



# IVORY COAST CHRISTIAN MISSION

sponsors of:

**Christian Leadership Training Institute** (west Africa)

**Faith Way Global Outreach** (Nigeria)

and

**Grassroots Leadership Development** (international)

## SHEFFLER UPDATE - OCTOBER 2023

**NOTE: A list of accomplishments for 2023 and goals for 2024 plus the proposed budget for 2024 are attached to the end of this update for your prayers and consideration. These will be presented at the annual board meeting on October 9.**

### JOSH AND BOB REVIEW THE WORK OF ICCM IN WESTERN AFRICA



Josh Galyan and I (Bob Sheffler) spent two weeks in Ghana reviewing the work of Ivory Coast Christian Mission (ICCM). We visited four of the extension classes supervised by the Christian Leadership Training Institute (CLTI). We visited the construction site in Tamale. The first floor, a residence for the supervisor of the extension classes, is ready for inside finish work. The second story will be a center for training extension teachers and leaders.

We met with the five church planters to hear reports and discuss strategy. We met with members of four churches in the Kintampo district and the leaders of churches in the Chamba district.

The second week we participated in the two-day annual board meeting of the Christian Leadership Training Institute. Board members from the four countries, Nigeria, Liberia, Ivory Coast and Ghana were present. The director of the Institute and the supervisors for extension classes gave reports and goals for the coming year. Each country presented financial reports and budgets for the new year. A staff member for Christian Counseling and Youth Development, Emmanuel Boafo, successfully completed his trial year and was given a permanent position. We look forward to the impact his work will have on the pastoral work of the churches and on the development of youth in the brotherhood of Christian Churches.

The institute partners with a brotherhood of Christian Churches known as Pistis Christian Churches. Pistis is the Greek word for Faith. The brotherhood is made up of churches started by Christian Church missions. Their executive committee plans national conventions. Regional committees plan youth conventions and regional conventions. CLTI trains leaders for their churches and encourages spiritual growth through seminars.

Josh Galyan wants to become more involved in the work of ICCM. He entered into the discussion of the various meetings and gave helpful suggestions. Josh preached at the Mayera Christian Church the last Sunday of our visit. Several hours of participating in meetings with the church planters and the staff of the Institute enabled Josh to see their zeal for the Lord's work. Josh is eager to go back next year when I make my annual visit.

## UPDATE ON THE EROSION PROBLEM IN CALABAR, NIGERIA



This is a community problem but city officials have failed to respond to the need. I asked Sunday Obeten to consult with professionals on what it would take to stop the erosion problem that has destroyed some of the walls around the compound where the school, Bible college and church meets. If the erosion continues, it will destroy some of the buildings on the compound. The lowest estimate from a professional company was \$31,430.

The annual men's seminar was held September 7-9 based on the theme "MEN OF FAITH OBEY GOD." Plans are being made for the annual November conference. This year it will be held in two locations, Calabar and Ekori because of the high cost of transportation.

## PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

**Thank God for the successful visit of Josh and Bob in Ghana.**

**Thank God for the good work of the African leaders (see their accomplishments below).**

**Thanks God for the progress on the Tamale construction project.**

**Ask God to find a solution to the erosion problem in Calabar.**

**Ask God to bless the annual ICCM board meeting on October 9.**

**Ask God to provide the funds for the work of ICCM in the coming year.**

**Ask God to bless the workers in Africa as they seek to fulfill their goals for 2024.**

### **2023 Accomplishments, 2024 Goals and 2024 Proposed Budget**

The board of Ivory Coast Christian Mission meets every October to evaluate the work and the finances of the mission and to approve a budget for the coming year. Below is part of that report plus the proposed budget for 2024.

**NOTE:** Ivory Coast Christian Mission is the soul supporter of the Christian Leadership Training Institute in western Africa, Faith-Way Global Outreach Ministries in Nigeria and five church planters in Ghana. This report is divided into three parts reflecting the three separate works supported by the mission.

### **Christian Leadership Training Institute:**

**Note:** the Institute partners with churches started by Christian Church missions in four nations to train more leaders via extension classes and holding relevant seminars which enable the churches to grow and multiply.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2023:**

Forty-eight (48) active extension classes with three hundred and thirty-five (335) active students in four nations (Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Ivory Coast)

Thirty-four (34) graduates from the extension training program

Six new teachers trained for the extension program in Ghana

A soul winning, discipleship and church multiplication program was added to the extension training program in four regions of Ghana on a trial basis. The program will insure that extension students evangelize, start Bible study cell groups with new converts and successfully start new churches. The trial was successful. Thirty-five were

baptized as a result of their evangelistic effort. A training manual will be prepared so the program can be expanded to benefit all extension classes.

Six leadership training seminars were held in regions of Liberia where normal extension classes could not be conducted because of low literacy rate.

Eleven (11) regionally held two-day women enrichment seminars completed in Ghana with a total of 395 participants.

The trial year for a supervisor for counseling and youth development was successfully completed by Emmanuel Boafo with many encouraging reviews. Emmanuel has a Masters Degree in Christian Counseling. Emmanuel is now a permanent staff member of the Institute. During the trial year, he held eleven (11) seminars for youth in conjunction with the regional women enrichment seminars. A total of 138 youth participated in his seminars. He also offered private counseling services at the seminars and at the National Easter Convention in Ghana. Emmanuel was the main speaker at the regional youth camp held in the Chamba region of Ghana

Progress on the construction of a residence and training center in Tamale, northern Ghana: The first floor of the concrete building is completed and plastered inside and out.

The re-registration of the institute as a not-for-profit corporation was completed with all necessary documents satisfied. NOTE: all corporations in Ghana, profit and not-for-profit, were required by the Registrar General's office to re-register and update their file.

The first stage of the transition from an end-of-service benefit to a pension plan for the six full-time staff members of the Institute was completed.

Audio recordings of the extension training courses in the Konkomba tribal language were completed.

#### **GOALS FOR 2024:**

The Director of the Institute will travel to Liberia and Ivory Coast to hold graduation ceremonies and meet with church leaders for consultation on how to improve the extension classes in their nation.

Train more teachers for the extension classes

Add new locations for extension classes

Complete the training manual for the evangelism, discipleship training and church planting program for extension students

Hold regional women enrichment seminars in Ghana

Hold regional seminars and training sessions on youth development and counseling in Ghana

Complete the inside finish work of the first story of the residence and training center in Tamale and move the Ghana supervisor of the extension classes into the residence by November 2024

Complete the second phase of the transition from an end-of-service benefit to a pension plan for full-time staff members. \$4,000 is still needed to complete the commitment to the pension plans. This commitment must be completed by the end of 2024.

Emmanuel Boafo will:

- Develop a comprehensive guide for dating, courtship and marriage for the youth
- Hold a drug abuse seminar for youth
- Organize a conference for youth leaders within the brotherhood of Churches
- Create a social media platform for the youth and youth leaders of Ghana

## **Faith-Way Global Outreach Ministries – Nigeria**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2023:**

Six (6) locations for planting a church were surveyed

Three (3) new churches were planted and are fast growing

New extension classes were added using the Christian Leadership Training Institute's program

A second center for training evangelists was established

A small medical clinic was constructed in Calabar, a state capital

Roofs were completed on two churches

Faith-Way Christian School completed the academic year and added secondary level classes for the coming year

A two-day seminar for youth leaders

Annual Men's Day and annual Women's Day were held in every congregation

Because of high cost of transportation, the following activities were held regionally rather than nationally:

Annual conference on the topic of Growing Spiritual Roots

A three-day Easter retreat for leaders and members

Women's seminar

### **GOALS FOR 2024:**

Plant three new churches

Open the small medical clinic when government authorities give approval

Train more evangelists

Expand the extension training classes to new churches

Find a solution to the erosion problem on the school/church compound in Calabar

Train more evangelists and more church leaders through the Cross River Christian College and the extension classes.

## **Church Planters in Ghana**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2023:**

The Kintampo and Chamba regional youth conventions brought several baptisms and the recommitment of youth

The National Easter Convention for all Christian Churches in Ghana was successfully held at Kintampo to encourage the new church plant. About 1,500 attended

representing seventy-five churches. This was the first national convention to be held in Ghana since 2019 due to the covid pandemic. Attendance was low due to the high cost of transportation.

Two young men are in training to be church planters

At least 50 baptisms, a full count has not been reported.

Steel for the roof trusses of the Kintampo church building has been purchased and stored for welding when funds are available.

The retirement home for Kingsley Laryea is roofed and waiting for funds to do the inside finish work.

**GOALS FOR 2024:**

Hold evangelist outreach weekends at Portor and Jakanda to build the new church plants in those villages

Hold youth conventions and general conventions for Chamba and Kintampo regions

Complete the training of the two new church planters for the Chamba region

Complete the retirement home for Kingsley Laryea and enable his wife to start a poultry farm for retirement income

Put the roof on the Kintampo church building

Set up an active training program for church leaders in the Kintampo region

***2024 budget is on next page***

# IVORY COAST CHRISTIAN MISSION

## Proposed BUDGET FOR 2024

### EXPENSES OVERSEAS

Christian Leadership Training Institute:

Ghana - operating	67,000.00
Pension plan	4,000.00
* Tamale - construction project	25,000.00
Liberia - operating	<u>7,000.00</u>
Total for Christian Leadership Training	103,000.00
Ghana Church Planters	30,000.00
* Construction project – Kintampo church bldg	15,000.00
Faith-Way Global Outreach - Nigeria	65,000.00
Foreign Travel for two	<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>Total overseas expenses</b>	<b>\$217,000.00</b>

### EXPENSES U.S.A.

Accounting	500.00
Bank Service Charges for wire transfers	1,200.00
Book Publishing	500.00
Computer and Internet	250.00
Miscellaneous	250.00
Office Supplies	500.00
Postage and Delivery	450.00
Promotion: web sites	300.00
Promotion: ICOM	800.00
Travel in USA	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total expenses in U.S.A.</b>	<b>\$ 6,250.00</b>

**TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES . . . . .** **\$223,250.00**

**NOTE:** Without construction projects [ \* ] the budget is \$183,250. The \$65,000 budgeted for Faith-Way Global Outreach is directly provided by Sunday Obeten's supporters. This leaves \$118,250 to be provided by our supporters. We currently have \$56,620 in committed annual support. The remaining \$61,630 depends on increased support from current regular supporters, special one-time gifts and the addition of more supporters who will be committed to giving on a regular basis.

**Please note:** Our budget increase is due to inflation. The African workers have not demanded an increase in salaries even though their inflation rate is much higher than our inflation rate. The inflation rate in Ghana is 40% while the value of the US dollar has increased only 17% against the Ghana cedi over the past year. They understand that the economic recession is world wide. They are sacrificing so we must also sacrifice to help them meet increased operating expenses.

**Please pray** for more supporters for the work and that our current supporters can increase their support for the coming year.