lay down revenge and we have to forgive. We used examples of Jesus on the cross, and how he forgave those who crucified him. The pastor was pleased. After more worship and praise Don introduced our team, and then Bob came to preach on "The Heartbeat of God." The text was Matthew 24 and the heartbeat of God is the souls of men, women and children. The assembly was blessed and there was Great Joy. They took up an offering for our team, and we received 100 Cedes (\$62). We'll use this for humanitarian aid for inmates. We shared with the pastor, citing Philippians 3, how they were the only ones to bless us this way, and we were honored, and that "my God shall supply your every need according to His riches in grace by Christ Jesus." It was a wonderful time in the Lord and the team was encouraged.

There was a handsome young couple, just married the day before, who came to church and the pastor asked for our team to pray over them. Ray led this prayer with the rest of the team laying hands on the couple. Again, there was great joy!

Pastor Moses then departed back to Liberia; we had a short time of prayer and waved goodbye to this prison minister who ministers in a large prison in Liberia three times per week.

During the trip Bob has been sending updates to friends, family, and prayer warriors. We deeply sense the Holy Spirit's hand on us by the prayers of the saints and this strengthens and emboldens us.

**Day 5 (Tarkwa Prison)** – Today was another blessed day in the work of the ministry in Ghana! We arose early and traveled a couple hours to Tarkwa where we ministered to 120 men with 60 making a first time profession of faith in Christ. Jeff was the emcee for this prison. Bob shared his testimony and Ray brought the short sermon about Zacchaeus and Don brought the long sermon on Blind Bartemaus. The superintendent and a number of his officers were at



the service, and they bowed their heads during prayer just like everyone else. It was an outstanding day of worship and praise at the prison.

*OC in light tan shirt; American team left to right: Ray, Bob, Jeff, Don*



*Prayer for the Officer-In-Charge as he knelt*

Afterward as is our custom we went to the office of the Superintendent to present gifts and to express our gratitude at their kindness toward us. He spoke first, thanking us for bringing the word of God to the men in the prison. After giving him gifts we asked if we could pray for him. In the presence of many of his staff he came out from behind the desk and got on his knees for prayer. What humility This man in front of his staff and with visitors got on his knees for prayer! So we prayed down heaven and took some photos and we were off thanking and praising God for the good work he's doing behind bars in Ghana and putting men such as this in authority.

We drove back to the city and en route our driver peaked out at 93 mph. Even for us this is a bit excessive so we had him slow it down a bit. Barreling along in a 15-passenger van at those speeds when the rains were coming and going was not wise to say the least; even the more normal 70 mph doesn't make sense either but TIA (this is Africa).



*Pastor Martin and Jeff purchasing Bibles*

We bought \$500 worth of Bibles, to God's glory, and thanks to the great kindness of our own donors. Beloved, every dime is going directly into carrying the gospel into these prisons! While in the marketplace many enjoyed a coconut. The market man sliced and diced it with a machete and we drank the milk and then ate the meat of the coconut and it was delightful. We came back and took a nap, then just before dark went down to the Atlantic Ocean and Bob jumped in and rode the waves.

We all four planned the prison services for the next few days and then had a season of prayer together in the room and then sang a hymn and bid each other goodnight. God has been very gracious to us today.



*Bob doing Jonah imitation*



*PFC impromptu Board meeting*



*Ray & Don on the Atlantic Beach*

**Day 6 (Communicable Diseases Prison; Ankafu Prison)** – We had a double-header today; going to two prisons, virtually side-by-side. First was the Communicable Diseases prison which houses those with TB and HIV AIDS, among other illnesses. Don was emcee, Jeff shared his testimony, Bob shared the short sermon on “Being Changed” based on the apostle Paul, and Ray preached the long sermon on “You Are Invited” from the Great Wedding Feast.



*Pastor Martin at CDP*

45 present, 13 came forward for salvation, everyone was prayed for for healing of the body. Second service had Bob as emcee, Don shared his testimony, Ray shared the short sermon and Jeff preaching the long sermon on “God Has A Plan” from the life of Joseph in Genesis; 65 present and 7 confessions. We handed out 4 Bibles in each prison to inmate church leaders, laying hands on them and praying for them. This was a holy time. We also donated 20 bottles of vitamins and supplements (this prison only).

Afterward we stopped by a national park briefly, then to a place that had crocodiles; we all went up to one and petted it. This can only happen in Africa. One growled and it was pretty throaty and intimidating, sounded just like on the cartoons (ha!). Later in the market we converted more American dollars for Ghana currency via the black market (we get better rates this way). Again, only in Africa...



*Nice crocodile... nice little crocodile...(yes, they are real and alive and mouth open!) Left to right: Bob, Jeff, Don, Ray*

We continue to feel the Lord's presences and that's a testimony to the prayers of the saints, His care for the prisoner, and His favor to usward on this mission. It's a bright day in the kingdom of God! Another prison scheduled for tomorrow. We are planning to leave the hotel at 6am.

**Day 7 (Manhyia Prison)** – Our original plan was to drive 120 miles and do an early afternoon service in Obuasi. However, we learned that the prison was on lockdown and we were not able to minister there, thus we traveled an additional 80 miles and one of the services scheduled for the next day, the one at Manhyia Prison in Kumasi (Kumasi is the second largest city in Ghana, after the capital city of Accra). We had 200 men present for the service. The OC (officer in charge) greeted us and was grateful that we could bring the word of God to the prison. He said this was biblical, to visit the prisoners, and to help the administration in the work of rehabilitating the men so they can become productive members of society obeying the laws and caring for their families. Jeff



*Pastor Martin outside the Manhyia Local Prison*

presented the gifts to the OC and all of us prayed for him in the office with Bob leading.



*Beloved Pastor Martin, the friend of the prisoner*

The team then went to the courtyard where Ray was emcee, guiding the service. Bob shared his testimony and Jeff brought a short sermon on “Do You Want To Get Well?” from the lame man at the pool. Don brought the main sermon on “The Prodigal Son” and the response was overwhelming. Easily 190 of 200 men responded to the altar call for a first-time commitment. Bob led in the healing prayer. We gave gifts of rice and the soccer ball, which is always wildly popular. The OC invited us back again. Pastor Martin Richards

has been indispensable in arranging all of the events and interpreting the services and working closely with all OC's. He's God's man for the prisons in Ghana, this is for sure!

**Day 8 (Kumasi Prison)** – The team had its latest start of the entire campaign so far – 8:15am. We had breakfast for the first time all trip; all of us had a vegetable omelet with toast and tea (Don had coffee). We hustled out to get humanitarian aid and then went to the prison. We were delayed an hour as prisoners were being moved to the courthouse and armed guards escorted them and other matters caused us to get in an hour late. Then we were told we only had 30 minutes, but we used 45 anyway as it turned out. Don was emcee, Ray shared his testimony, Jeff brought the short sermon on “The Lost Son” from the prodigal son story, and Bob brought the long sermon on “What Do You Believe?” which shared events in the New Testament where men and women were brought to making



a decisions about who Christ Jesus was. There were 120 present with 15 responses to the first invitation for salvation. We prayed over 10 inmate leaders to whom we gave Bibles, and we left 10 more for the chaplain, the first chaplain we've met on the foreign field anywhere!

For a cultural experience we visited the Manhyia Museum where the Ashante king lives. Ashante is a royal family line in Kumasi (the second largest city in Ghana) where gold is used extensively in ceremonies. There were a number of others in the tour group and we learned they too were missionaries; they were from Tennessee. They discussed beginning a prison ministry and Don gave them his PFC business card. We shall see if this was a divine appointment!



*Ashante King and Wife*



*Palace exterior*



*Bob with tour guide; background is Tenn. missionary*

Don and Bob conducted the audit session in the late afternoon with Pastor Martin Richards. This is standard practice on the field where we learn of issues, discuss needs, strategize vision, and share in some personal matters as appropriate. It went very well and took over 90 minutes to complete.

Tomorrow is a pure travel day, with some 350 miles ahead of us. We will be on the road by 6am. We calculated our fuel mileage to be a paltry 7.5 mpg. Fuel costs are not cheap, but we carry on! We continue to get word of the many people praying for our health, safety, and anointing as we minister in prisons. For this we are grateful. If it wasn't for this, our efforts would be in vain. God is being glorified in our midst.

**Day 9 (Travel Day)** – Today we journeyed from central Ghana to northern Ghana, crossing Lake Volta twice. Our destination was Bolgatanga. The drive was 8 hours from hotel to hotel; we stopped twice for fuel, once for breakfast, and averaged 42 mph over the duration of 335 miles. Our goal was to get to the hotel before dark and we did, easily, with four hours to spare. We left promptly at 6am (just as it got light out) and arrived at 2pm. It gets dark like someone flipped a switch at 6pm. Twice we crossed Lake Volta; the largest surface-area man-made lake in the world.

The team got a little rest before dinner later in the evening. Ray and Don had been roommates up to this point, as were Jeff and Bob. In Bolgatanga we switched it up and Ray and Bob roomed together and Don and Jeff did as well. This is the fourth hotel we've been in. We stayed one night in Accra in the south, then four nights east in Takoradi, then two nights in Kumasi in central Ghana, and now to Bolgatanga in the north. We have had to share the bed as there have not been twin beds in any of the Ghanaian hotels which is a first for us in Africa. The beds are getting narrower and narrower all the time! What's up with that?? We've gone from King beds to Queen beds to now a Double bed. Gotta have a sense of humor on these trips sometimes... ☺

Tomorrow we have our second conference, starting at 10am local time (3am Seattle time). It is scheduled to go until 3pm. We will follow the same format and assignments as on day three in Takoradi. Don is the conference leader. On our drive here we reached 88 mph, but that's not a record. Our record is 94 mph reached a few days ago. Try as we will to have the driver slow it down a bit the speed always creeps up. Got to love the Detroit GM 454 V8; it's a cruiser! We are getting about 9.3 mpg but we have a lot of power, which is a good thing!



*Slowed down to 88mph*



*Crossing Lake Volta*



*Mosques and thatched roof huts common in N. Ghana*

**Day 10 (Bolgatanga Conference; Navrongo Prison)** – This was the most busy day of the entire trip so far and will be the busiest day of the campaign. We began by holding the conference at a local church with 50 in attendance. We followed the same format and assignments as on our conference in Takoradi (day 3). It was a powerful time. Don was the team leader and fielded many questions from the eager delegates. The time for this conference was 10am to 1:30pm. PFC provided lunch and soft drinks as is our custom to the conference attendees. We were joined part way through the conference by the pastor and his aide from Burkina Faso. Pastor Abel speaks only French and his aide interpreted for him and us.



*Pastor Abel*

The team went directly from the conference (without Pastor Abel since he was not cleared for entry to the prison with the PFC team) to the prison. It was a 25 minute drive and on the way we purchased more rice (100 kg, or 220 lbs.). The service was excellent. We began by visiting with the OC and his second-in-command (known as 2-IC) and presenting gifts on behalf of the ministry and its donors. We then conducted the service. Again the inmates had some worship and praise in progress and again one of the men came forward to dance before the Lord (this is common in Africa, be it church or prison).

Bob looked over at Pastor Martin and got the nod to join in, which he did to the great delight of the prisoners. Martin later told Bob that this is very meaningful to the inmates as they see a white man, a Christian white man, who “comes down to their level” and identifies with them. Though we don’t see ourselves as coming down to anyone’s level, we understand the spirit of what was said, and Pastor Martin said they will never forget this.

Bob was the emcee for this prison service. Ray shared his testimony. Don came next with the short sermon from Blind Bartemaus and the place erupted as Don hit the proverbial ball out of the park. Jeff followed with the long sermon on “God Has a Plan” from Joseph in Genesis and he too hit the ball out of the park. The team was under a great anointing. At the invitation Jeff gave 40 of the 120 men came forward to receive Christ as Savior and Lord; making a first time commitment. Ray then prayed for physical healing and wholeness and it was blessed of the Lord. At this conference Pastor Martin did not interpret since the language up in northern Ghana was different then his own native language, so an inmate, Joseph, interpreted. Afterward he expressed his gratitude to our team on behalf of the inmates. They were greatly blessed we came, and that we brought them the Word of God, and that we brought rice, and that we gave them a soccer ball (which is always wildly popular).

It was very hot at the prison, probably a good 100 degrees F, and humid. All of the team was sweating more than usual at this prison. From the prison we returned to the church and picked up Pastor Abel and his aide and went to our hotel. Don and Jeff conducted the Missionary Candidate interview with Pastor Able, again using the aide as interpreter. It was laborious as Pastor Able speaks no English, and the aide spoke broken English himself. But in the end the interview was completed and all was well.

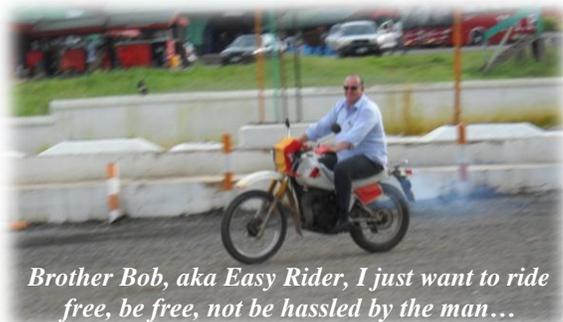
All of us had dinner together and fellowshiped some more. Bob and Martin visited for a good while and strengthened their relationship. Martin said our team had boundless energy and never appears to get tired. We all feel the same way about Martin! We did learn that the route we had planned on taking was not going to work after all – there are no paved roads on the eastern part of the nation. So we have to backtrack to Kumasi (8 hours) then head east to Ho (5 more hours). This will put us in Ho one hour after dark. We determine that if we are running late we will stay in a hotel in a major city en route. The team has plans to depart Bolgatanga at 6am, at first light. Everyone in great spirits; God has been very good to us this day as we accomplished a lot and feel very good about the day’s activities. Now we rest up for the 535 miles of driving if all goes well. Bob had a talk with our driver and with Martin and was very clear that we are not to exceed 75 mph during the trip to Ho. Bob told the driver if he exceeds 75 mph he’ll be walking and Bob will do the driving!

### *Bogatanga Conference*



**Day 11 (Travel)** – The team was on the road at 5:50am. Pastor Martin as always is on time or early, every time! We fueled up and off we went. Now Bob had given instructions for the speed not to exceed 75 mph, and he relied on Pastor Martin to keep our driver Osei (pronounced “Oh-Say”) in check. Well, that worked for about half a mile. Bob kept tapping Pastor to give the word to the driver. A few times we were right back up to 85 mph, and once a good gust took us to 90 mph. That’s when Bob leaned forward and put his face next to Osei’s and said “Do not exceed 75 mph. 75 mph max. Do you understand?” and he said he did. It went better, and Bob had to tap him on the shoulder a few times, but all in all it was a safer drive. It’s in his DNA as a professional driver to get his customers to their destination ASAP and he’s a pureblood in that category!

The team had a hot Spanish omelet sandwich at the same place we did on the way to Bolgatanga. The drive took a total of 14 hours to cover 540 miles. There were potholes, rumble strips (speed bumps), towns, goats crossing the road, cattle in the road, slow-poke vehicles, you name it. We passed a police vehicle going uphill across the double line speeding – and we honked at him to get out of the way! We also were stopped at check points along the way by police officers. This is very welcome as bandits can be out, especially after dark. At one fueling stop a man had a dirt bike motorcycle and Bob jumped on it and rode around the parking lot while we were filling up. Good times! (Of course, this is a violation of PFC policy so he’ll be fired when he returns the States. His defense is the heat together with hours driving made him act irrationally...)



*Brother Bob, aka Easy Rider, I just want to ride free, be free, not be hassled by the man...*

But we made it and were too bushed to eat dinner so we agreed to meet tomorrow for breakfast. We drove two hours during dark, but not much in the darkness before we were on the main highway so it was safe. We sent in a prayer request via text messaging to Bob’s wife Leslie and to Greg Von Tobel for safe travels after dark, which the Lord answered, amen!

The room is nice, it has a huge king size bed which is a welcome change to the double-size bed we had the past two days. This hotel is on a hill overlooking the regional capital city and it has a pool. We shall see if anyone dives in tomorrow.

The plan for tomorrow is to conduct a volunteer conference at a church in Ho. We will be interviewing a married pastor couple, the Edwidge’s, as missionary candidates with PFC.



*Osei, Martin, Ray, Jeff plotting the course*



*Out of my way fuzz!*



*Check point Charlie, one of many...*

**Day 12 (Ho Conference)** – The day started warm. We met for breakfast at 8:30am, having a nice day to sleep in after a tedious travel day the day before. We departed for a very short drive to the church and conducted the conference from 10am to 1:30pm; all of our conferences have taken 3-1/2 hours.

Don instructed the team that though this was our third and last conference of the campaign, to treat it like our first, that is, give it our very best effort. Don again as conference leader was emcee and started the meeting off after introductions from the local pastor and Pastor Martin. Now, as we were getting ready the church was already in full worship mode, and in Africa that means loud music (they had drums, a bass, and keyboard) and brothers and sisters circling toward the front of the platform in an Africa dance movement. Pastor Martin again gave Bob the wink to join in, and a wink is all Bob needed! The brothers and sisters enjoyed having a white man dancing with them, just like the inmates earlier in the campaign.

The conference then got underway, with our format the same as the previous two conferences. The Holy Ghost was upon the team; there was participation by the delegates (60 in all). Just as we got underway Pastor Edwidge (husband and wife team) arrived and they were with us for virtually the entire conference. Pastor Martin did not interpret this conference (our first conference with an interpreter on this trip) but rather one of the leaders in the church. The language here is Ewe, and that's the main language not only of this region of Ghana, but also the main language of the border county of Togo, thus the Edwidge's had the full value of the conference and they heard it in their principle language. (Togo's first language is Ewe, followed by French, followed by English.)



*Pastors Edwidge (husband and wife)*

At the end Don led in the call to commissioning as a prison volunteer, and two-thirds of the assembly came forward for prayer and commissioning. The worship leader then led the assembly in "I Surrender All" and Don joined in to lead in worship and it was an anointed time. God did a great work at this conference and we were all humbled and astonished at the goodness of God.

*Brother Don leading "I Surrender All" at the Conference close.*



After the conference PFC provided lunch and drink refreshments. The team with the Edwidge's left to return to the hotel for the missionary candidate interview. This was a major blessing. Bob and Don led the interview and this

couple is among God's choicest of servants. They have national cards to allow them in any prison, and they know the Togo chief minister for prisons personally. We downloaded 75 pictures of their work in the Togo prisons. They feed inmates as well as visit and preach the gospel, and they have volunteer teams. On top of that they are humble and gracious, just what one would expect in a Christian minister (or any Christian for that matter). We all enjoyed a meal together and they departed for Togo.

At the end of the evening there was a leadership meeting of the American team and we rejoiced in what the Lord was doing, and we strategized how to improve future missionary trips. Always thinking and always planning...

Tomorrow we meet at 6:30am for breakfast then a 7:30am start for a prison on the way to Accra. This is our last night in Ho for the trip, and one more night in Accra then we are on a plane for American. This has been a low-stress trip for all of us, and the reason is that we're sharing the major duties of any foreign trip (group leader, prison leader, finance manager, conference leader, etc...) so no one guy has to do it all. We will bunk early after having a very satisfying day of ministry as well as meeting some outstanding missionary candidates. Lastly we had a season of visiting with our driver Osei and Pastor Martin, two of God's finest men. Pastor Martin continues to impress the team with his work ethic, humility, and ability time and time again to get the ball over the goal line. Truly a Man of God.

**Day 13 (Akuse Prison)** – The team arose early and packed for the trip to Accra, some 115 miles. On the way we stopped at the Akuse prison. We were greeted warmly by the administration and escorted into the small courtyard where 120+ men were gathered. After a visiting pastor exhorted the congregation from Psalms 95 the service was turned over to Pastor Martin, who introduced the team and then invited up Jeff who was the emcee for this service. Pastor Martin interpreted. Don shared his personal testimony, and Ray brought the short sermon “Have Mercy on Me” about the Pharisee and the tax collector in a parable of Jesus, then Bob



followed with the long sermon on the Parable of the Sower. The Holy Ghost was all over all of us and He was giving us great liberty. There were 35 men who said yes to Christ Jesus for the first time, amen! Don brought the prayer for physical and emotional healing and there was another large response. Jeff led in prayer for 10 inmate church leaders as we presented to them Bibles and laid hands on them to be the teachers needed in this prison. We also presented rice and a soccer ball, which as always is very popular! Jeff also presented the gift bag to the second-in-command (Pastor Martin will have to bring another gift bag



*Gifts to the prisoners made possible by our many faithful donors. We give these gifts in their name.*

for the Officer-in-Charge as that is customary.) The commander asked to have a picture of the team with the two sacks of rice and the soccer ball, and we were glad to oblige!

There was a display outside of the prison for inmate-made carvings, and many of us purchased them at face value (we don't negotiate these prices as the revenue helps the inmate families) for gifts and personal keepsakes. We then completed the drive into Accra, where we started almost two weeks ago. We settled into the hotel, cleaned up, and went out for a light dinner. Tomorrow we do some shopping and pack for the trip home. Our plane leaves at 10pm local time, which is 3pm Wednesday in Seattle. We are planning on arriving at SeaTac around noon on Thursday, October 20.



*Pastor Martin walking near the hand-carved inmate art. Many of us purchased most of these items!*

All ministry is now complete.

- All conferences a success; three in all with 140 present in total.
- All prison services complete and a success; 8 prisons altogether, 950 inmates met with 400 receiving Christ as Savior. Over 1,600 lbs. of rice donated; 50 lbs. of sugar; 9 soccer balls; vitamins and supplements at Communicable Diseases Prison.
- 90 Bibles purchased (\$500 USD), 70 distributed in the prisons; 20 to remain with Pastor Martin to use in his ongoing ministry to inmates.
- Three foreign missionary candidates interviewed, representing Liberia, Burkina Faso, and Togo.
- One church service attended and our team preached the main message to the encouragement and blessing of the community.

Every team member in good health, good spirits, good attitude, and feeling very good about the work the Holy Spirit did in and through us. The prayers of family, friends, pastors, missionaries, and inmates was heard and answered. We thank and praise God for his goodness to usward.

**Day 14, 15 (Shopping; Travel)** – A friend of the ministry and fellow missionary to Africa Kevin Jones arrived on the evening of day 14 and visited with Bob, then with the team for Day 15. What a blessing! He and Martin will carry on some ministry for a week before Kevin heads to Uganda for two weeks.



*Independence Arch, Accra, Ghana*

The team did some shopping (it was a very hot afternoon!) then packed for boarding the plane at 10pm local time for the first leg of the trip to Amsterdam, then after a brief layover



*Kevin Jones and a sweaty-backed Jeff!*

on to Seattle, Washington. We are counting the days until we return to Ghana!

Before departing for the airport the Ghana team had a time of prayer together. There was rejoicing and thanksgiving as well as weeping. Pastor Martin was very sorry to see us leaving and it showed. The American team was sorry as well. Our missionary friend Kevin Jones was scheduled to leave with Martin in the morning for ministry in Ghana, and will be with Martin for a week. This is good, but we all sorely miss one another.

**Group Leader Assessment:** On this trip the leadership load was divided among Bob, Don, and Jeff. This greatly reduced the stress and burden that any one person, who often handles all of the leadership responsibilities, usually faces. Here are the final grades:

- Don – Conference Leader; Audit Leader – A+
- Jeff – Finance Manager, Communications Director – A+
- Ray – Newbie, yet active participant in prisons and conferences, and prayer warrior – A+
- Martin – National team leader – AAA+
- Osei – Driver – A++
- Bob – Team leader and in-prison leader – in all modesty, an A+ ☺

And a AAAA+++ grade to our prayer warriors and support team back home, Margaret LaPointe who distributed daily prayer requests, Greg Von Tobel who organized the campaign and was a diligent prayer warrior, our wives and children who supported us, our pastors and church friends who prayed for us and supported us, our foreign missionaries who reported in that they were praying for us, and the inmates, chaplains, and PFC volunteers of many prisons where Bob, Don, Jeff and Ray serve who were praying for us. Finally we thank and bless our Father in Heaven, His Son Jesus Christ the Righteous, and the every present ministry of the Holy Spirit of God, who guided, protected, comforted, and led in the paths of righteousness to the praise and glory of our God. World without end, amen!

For your enjoyment, following are some pictures taken by the entire team of various aspects of life in Ghana and this missionary campaign. God is good. And there was Great Joy!







Altitude:	38267
(Feet)	
Distance to Destination:	1831
(Miles)	
Distance Traveled:	3181
(Miles)	
Estimated Time of Arrival:	11:47
Ground Speed:	533
(MPH)	
Local Time at Destination:	8:05
Outside Air Temperature:	60
(Fahrenheit)	
Time to Destination:	03:42
Local Time at Origin:	17:05
Head Wind:	-26
(MPH)	





*Ghana became independent of the UK in 1957, when the country was known as "The Gold Coast." The name "Ghana" means "Warrior King." The Meaning of the Flag:*



"I decided on the three colors of red, gold & green. Green because of the geography of Ghana. Ghana lies in the tropics and blessed with rich vegetation. The color Gold was influenced by the mineral rich nature of our lands and Red commemorates those who died or worked for the country's independence. Then the five pointed lone star which is the symbol of African emancipation and unity in the struggle against colonialism."

--- Designer: Mrs. Theodosia Salome Okoh