

## Ghana Trip – Day 13

### *Tourist Day: Cape Coast*



Today, we got up before the crack of dawn for a day of playing Ghana tourist in the Cape Coast area, about 150 km (or around 90 miles, or 3 hours) west of Accra.

First stop was the Kakum National Rainforest, home of the famous “Canopy Walk”. The Canopy Walk is a series of suspended bridges around 60-100 feet above the forest floor through the tree canopy. Pictured are Jessi, Jessy, and Joanne walking one of the bridges – think of it as the Ghanaian version of a thrill ride!



Next stop was the Elmina Castle, the oldest European building in all of Africa. Elmina Castle predates Columbus’ trip to the New World by 10 years ( A.D.1482), and was used as one of the centers of the trans-Atlantic Slave trade for Portugal and later the Dutch. Shown is the castle as approaching it, and a picture of Jessi at the “door of no return”, the point where slaves were loaded into the slave ship. It was a very moving and disturbing look at history, a heritage that we all share in.



Our final stop was at Till’s Beach (last picture), about 2/3 of the way back to Accra from Cape Coast. This has been one of my favorite places on Earth, but now we found a little bit of pollution on the shores that was not there in previous years. Yet, we still enjoyed a little swimming and dinner before heading back to the McIntyre home.

As we were heading home, my mind went back to a conversation that Brian and I had while at Elmina. The Dutch had made the room above the female slaves into a church. Brian had commented that he could not comprehend how a church-going group could be involved in such atrocities as occurred in the dungeons and slave ships. I commented back to him, not at all justifying the past behavior of the church in this wickedness, but wondering if we have blind spots that we don’t see in the church today. I wondered if people 200 years from now might look back at the church and wonder how they could act in some area as we do today. I had no specifics in mind, but I was just thinking aloud.



But as I thought about it more, I wonder if we do have such a blind spot in the church today – in particular, in our approach to the poor and afflicted, the “widows and orphans” of the world. I wonder if in 200 years, people will look at the church of 2010 and express surprise at our indifference to the plight of the fatherless and afflicted. Our Bible is pretty clear about our obligations to the needy; it is just as clear about the evils involved in the treatment of humans as property back in the days of the slave trade. But do we get it? Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25 remind us how we are to show mercy to the “least of these”. Will the church in two centuries look on us favorably or with disdain in regards to this “blind spot” of the church today? Some food for thought, indeed.

In His Mercy, for His Glory,  
Jim