West African Mercy Ministries

March, 2007

Volume 14

A Very Present Help!

The Prayer of One Still Trying to Grow

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

(Psalm 46:1)

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

(Psalm 46:10)

My Strong and Very Present Help:

I am not very good at keeping these verses (to the left) together. I like the thought of you being a strong and very present help in times of trouble, but I am lousy at quietly waiting for you to show yourself to be God during those times. I want you to be a strong and very present help in the same way Aladdin's Genie was a strong and very present help. It can seem rather useless to me to have an ever present God who often bids me to be still and wait. An ever present help to my way of thinking should not only work how I expect it to, but when. And you aren't at my beck and call.

But if this passage is true (and of course I believe it is), and you are a very present help in trouble this has to mean that even when troubles abound and you are not working in a way that I would expect, you are still being a very present help. Even your "delays" must be helpful. I have seen in the past year that your delays to our plans have prevented us from losing everything. Your delays have been protective—they have been helpful. In fact, they have not been delays at all; they have been incidents of active, protective help to keep us out of trouble.

Perhaps the best example of this is the sale of our home and our plans to move to Ghana. Throughout last year we prayed and watched and waited for you to be our very present help who would bring about the sale of our house and make possible our move to Kumasi. We struggled to understand why you were preventing us from going, after all, for years we had been taught that you didn't need ability, just availability (as if you needed anything). Here we were, available, willing, even eager to go and you were preventing it by what seemed to be your delays—your inactivity.

But now I stand back and praise you for not answering our prayers. Had you answered what we wanted when I wanted, we would have invested all that equity and all that energy into moving to a place where it is now doubtful we ought to be. Instead we were able to send Josh alone and he was able to see that things were not what we had come to expect. And your "delay" proved to be an incident of active protection proving you to be exactly what you promise—a very present help in trouble.

And so I praise you for your active help which proves these words to be true. I thank you too for taking the time to let me know that you are God even though I was not in the process of being still. Even while I was worrying and wondering and pleading with you to do things differently, you remained in charge and did not give in to the pestering and nagging of this little child. But instead, you worked things out for our good and allowed me to see that you were being a very present help even while I was asking you to stop doing what you knew to be helpful.

My God, may I learn to rest in you even while I don't understand just what it is that you are doing. May the words that Job learned to be true, be true of me. May I, like him, take comfort in the fact that when I can't "find" you, still you always know where I am and what I need.

Behold, I go forward,
but he is not there,
and backward,
but I do not perceive him;
on the left hand when he is working,
I do not behold him;
he turns to the right hand,
but I do not see him.

*But **he** knows the way that **I** take;*
when he has tried me,
I shall come out as gold.
(Job 23:8-10)

Inside this issue:

A Very Present Help! 1

WAMM/FIM Partnership Matching Game 2

Josh's Greetings from Ghana 3

Here We Are, Update on the McIntyres 4

WAMM/FIM Partnership Matching Game

Match the Ministry Needs in the Left Column with the Resources a WAMM/FIM (Fellowship International Mission) partnership could provide in the Right.

FIM needs someone on the ground in Ghana.

FIM needs someone with pastoral experience.

FIM needs someone with church planting experience.

Dinah Kwao (widow of FIM c church planter) is seeking a partner for a medical outreach ministry.

John Asmah (Word of Life Missionary in Accra) could use help in outreach ministry to youth.

WAMM needs churches with which to partner to care for orphans.

WAMM needs to be present in Ghana in order to evaluate and assess the ministry opportunities that exist.

FIM has ministry Opportunities in Ghana!

Josh's desires are To reach youth!

Pastor Brian has Been a pastor since 1985!

WAMM team is eager to be in Ghana!

FIM has two new Church Plants & plans to plant more!

Pastor Brian planted KMCC!

Colleen is a nurse!

As we spent time in Accra, Ghana this past January, it became obvious to us that WAMM's needs might be met by FIM and FIM's needs might be met by WAMM and its personnel. Take a few minutes to play the game. Perhaps God will show the same thing to you. Please be in prayer as we continue to examine the possibility of partnering together!

Greetings From Ghana

Well greetings everyone, I apologize for the delay between my last newsletter and this one, I guess it might be a good thing though, as I have been very busy these past few weeks.

I spent my New Years in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, with the Chinn family, we spent a few days at the beach, which was about 3-4 hrs. away. What a great and relaxing time I had there! I even took surfing lessons! What a hard missionary-life I have! It was a great time away just resting and getting to know the Chinns a little better. We stayed at a hotel owned by a Canadian man, who married a Ghanaian woman. Their son, Akwasi, taught me the basics of surfing, it was a blast! I am definitely planning on going back. I would ask you to pray for him, as I continue to share the reason I am in Ghana with him, and more of the Gospel.

Soon after we got back from the beach I was going back again. This time a group of missionaries in Accra, who lead a youth group for missionary kids and some Ghanaian kids as well, asked me to join them on a youth retreat at the beach for the weekend. What a great time we had. Joseph Chinn also went on the retreat. It was great to see these kids, in worship and in fellowship with one another. Praise God, one girl accepted Christ, and a Ghanaian friend of mine (Evans) and I got to talk with her for quite a while on the new life she now has It was a great time.

God still had more planned for me, I was in Kumasi for a couple of days, and then I was headed right back down to Accra, to pick up my dad at the airport with Pastor Don Clark, chairman of the board for Fellowship International Mission (FIM). We (WAMM) are currently looking into what kind of partnership God might desire us to have with FIM. We were able to spend some time with a Ghanaian family, who were the first FIM missionaries in Ghana.

My dad and I both had an opportunity to speak at Greater Grace Bible Church, on Sunday. We also got to see the facilities of a couple of different missions, to get a better feel for what it will be like to have WAMM serve in Ghana. It was a great time for learning and meeting some good friends.

To the right are two pictures from our trip. The first is a picture of my dad, and Don Clark and Pastor John Asmah, the interim pastor of Greater Grace. The second is of Paul (the only full-time student at the Bible Institute FIM started) and "Dr. Mark" (a believer from Greater Grace Bible Church who was just a joy to be around, a good friend, and a great driver to have as well)!

That pretty much sums up my last few weeks here in Ghana, I would ask for your prayers for Akwasi, my surfing partner, and the congregation at Greater Grace Bible, as they seek the Lord's direction after the loss of their founding Pastor John Kwao. Please pray for me as well, that I would stay strong and diligent in my work here.

TWI PHRASE OF THE MONTH:

Na mene Awurade, wo Nyankopon:

I am the Lord your God!

Special Note:

By the time you receive this newsletter, Josh will be back in Wisconsin working to return to Ghana full-time. He will be available for speaking opportunities to youth and adult audiences and will be working on increasing his support level so he can remain in Ghana for a full term. Please be in prayer for him and let him know of any opportunities you might know of for him to share about the ministry to which God has called him.

My Dad John Asmah Don Clark

Paul "Dr." Mark

West African Mercy Ministries

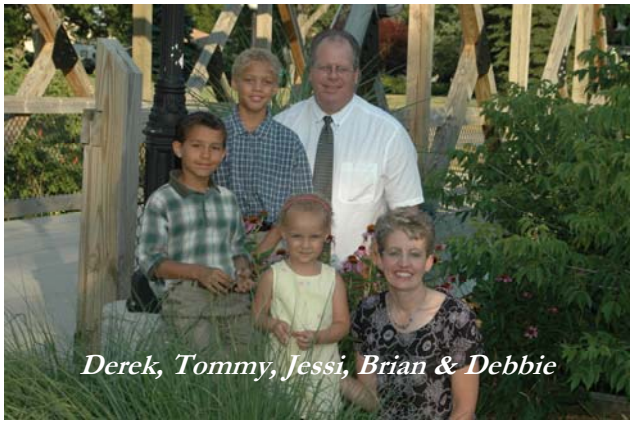
P.O. Box 185
North Prairie, WI 53153
Phone: (262) 392-3966
E-Mail: WAMM@wi.rr.com

We're updating the Website!

Check us out at WAMMInc.org

Please Notice Our Change of Address

Our New Mailing Address Is:
WAMM, P.O. Box 185
North Prairie, WI 53513



Derek, Tommy, Jessi, Brian & Debbie

How Can You Help?

If you took the time to play the matching game on page two of this newsletter, you should have noticed that a partnership between WAMM and FIM could be one in which both of us benefit. And that should come as no surprise because it is just the kind of thing our God is more than able to do. My recent trip to Accra caused me to think very excitedly about such a partnership. And we do covet your prayers as we continue to examine the possibility.

What is even more exciting to me than the dovetailing of need and supply is the potential that such a partnership brings to get us to Ghana soon, perhaps by year's end. And after 2 ½ years of planning and praying, that potentiality seems too good to be true. But that would mean God would have to be too good and I don't think that is possible, do you?

Here We Are

Update on the McIntyre Family

And so we find ourselves doing everything we can to be ready to go by the end of the year. Of course this includes trying again to sell our home; going through our belongings to decide what to bring, what to leave and what to store; packing; etc. But the thing we have least control over is making sure we have enough financial support to make the move. And this is where we could use your help.

If you have been a Christian for any length of time I am sure you know the three things you can do in response to the needs of missions: Pray, Give and Go. And WAMM is no exception to these needs. It would be especially helpful to us to know what to anticipate for monthly support. Some of you have already decided that you are going to give to Josh or Colleen or to our family on a monthly basis and that is great. I would simply ask you to make sure that whomever you are intending to support knows about your intentions so they can plan accordingly.

We are so thankful that many of you are already giving and we assume by your interest in this newsletter that most of you are praying and we know that a majority of you aren't called to go. But there are other things you can do. You can talk about this ministry to those you know who share the burden for orphaned children. You can help us solicit opportunities to share the ministry with small groups, churches, civic groups etc.—just give us a call—we'd love to come. Still others may have some writing skills they would be willing to put to use in writing for grants and donations from charitable groups. Others might organize fund-raisers such as garage sales, or in home parties with proceeds being directed to WAMM. Let your imagination go wild.

But mostly, pray. God is able to provide far beyond the resources of our limited contacts. Ask God to amaze you and us with how valuable your prayer can be.

Pastor Brian for the McIntyres

P.S. If you are interested in a detailed list of the needs of this ministry, please contact us via e-amil at WAMM@wi.rr.com, by phone at (262) 392-3966 or by mail at WAMM, P.O. Box 185, North Prairie, WI 53153. Thank You!