

Pure Worship!

Recently I wrote to all on our e-mail list concerning a phone call Debbie and I received from a local orphanage. The director asked us to come and see the latest arrival, an 11 month old, HIV-positive baby boy named Emmanuel, who weighed approx 6-7 lbs. Because of his HIV status, his family opted not to care for him. And because of the severity of the subsequent malnutrition, the local hospital did not want him either (they said he was too sick to admit). Someone found out and called the orphanage who intervened immediately. We praise the Lord for such worshippers of our God.

And that is exactly what caring for orphaned children is. It is worship—Pure Worship! I take that from the pen of James and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the English Standard Version James 1:27 reads this way: *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.* If you take a little time to study out the word “religion” in this verse you will see something very interesting. Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance insists that this word (*thrace-ki’-ab*) means “ceremonial observance:—religion, worshipping” And if that is true, then we can paraphrase this verse in this

way: **Worship** that is pure and undefiled before God [includes visiting] orphans . . . in their affliction.

As a pastor I noticed that we in the U.S. seem to spend more time arguing and fighting over worship style (something the Bible says so little about) than in pursuing mercy (something the Bible talks about over and over again). Why is it that we often seem more interested in our preferences in worship than we are in the purity of our worship? I thank God for people like the director of the orphanage who took Emmanuel and others like her who have committed themselves to Pure Worship of their God.

This is why Debbie and I moved to Ghana—we want to be involved in Pure Worship too. Actually it is only part of the reason we came. We also want to give you an opportunity to be involved in the same kind of worship. We dearly desire to be the hands and feet of hundreds (dare I say thousands) of American believers whom God calls to worship him in a way that is pure and undefiled. I remain a pastor at heart, an American pastor. As such my heart beats for the church in the U.S. and my fellow American believers. How I long to be part of an army of God’s children from the U.S. involving themselves person-

ally and sacrificially in Pure Worship of our God.

As I told you earlier little Emmanuel—*God with Us!*—is now with God. But the fact that he died does not detract from the worship those who cared for him offered up to God. This little boy died being cared for, touched, held, fed and loved. And these worshippers willingly risked great emotional pain to provide this care as an act of Pure Worship.

I tell you this story to solicit your prayers for little ones like Emmanuel here in Ghana and also to solicit your involvement in Pure Worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My family and I will be returning to the states for our first Home Assignment (furlough) in November of this year. Our hope is to return to Ghana next June enabled to open an infant care facility to care for little unwanted ones like Emmanuel. It is also our hope and prayer that many more people will be actively involved in Pure Worship with us through prayer and financial support/ sponsorship of these little ones who are so precious to our God. Will you pray with us? Will you ask God how he might want you (your church, your business, your civic group, etc.) to be involved with us in Pure Worship of our God?

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Jessi's Horsing Around



Dad asked me to write an article for the newsletter. I've never done this before, so I'm not used to writing so much. It's just like an e-mail, except they don't have to have a title. Well kind of they do, they have to have a subject.

My favorite thing to do in Ghana is horseback riding! I don't really have a favorite horse. I like all horses because there my favorite animal.

When I go riding, I get to ride either Jamila or You-na-Fill. The first time I went riding I

rode Jamila, but now I usually get You-na-Fill. I get to go horse-back riding next week Tuesday. I hope I get to ride Jamila again.

Oh! I almost forgot! Derek goes to ride with me, he gets Little John. The teachers' names are Victor and Mustafa. Mustafa is the teacher I got when I started to learn. I started when Tommy and Derek were still in school, and I had finished school. So when they were done, Derek said, "sure I'll try".

They told me how to trot, walk, turn left and right, stop, and turn around. There's something you can say to turn around, But I can't exactly remember what. Maybe Tommy will ride next time too, but dad wasn't home last time so He had to stay home to watch Abena.

I really like riding horses, It makes it more fun here in Ghana

I Miss You All,
Jessi

Derek's Top Ten List

This is my Top 10 things to look forward to when we come back on furlough (in order from least to greatest).

- 10. Wal-Mart (a store where what I'm looking for won't be "finished")
- 9. Wendy's

- 8. Burger king
- 7. Arby's
- 6. Cooler Weather (not 90° degrees or more all year)
- 5. Electricity that works/ good wiring
- 4. McDonald's

- 3. Culver's
- 2. Apple Bee's (Are you noticing a trend?)
- 1. **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

I can't wait to see you all,
Derek



Update on Abena

Three months ago I wrote that Abena's (Baby Karen) new mom was in Ghana for the first court appearance relating to her adoption. I thought I would jot you a note to keep you posted.

After months of working and waiting for paperwork to be prepared, we are down to just

two remaining items. First, we are waiting for Ghana Immigration to produce Abena's passport. Once that happens we can send it to the U.S. Embassy for a visa so Abena can travel home with her mother.

"Mom" has been here one additional time to work on some of the other paperwork

and really hopes that within the next two weeks we can complete the remaining documents so she can take Abena home. President Obama is visiting Ghana in July. This will bring a quick halt to any work at the embassy, so please pray that God might be pleased to speed this paperwork along.

Dinah's Doings

Guess who is sitting on my lap? This little one's name is Vincentia. She and her mother came into contact with us through the Medical Outreach Clinic in Fantem, in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

Vincentia is 11 months old and is unable to sit up like other children her age due to the Hydrocephalus with which she suffers. The size and weight of her head cause stress on her neck and spinal cord making normal motor skills and development impossible for her. Though Vincentia has completed her immunization schedule, her mother is unhappy due to the other medical problems that add stress to

both of their lives. Please pray as we assess what we can do to help this family to whom medical services are unavailable due to location and poverty.

We are thanking the Lord that our family is doing well. My children will be on summer vacation from the University they attend beginning the 15th of June. It will be good to have them around the house during these next few months. We are also thankful that the church continues to do well.

It remains my desire that I will be able to come to visit the States in 2010. It has been a long time since I have seen many of you. I so long to visit

with individuals and churches that have so faithfully supported the ministry here. I also desire to be able to share with you face to face what we are seeing God accomplish through our medical ministry. You are being a blessing to many because of your financial and prayer support. The U. S. Embassy has made some changes in the application process for a Religious Worker's Visa and we are asking the Lord that he might use these changes to grant my visa this time.

May God richly bless you all.

In His Service, Dinah Kwao



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Tom's Testimony (If You Will)

Hello to all of you who are reading this. When my dad asked me to write a small article on anything I wanted, I thought I'd tell you about what I normally do around here.

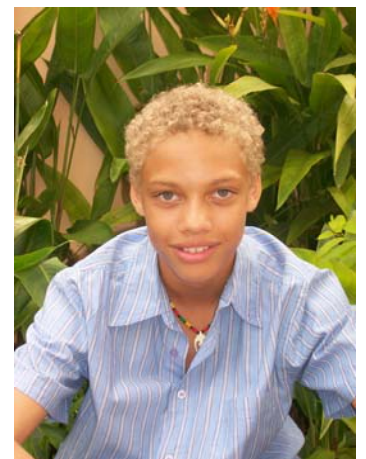
Well, living in Ghana is not as normal as most Ghanaians would tell you. The power goes out randomly, farm animals such as goats and chickens run wild, and people who drive are usually pretty insane. Now two of these don't really affect me that much, but when the power

goes out, it can get pretty boring. So to keep myself occupied, I have taken up some hobbies like guitar, magic tricks, drawing and reading (the hardest one to enjoy). I am also learning sign language with my mom and dad—it is a lot harder than it looks. I really enjoy all of these and hope to show them to my friends and family when we come back on furlough. I get along with my younger brother and sister most of the time, and love them very much.

I really appreciate all the prayers and gifts from people. As much as I want to come back to the States, I also want to stay in Ghana to help the little kids who need homes. So I look forward to coming home to see friends and family but also hope to come back to Ghana

Well I guess that's it. My dad covered most of what I would have said, so I'll stop here. Thanks to all!

Sincerely, Tom





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(Indicate for whom the support is intended)*



Derek, Brian & Debbie, Jessi, Tommy

***We Have Airline
Tickets!***

Yes, it is official, we are coming home for our first home assignment (what missionaries used to call furlough). If the Lord wills, we will be leaving Ghana at 11:35 PM on the 14th of November and arriving at O'Hare at 2:15 PM the following day. We are excited to be able to spend the holiday season with friends and family for the first time in two years. And I, for one,

Here We Are

Update on the McIntyre Family

am excited to feel something I haven't felt since we left in November of 2007—cold.

As I said, this will be our first home assignment and that means we are **not** on a 7 month vacation. We are coming to the States to visit our supporters (individuals as well as churches) and to secure additional support so we can return to Ghana to begin the first step in our foster care ministry. We believe that God desires this first step to be the development of an infant (under 2 yrs.) home. This will allow us to care for abandoned, orphaned and special needs children until they can be placed in a long-term foster family or be adopted into a permanent family.

For those of you who know my wife at all well, you can imagine

this is something she finds especially exciting. But there is much that must be done to insure proper care for such little ones. We will need to find a facility to rent, Ghanaian staff to help provide care for these children (Debbie can't do all those diapers alone—oh, don't get excited, I change some too), and additional support/sponsorships to help offset the cost of baby supplies and provisions.

Please be in prayer for us as we seek to see God develop this next phase of our ministry here. And please keep us in prayer as we make the necessary arrangements to be away for 7 months. We are especially asking God for a more affordable home or for our home to become more affordable.

Pastor Brian for the McIntyres