

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE and GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

sponsored by *Ivory Coast Christian Mission*

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equipping leaders to train others

IVORY COAST CHRISTIAN MISSION - newsletter for November 2010

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

IVORY COAST

Our missionaries working among the Anyi tribe in Ivory Coast have used TEE courses as part of their leadership development program since the 1990's. However, as missionaries left and new ones came, they slowly moved away from using TEE courses. **Andy Gable is re-establishing the TEE courses and expanding the curriculum.** They will use the TEE classes to develop the leadership within the local churches and to recruit full-time workers for the Kingdom.

Stephen Ofori and I held a training seminar for 16 leaders and Andy Gable (Sept. 14-17). Eleven were from the Anyi Churches and five were from a new church planting work in the capital city of Abidjan. We gave training on the TEE method of training leaders and how to set up a successful TEE program.

The TEE method involves using special programmed instruction course books for home study, dynamic weekly discussion meetings and practical work assignments based on the weekly discussion. **Making a TEE program successful requires culturally relevant TEE courses, good administration policies and good supervision of the classes.**

This was the first time for Stephen to help me teach this seminar. He and I have taught the TEE method of leadership development many times as we prepared leaders to start classes in their church. This was the first time for us to work together to teach another mission to set up their own TEE program. Stephen was a great help because of his experience as both a TEE student and as



Sixteen Ivorians plus missionary Andy Gable were trained in the TEE method of leadership development.

To learn more about TEE and how it fills a leadership gap, visit our website at grassrootsld.org

Director for the TEE work of the Institute in four countries. Also, this is his culture. **He understands their needs and challenges better than we the missionaries.**

It was very interesting to hear about the work of the **five men from the capital city of Abidjan**. They were not aware of our work in the same city among the Ghanaian immigrant churches. One of the men was originally from a different branch of the Restoration Movement than us. He learned about our branch of the movement through the internet. He decided his belief better fit with our approach to the Bible. He attended the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis this year. At the convention he was inquiring if there were any Christian Churches in Ivory Coast. Andy Gable's sister-in-law overheard him and came to the rescue. She gave him the telephone number of Andy Gable.

These men **have worship groups meeting in three locations**. They are on a three week rotation. For two weeks they worship in their three locations. On the third Sunday, they meet together at a central location. They **will be setting up a TEE program to train the leaders for their new church plants**.

CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR

Twenty-nine leaders participated in the creative writing seminar sponsored by the Christian Leadership Training Institute. This was the second year for the seminar and about two-thirds of the participants were returns from last year. We did a quick review of the things taught last year and then covered the broad topic of efficiency in writing. The idea is to say it as powerfully as you can in as few words as possible in order to keep the attention of your reader.

We also covered English grammar

and some of the quirks that do not follow the rules. We had three English teachers in the class who helped me explain the rules and the quirks. English is their second language. If you have studied a second language and tried to write it, you will understand the struggles they have. I remember asking my French teacher in Abidjan how I can know if a noun is masculine or feminine. She said there are no rules for that. You just have to learn each one. She grew up in Southern France. French was her mother tongue. We who grow up speaking English do not realize how quirky our language is until we teach someone else from another language.

Twenty-four completed the seminar by writing an essay from a Christian view point that would encourage someone to change the way they live or encourage someone to do something good. I did not grade the essays, but I did make extensive comments on ways to improve their writing along with corrections in English grammar.

Several told how they had benefited from the seminar last year. At the end of this seminar they asked me to have another creative writing seminar next year. I promised to come back if they would encourage me by writing something useful that could be used to build the Kingdom in Africa. They are to send it to me by post or email. Hopefully they will have opportunities and resources to publish the things they write.



Twenty-nine participated in the creative-writing seminar. Twenty-four completed the assigned essay.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

I visit the work of the Institute every September in order to participate in their annual board meeting. **The board is made up African leaders from four countries. I am an official member of the board as a representative of Ivory Coast Christian Mission.** I always look forward to hearing reports from the four countries.

Reports indicated that the Institute has **a total of 51 active TEE classes.** A few new classes will be started this year. Thirteen students will graduate from the program this year (2010) and 51 are expected to graduate next year - 2011. The total number of active students is around 300.

Stephen Ofori will visit a new church plant work in Niger, a country north of Ghana. It is time for them to start the training of their leaders using the TEE method. This will make five countries holding TEE classes under the supervision of the Institute.

Stephen Ofori and Godfred Mintah plan to include bee keeping and raising of fish as part of the training given in the annual leadership seminars held regionally. This will enable church leaders as well as members to support themselves and the churches. Stephen and Godfred have already built their own fish tank and stocked it with talapia. Other suggestions were made for expanding the work of the Institute such as a recording studio for audio and video production, but these projects will have to wait until the recession is over.



Stephen Ofori and Godfred Mintah have stocked their fish tank with talapia, a popular fish in Ghana.

NEW PICKUP FOR THE INSTITUTE

Stephen Ofori and I were returning from Ivory Coast and were just two hours from Accra when the engine on the pickup overheated. **The heat gauge did not work properly and we were unaware of the seriousness of the problem until the engine locked up.** The end results was three cylinders out of 4 damaged and the head gasket blown. The 1996 pickup with over 180,000

miles is not worth repairing. The front suspension is in very bad condition because of the rough roads after being rebuilt several times. The body and frame are in bad condition. Parts for this old vehicle are hard to find and very expensive.

Both the Institute and Ivory Coast Christian Mission have been trying to save up funds to purchase a new vehicle since 2008. So far we have managed to save \$12,000. **A new heavy duty Isuzu 4X4 crewcab pickup built for the tropics and African roads costs \$31,600 which includes a 15% federal sales tax (VAT), customs duty and import fees.** The mission has taken out a \$20,000 loan to enable the Institute to purchase the new vehicle. The payments are spread over a three year period, but we hope we can pay the loan off early to avoid interest.

Stephen and Godfred just received delivery of the new vehicle. It will be used to travel to remote regions of three countries where the Institute supervises TEE classes and holds seminars for church leaders and for women's enrichment.



New 4x4 crewcab pickup purchased for the Institute.

NIGERIA:

Sunday Ude reports the following about the work in Nigeria:

The Calabar church is running 300 in attendance with a leadership of eight elders, ten deacons and thirteen deaconesses.

They continue to struggle to finish the inside of the building which is a shared facility with the Christian College. They seriously need to put up a fence to keep squatters from trying to steal their land.

The eight Christian Churches in the Ekor area have a total membership of 1,048. A total of 20 have been baptized in recent times. The churches are working together to encourage their members and to deal with building needs. The Christian Nursery/Primary school which is under the management of the Christian Churches, has constructed a new five-classroom structure up to the roof level and hope to complete it soon.

The other churches are growing, but a few are struggling with leadership needs and some struggle to purchase land and a place to worship. **TEE courses are going well and the Bible College classes are in session.**

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STEPHEN OFORI VISITS SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Stephen Ofori will be visiting supporting churches in the USA in October and November. He will also be speaking at the Saturday breakfast session of the National Missionary Convention on November 20. Visit us at booth number 818.

Praise and Prayer Requests

1. Thank God for a successful Creative Writing Seminar in Ghana.
2. Thank God for a successful TEE training seminar in Ivory Coast.
3. Thank God that we were able to purchase a new vehicle for the Institute.
4. Ask God to bless the TEE programs being set up among the Anyi in Ivory Coast and in the new church plants in the capital city of Abidjan.
5. Ask God to bless the TEE programs being started in Ethiopia and the Philippines.
6. Ask God to provide the funds to pay off the loan for the new 4x4 pickup for the Institute.
7. Pray for Stephen and Bob as they visit supporting churches.