

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities,
in reproaches, in needs, in persecu-
tions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For
when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10

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The Impact of a Small Village

In a recent article, Pastor George Korah in Ghana considered how God works in sometimes surprising ways. "Where do great leaders come from?" he wrote. "Small towns (in Ghana) are not generally known for producing great leaders. Small towns lack opportunities, they are not centers of power or influence, and there is limited support to develop leaders."

On Christmas Day, Pastor George was in one such small village, Sing, about 8 kilometers outside the town of Wa. "Sing is a village fully dominated by Muslims with numerous mosques built there," he explained.

"No church ever thrived there because of the influence of Islam on the folks. . . . But the church Jere and Ruth Ann Gowin established there during their work in Ghana has been the difference. It was the first church they planted and is the only church in the village. Other churches tried but were not successful in evangelizing there."

In fact, Pastor George writes that "most people there opposed the idea of giving out land for a church. But the irony of it," he continued, "was that it took one devoted Muslim man named Alhaji Yoruba who gave land to the church. The man passed away two years ago, but some villagers still treat his family with contempt for releasing their land to Christians for a church building."



The Sing congregation stands outside their church building.

(Continued on back)

Testimony from a New Convert in Ghana



In late January, Pastor George Korah conducted a thanksgiving service for a church member who had passed away at the Motigu church in Ghana. The service was conducted outside under a tree, as the Motigu congregation does not have a building in which to worship. After the service, two elderly ladies from the village gave their lives to Christ. One of them shared her testimony with Pastor George:

"I have not been well for the past two weeks and always indoors. I was sleeping in my room while the church service was going on behind my

house. Like a dream, a voice called out my name and instructed me to go to the church: 'You belong to that family.' At once I gained some new strength to get up from my bed and came to the church. In the church I was feeling like I have been released from some kind of chains. I know Jesus is present to help me, and I want to be in that Christ family for the rest of my life. Thank you, Jesus."

Pray for Pastor George as he continues to minister to these new converts during his regular visits.



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A Testimony from Cayman Brac

Mark Walton, a member of the Spot Bay church in Cayman Brac, passed away in January. Dr. Woods, his pastor, shared:

"I loved to hear him tell of his conversion. He was a sailor (as were many of the older generation from this island). One day in 1960 one of the boilers on his oil tanker blew up. The whole ship was in flames and soon sank. Mark had severe burns on about 90% of his body and spent many months in a hospital in Brazil.

"Mark said that when he was engulfed in flames he looked out and saw Jesus on a cloud. At that moment in his tragedy he promised God that if He would deliver him he would give his heart and life to Jesus as soon as he returned to Cayman Brac. He was true to his promise and served the Lord until God took him home."

Mark would tell his testimony in church, reminding everyone that time was short and that they needed to be ready when Jesus returned.

Yet it was from this small village church and its accompanying challenges that Pastor George's vision of training healthy leaders evolved. Was this even possible? The answer is, with God's help, yes. "The Sing church has been small yet outstanding in producing young healthy emerging leaders for the ministry," Pastor George said. He wrote of Pastor Isaac Salia who leads our two churches in the Chakali area, Daniel Danaa who is a university student, and four others who work to help the churches and make evangelism possible.



Pastor George (third from left) stands with leaders from the Sing church.

Pastor George concluded, "We see that when it comes to the workings of God, He never operates within man's predefined criteria.

"Jesus asked his followers to pray for workers who would preach the Gospel to the dying world (Matt 9:38). This has been my prayer for members in the ministry. Just as at the appointed time Jesus came into the world from a small village to save us, so has He done it in the Church of God (Holiness) Ghana Mission. He has raised leaders from this small village church called Sing. In fact, these young men are rulers and shepherds indeed.

"With God, even what is small can be used to make something wonderful."



Memorial Funds Sent to Bolivia

In memory of former missionary to Bolivia, Joann Parker, who passed away last year, the World Mission Department sent \$5000 to help with the Bolivian Church's building of a new Tabernacle in La Paz.

This offering was met and surpassed by Joann's family and friends, and we were able to send another \$7,400 to Bolivia in January.

We are so grateful to be able to participate in this worthy project in memory of a dear saint of God. We anticipate, as her husband Lyle stated, that these funds will be a blessing to thousands of Bolivians. To God be the glory.

Thank you for giving to World Missions. 5-10% of most donations are used for administrative costs.