

1 & 2 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

The team did a great job in meeting at Robert & Lilly's in a timely fashion, along with our driver, Dan Gingerich. Each suitcase was put on the scales and if it weighed less than 50 Lbs, Robert quickly added supplies they purchased for the mission. It was a pleasure to have Edna Bechtel, John Yoder, Lee & Miriam Crisenbery, Leon, Barb and Carissa join us for a blessing, hugs and a send-off. We headed to the airport approximately 1:30 and Dan did a good job in getting us there.

Then came the job of unloading and checking our luggage in at the airport. Technically, each passenger gets two suitcases but Robert cut that to one. He and Lilly purchased several large totes and lots of items to bring to Ghana. They loaded these totes with items for the mission and thus we had two suitcases each. The unloading of the trailer was a site indeed – 1 tote, 2 totes. . . 9 totes in total along with all our luggage. Robert did a fine job of coordinating the luggage check-in. Security was next and all went well there except I was honored to be the one where the buzzer went off and I had an additional check. They wiped my hands with a special round white paper-like disc and she said I could go ahead and pick up my carry-on items! A bit scary that a little buzzer has so much power!

We did a nice long walk to the new section of the airport. The South Bend airport is really getting to be a nice facility. After all that we were hungry, or thought we were, and grabbed a bite to eat. Seems our fearless leader doesn't read signs too well when he heads to the restroom!!! Then it was wait. . . board the airplanes. . . take off and we were on our way to Atlanta.

When we got to the Atlanta terminal and near our gate. . . it was "we should probably get a bite to eat because we would not be served anything on the airplane until 11:00 p.m." The popular food choice was ice cream.

Did you know the two sisters in the group, have some of the same features? They (Lilly & Rose) both read to themselves with lips moving! That brought another table discussion of one of the husbands being a speed reader and thinking maybe that is why his wife reads slower than he does! Oh, oh, not only do we have lots of cameras in the group, we have two people also taking videos.

While we were eating, we noticed some of the Pennsylvania group getting food. We discovered they arrived ahead of us and were already at the gate; and were drifting back to the food court to pick up some food. We then headed to the gate to await our boarding time. Everyone got boarded in fine time and I so pleased that the seat beside me remained empty. . . I was asleep before we ever left the runway! They sure do wake you up often so they can serve food and/or drinks!

Some interesting facts: At 1:15 a.m., we had traveled 1,460 miles and it was -56 outside. It was now 2 November 2011. At 4:00, it was -72 outside, we had travelled 4,094 miles and still had 1,690 miles to travel. At 8:09, I saw Accra listed on the flight

map for the first time. At 9:00 a.m., it was -7 outside, we had traveled 5,793 miles and had 112 miles yet to fly. Then the announcer said we had to put everything away so I didn't get the final numbers. We landed at 9:21 a.m. PTL for the safe trip!

Now I will be switching to Ghana time.. . 9:21 a.m. Indiana time is 1:21 p.m. Ghana time.

It was time to go thru immigration and everyone got through okay. We headed to the baggage pick-up area. That was a bit interesting because now we also needed to count the pieces brought by the Pennsylvania group. We finally collected all of them and oh yes, a couple of the carts had suitcases/totes slide off and had to be restacked. We had one more check point to go through and that was when leaving the airport terminal with our luggage. Robert does a good job of telling those in "official positions" who we are, why we are here, etc. We soon got outside and the staff was there waiting on us. After greetings, we headed to the van and bus to load the suitcases and our kind of weary bodies. We were on our way to Ron & Audrey's home, first though we needed to stop at the Mall and get Yellow Fever shots for those that didn't get them before we left the States. We won't be able to enter back into the States without proof of this shot! This took a little longer than anticipated but we were then on our way again.

We arrived at Ron & Audrey's later than planned so they finished dinner prep and we ate a delicious meal – build your own salad, fresh pineapple, and chocolate cake.

After a short time together, it was time to get everyone to their lodging spots. Before we headed out, yours truly took a flying leap as a result of a step in an unexpected spot but I think I will remember that one from now on!!! Nothing broken except pride and I didn't need that anyway! It was time to unpack and get to bed. Good night!

Good morning! Pray with us as we plan to do some prayers walks, evangelism, and have a crusade this evening for one of the villages; Pastor Floyd Helmuth will be presenting the Gospel.

3 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

Praise the Lord for a great shower (wow, that felt sooo good!) and a good night's sleep!

I was impressed when we arrived at Ron and Audrey's house this morning that the two ladies she has helping her clean, etc. this week were dressed in their Sunday clothes. After our arrival and their greeting us, when they were ready to start work, they changed into work clothes.

Wow.

Ron's girls looked so pretty this morning. They said Nanna braided their hair and they were proudly showing us the dresses Nanna made and brought along for them. They

were identical dresses except for the size! Audrey brought Lilly some flower sacks (at her request) when they were in Indiana this summer so she could make them and bring them along.

Happy Birthday, Lilly! I understand Robert took coffee to her in bed this morning. Audrey then spoiled her the rest of the day. Lilly said her feet are feeling good and they even had a short nap today! Lilly also took time to work on puzzles with the girls (Carter went with the team). We sang Happy Birthday to Lilly this evening.

Audrey and Lilly did make us a good breakfast of egg casseroles, toast, and fruit slush. Tonight we had the Ghana version of haystack – rice, chopped eggs, chicken in a sauce, and cole slaw. Both meals were really good!

We had orientation this morning. Robert shared our theme of “In everything give thanks for this is the will of the Lord in Christ Jesus concerning you.” Jon shared out of I Cor. 12 – working together as a body. We are here on God’s timing.

Jon shared the culture of the people of Ghana and reminded us to take the Malaria pills. We then spent some time in prayer for specific items

- 1) That God’s will is accomplished
- 2) Souls would be won for the Kingdom of God
- 3) Protection of the Team (illness, traveling, as we walk today)
- 4) Villages that we will be visiting handing out scripture booklets
- 5) Pastors that will be doing the work with us and then for the Pastor as he follows-up with those that respond and accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Then it was time to get the van loaded with items needed for the church service this evening. We stopped on the way to the Village at Crusades For Christ Bible Institute to pick up the stage pieces also needed for the evening services. While the guys were loading, several of us ladies attended the Chapel service they had for the students.

Today is market day and everyone along the village roads is selling something or going somewhere. We saw lots of bread, pineapple, bananas, yam, grilled turkey tails, tiger nuts, other nuts, other fruits, clothing, etc

We finally arrived at the village at 3:05 p.m. People not helping in setting up the stage were divided into three groups and we went into different area to hand out The Way to God booklet published by World Missionary Press in New Paris. I like to think it just may have been some of the very ones that I helped put together! Talk about exercise, none of us would say we didn’t get any today! We were on narrow roads, narrow paths, up and down and around. It was exciting to be able to help distribute them too. After all that, we ended up back where the bus was parked; and, the stage was all set up and ready for the evening service.

We had a snack before time for the evening service. It started to sprinkle and we quickly gave the situation to God to take care of. Rodney had been practicing playing the keyboard so he could play for us when we sang but the rain caused him to bring it to the

bus and then we didn't take it back out. The rain did quit after a bit and we were able to proceed with the service. Then several of the guys played ball with the boys that had gathered. Leon brought several soccer balls (the Ghana boys use them as kick balls!).

I'm not even sure how to describe the service; but, this I know, God was there. Children gathered first and they were given suckers by Rose and Elmer. They are smart children and they ran to get their friends so the bag of suckers didn't last long.

Slowly people started coming and the service began with lots of singing and dancing. . . and more people kept coming. Even the team got on stage and sang a couple of songs for them. Pastor Floyd Helmuth preached a powerful sermon of God's love and the choice we all have of accepting Jesus in our hearts. They were given the choice and it was a thrill seeing so many come and ask Jesus into their heart. The team sang while the invitation to accept Jesus was given.

There was also a sharing and giving money for the church. A weaved basket on stilts was moved into the center of the open area. Pretty soon the dancing started and they danced up to the basket and dropped in their money. The team also participated in the giving – at least I didn't see any of the team members joining in the dance as they walked up there! Then there was more singing and dancing as they praised Jesus.

At the end of the service, it was tear-down time of the stage and loading it back on the bus and the van was loaded as well. I had to think of those people walking home, in the dark, on those roads that go up and down and around, small roads, and small paths. We, at least, got to ride the bus back to Ron and Audrey's. . . okay, the ride was long and the roads had lots of ruts, etc. We finally arrived back a little after 11:00. We were ready for dinner and getting to our rooms for a shower.

Praise God with us for a wonderful day in the Lord. Praise God for the souls that were saved this evening.

Pray for us on the 4th as we set up and work in a Health Clinic. Pray for Robert as he gives the message tonight at the church Pastor Steven's shepherds.

4 November 2011 - Ghana News and Prayer Journal

Jon and Sara had a praise this morning. The electricity went out at their house so they lit candles for light. The curtains caught on fire. The children were taking baths so it was easy to wet towels; they were able to put out the fire. We are thankful there was no major damage due to the fire.

The Pennsylvania group tried to teach the Indiana folks a new song Jehovah You are the Most High God. We do need a bit more practice!

We were asked to pray for those that would be counseling people as they go through the clinic; this will be in one-on-one meetings.

Another great breakfast: caramel French toast, ground nuts, and fresh fruit. Dinner was sooo good too – spaghetti, garlic toast, Chinese salad, and lemon bars. Thanks Audrey and Lilly for keeping us supplied with delicious food!

The children were all busy this morning. Carter was busy making another model car and this time without Grandpa helping him! He was also painting the cars he had finished putting together. Arielle and Kallie were playing with Rodney but I'm not sure what it was – the girls had sticks and were chasing him – I wasn't sure if I should be afraid for Rodney or not. Savanna was bouncing ball with Grandpa.

Today we set up a medical clinic. Gary and Joy took care of the "giving out of glasses" area. Donna and Brittany checked people in and sent them to the eye clinic or to the health clinic. Elizabeth, Pastor Felix's aunt, is an RN and was in charge of the health clinic.

What an experience we had. We had three nurse's tables going (Elizabeth, Sara, Rose) and my job was to keep meds on their tables. I have next to no knowledge of medicine so I know I did a better job of handing out beanie babies, etc. than I did handing them the medicines they needed!! I handed out beanie babies, suckers, pens/ pencils, or a small ball to the children that came in. I loved those young children's smiles as they reached for the item given to them. One little girl looked so sick but when I gave her a beanie baby, she just smiled and then giggled and giggled (where are those video cameras when you need one!). One little one didn't know what it was and got scared of it but it wasn't long until he was holding onto it and wasn't about to let anyone else have it! It was great to also see the smiles on the mother's face; they always gave a cheerful thank you. After they saw the nurse or the folks at the eye station, they went outside where we had chairs set around and it was there they talked to a counselor. We praise God for the many that accepted Jesus Christ today as a result of this one-on-one session.

After we closed the clinic, it was time to set-up the stage. I am amazed at how fast the guys get the stage set up. They do the same when they have to dismantle it again after the services but they do much of the dismantling in the dark. They leave the stage lights on as long as they can but the time comes when they have to dismantle it too; several flashlights then help them see what they are doing!

We had a snack in the bus and then it was soon time to begin the service. Two pastors led singing and the longer they sang, the more people kept coming. The American group got on stage and sang one song (they sang again during the alter call). God was in our midst tonight.

Robert preached a powerful message on God's love and there being only one way to God, that is by asking and accepting Jesus into our hearts. After those that came forward to accept Christ were individually prayed with, it was time for the offering of money portion of the service. Again this was done in song and dancing. Lots of enthusiasm was shown as they gave their money to God.

Praise God for another successful crusade; for the souls that were saved following their visit to the clinic and this evening at the crusade.

Pray for protection from illness; we were in contact with many sick people. Pray on the 5th as some of us will be a board meeting with the pastors; the rest of the group will have a bit of free time. We will spend the afternoon in street evangelism and shopping in the market.

5 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

The board held a meeting with the Crusades For Christ International Pastors. The "scribe" attended the meeting to take minutes. I can't even begin to tell you how blessed I was to be able to hear the Word of God shared with the Pastors.

Pastor Floyd spoke on the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit. He shared his personal experience in inviting the Holy Spirit in his own life. Floyd walked the Pastors through the steps involved of inviting the Holy Spirit – Surrender, Ask, Obey, Believe. He used scripture in support of each of these steps.

Pastor Robert spoke on "The Urgency of Missions". Jesus said we are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. 55,000 people die daily without ever hearing about Jesus even one time. The Board believes God has called CFCI to bring the Gospel to Ghana. We believe God called each of the Pastors to preach to the people here in Ghana.

Breakfast for the rest of the group included biscuits and gravy and a pineapple fruit slush. Dinner was pizza from a chicken restaurant. Adrian must have been as confused as I (go to a chicken place and order pizza?) because he asked them to order a "veggie" pizza. It was excellent pizza (even from a chicken restaurant!).

We spent time this afternoon distributing scripture booklets in Accra. These people here are searching for something to fill a void within them. We divided into groups and walked the crowded streets. We are thankful to be able to use this method as a way to plant a seed in many hearts. Very few people did not want the booklet; even Muslims took them. One time I looked back at where we had just been and noticed one of the ladies reading the booklet to an older lady. After giving a booklet to a gentleman, one group was even asked to pray with him. If you gave one to a child, he would stand where he was and start leafing through the booklet. We used *The Way to God* booklet and it is a very attractive booklet. We pray this child's interest carried over into the parents reading the scripture.

From here, we went to the market for a bit of shopping. The practice here is that you barter for the item you want to purchase. It may be their culture; but, it made me think we just handed out scripture booklets and now here we are trying to get the vendors to reduce the cost of their goods. I noted that we enjoyed having Jon and Robert around when we started the purchase conversation. Jared came back with a long knife or maybe it was a machete and he also had a small drum. I saw a beautiful scarf purchased by Audrey and then learned she got it for Lilly. When Lilly wears a pink scarf to church, be sure to ask if that's the one she received in West Africa! I did also observe someone admiring a wooden nativity scene that came onto the bus. As we sat on the bus and waited for the rest of the group to come back, some vendors were at the windows trying to get us to buy their wares. You do have to admire their persistence. I know we helped the economy quite a bit today! Everyone enjoyed the experience.

Now it was time to head to the chicken restaurant for our pizza. We had a beautiful spot on the roof-top of the restaurant as our eating area. After a great time of eating and fellowship, it was time to head to the bus for our hour trip back home. As we have been doing every day, when we got back to the house, we had a time of wrap-up, reflection on the day, testimonies, and prayer.

Praise God for using us in planting seeds today and we trust Him to use this as a way to bring souls to His kingdom. Praise God for keeping each of us safe as we walked on those uneven and broken up sidewalks.

Pray for us today as we attend church services in one of the villages. Robert will be preaching today. We will also have an ordination service there. Floyd and Robert will be ordaining Ron Bontrager as a Minister for the work here in West Africa. Pray for Ron and Audrey as they continue to serve God here in Ghana and for Ron as he continues to preach the Good News and as he oversees the work here.

6 November 2011 - Ghana News and Prayer Journal

Today was an absolutely awesome day!

Today is Sunday so our schedule was quite different. Breakfast was on a come and go basis. We were to be ready to leave for church at 9:15 a.m.

Breakfast consisted of baked oatmeal, French toast, fruit. Lunch included chicken pot pie, lettuce salad, cake bars. Dinner was veggie pizza, watermelon, pop corn, cookies.

Robert preached about the call of God in our lives. He reflected on the story of Samuel and David when David received his call from God. He also reflected on Jeremiah's experience when he received the call of God. The first call is always the call to Salvation. When we receive a word from the Lord, it affects our behavior.

It is so amazing to me how the Ghana ladies will dance with babies or a small child wrapped around her so the baby was on her back. Some babies look around, some sleep and I have not seen one yet that cried.

The ordination of Ron (and Audrey) was held following the message. The setting was beautiful. We were sitting in a church house with walls made from bamboo and you could easily see out between the poles. You could see mountains in the distance and you could see a path that led back to the village where the people lived. Everyone knew that God was in our midst. The church group was made up of people from Ghana and from America. I don't know how to explain the oneness that was so evident in this service. It was really obvious that the Ghana people in this church love Ron and Audrey; you could feel the love.

Ron shared how he heard his call from God to be a minister of His Word. Robert led in giving the charge of a minister to Ron and to Audrey as his wife and as being a minister's wife. An anointing was also done by Robert and Floyd for Ron and then by Lilly and Rose for Audrey. It was so overwhelming to see the pastors (Robert & Floyd) and the pastors in attendance from Ghana lay hands on Ron and pray for him. They did the same for Audrey except Sara, Lilly and Rose prayed. The children came to the front and sang, following the ordination . . . what beautiful voices. . . I saw them as little angels!

Having the ordination of Ron at home would have been great but there was really something special about attending the ordination in the setting of his work here in Ghana. I doubt that any of us will forget this service! It was such an honor to be here!

A man in this service said he wanted to accept Jesus Christ into his heart. The Pastor of the church did not know who he was or why he happened to be in our service but God does. PTL!

We had a full bus load of people when we left the church house. We dropped several people off on our way home. Many of the people will walk a long distance to attend church. We took a different route home and we saw beauty, we saw huts with straw roofs, we saw the mountains, we saw pineapple, we saw a very large tree with a huge root system above the ground, etc. When we got home it was time to finish getting our lunch ready and time to eat.

The rest of the afternoon and evening was free time.

I joined the Board Meeting with the Pastors being held at the CFC Bible Institute; to take minutes of the meeting. Robert shared with them that perfect love casts out fear - I John 4:5-21

Don't try to manage fear, get rid of it. Floyd shared about surrendering yourself to God every day and to listen to what God has to say to you.

Following the meeting, a lady from the local church in the Bible Institute area made dinner for us. Oh yum, it was soooo good. We had rice, some type of noodles, vegetable stew, and hot sauce. Okay, there were also those little fishies with heads and

tails still attached and I didn't try those! Floyd, Robert, and Gary said they were good though Robert asked Floyd to finish eating his!!! And, we were ready to head home.

We arrived home to see there was no electricity and the generator was not working properly. Ron, though I am sure he was tired, cheerfully set out to fix the generator's problem. We ate some of the watermelon and popcorn. After chatting a bit, Elmer, Rose and I headed out to walk to the guest house. Sometimes I feel a bit guilty that we get to sleep in air conditioning while the rest of the team is sleeping in warm houses; but, the key word here is sometimes and honestly not enough to trade rooms!

Praise God for a super fantastic day. Praise God for the Ghana people who love the Lord and we can worship God together. Praise God for the oneness we felt in our services today. Praise God for the commitment of Ron and Audrey.

Prayer Requests:

Pray for Ron and Audrey, and the children, as they continue to serve here in Ghana. Jon and Sara's refrigerator quit working and repair work on equipment like this is called "wait" for parts, etc. Pray that the wait will be short.

Carter has been joining us when we go on the crusades; pray that these experiences will stay with him for a lifetime. He is an awesome young man (7 years old)!

Pray for Audrey and Lilly as they prepare the meals for us each day. For those items that could be made ahead and frozen, some of them were made by Sara and Joy.

Pray as we head out on the 7th to hold another health clinic and then for the crusade in the evening. Pray for Floyd as he preaches the message for this service.

7 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

We had the "Ghana electricity" experience. I shared with you yesterday what happened during the day yesterday. When we got to the guest house, they were running on generator power also. About 1:30 a.m., the air conditioner shut off. I dozed and didn't look at the clock when it came back on but at least it was before I got hot!

Breakfast: Pancakes, fried eggs that you could put on top of the pancake, syrup, fruit, fruit slush. Snack (I really think it should be called lunch): Egg salad sandwich, peanuts, cookies. Dinner: Chicken/rise, Chinese salad, fried plantation (their version of French fries), and banana splits

We did various things until it was time to leave for the health clinic. Elmer and Rose brought parts to put together a swing set for the Bontrager children. Ron asked a man to build a frame for the swing set. The frame was delivered this morning and I never saw those children run so fast to see the action. To say they were excited is putting it mildly. The frame needed a few more adjustments/changes so the man took it back and poor Savanna had a hard time understanding why "that man took our swing away". Hopefully it will back in time for us to see the children enjoying the swing. Elmer and Ron did manage to temporarily put up just one swing in one of the trees and they were happily swinging. The desire for a swing happened when it was reported to Grandpa's that Savanna asked Audrey to push her on the swing and Audrey

had to tell her that they didn't have a swing. The children loved to swing while they were home on furlough.

The scenery continues to impress me as we drive thru the villages and countryside. For the most part, you see poverty and people everywhere coming and going somewhere. The children look so sweet and they love to look at those white folks as they go by! To get to the village we went to today, we were on some narrow and some dirt roads. We came to a water hole across the entire road and I wondered what was going to happen but didn't have to wonder long. . . the bus went right on through the water!

We arrived at a little church where they had built a church house. This one had a roof and large boards on two sides with windows cut out in the wood. The front side had wood part of the way up and cloth hung across the window portion. It even had a small table built up high and I imagined in my mind that it was a pulpit. We set up the clinic in this church. And the people came. Children swarmed in to see what was happening and it took the local men to get order back into our lives! They all wanted to be with someone so they too would get a beanie baby pencils, candy, gum. . . even the bigger boys stood outside and begged for a piece of gum. The sick came and received meds. Lots of women came with lower back problems. Babies had runny noses and we had more men than usual but I couldn't really hear what the ailment was except a number of patients went away with suave for itch relief. Lots of vitamins, Malaria, and pain meds were given today. A large number of people were saved as they talked with the counselors.

And another Ghana electrical experience came. . . the electricity went off a little after 4:00 a.m. and I am sitting here writing this journal. I do hope they get the generator going before the heat sets in!!! In the meantime, I thank for Lord for this and for flashlights that give a bit of light to read my notes, etc.! My computer is running on battery.

Following the clinic, we gathered at the bus for our snack. Then we piled into the bus and headed back into the village and set up for church services. I continue to marvel at how fast that stage gets set up and then torn down again! A large crowd gathered and the services began. . . with singing and dancing and introductions. The team and staff that were in attendance would sing one song after all of their singing and before the message; two of the team members also gave their own testimony. We always sing during the alter call time too.

Floyd preached this evening using the story of the Good Samaritan as his basis. He ended with asking "who is your neighbor" and explaining the need of allowing Jesus into our hearts. There were a lot of men in attendance and men gave their hearts to the Lord. We trust and pray these men will grow in God's grace and in His Word; and some young man will want to train to be their pastor. Another village pastor is trying to help them for now.

Oh. . . either the electricity is back on or they have started the generator and my flashlight is turned off! Thank you, God.

Back to the village service: Satan is always busy trying to hinder the work of God but God is greater than he. A motorcycle with two young men on board came up the road and drove through the crowd. I then realized people were really sitting on both sides of the road and people were standing on the road (some people stood the entire 3 hours). The men returned on the motorcycle, stopped and one of them talked to a boy that was sitting and listening to God's Word. The young man sitting in the crowd came forward to accept Jesus into his heart during the alter call. A number of men accepted Christ tonight – PTL!

This church started only about a year ago because our Missionaries visited their village to share the Gospel with them. People came from other villages to share in the service tonight. Pastor Ron (when he was introduced from the stage) said he wanted to recognize a special person in the audience and asked him to stand. He was the Chief of the Ewe "A-Way" people in a neighboring village. Pastor Jon had baptized him this summer. During our sharing time, Ron shared how they had visited him and talked and talked and talked to him - finally he raised his hands and prayed!

Each church experience is different. Because this church does not yet have a regular pastor, several neighboring pastors took charge. At one point, during the singing period, the pastor that was speaking in one native language needed to have his talking interpreted into another native language. Usually it was interpreted into English but not for this part – this also happened during the alter call. It was beautiful. . . two native pastors helping each other to make sure their people understood. My mind went to heaven and how we will all be able to understand each other. I would have loved to hear what they were saying but I am thankful they know their people well enough to know when it was more important for them to understand than it was for us Americans to understand. Most people here can understand three or four languages; often English is one of them.

At the end of the service, the pastor made some comment about the large number of children and from what he motioned; I am thinking he was telling the people to make sure they all get back to their homes. Made tears come to my eyes. . . A note about the attendance this evening. It was different in that there were a lot of children, they all sat in the front rows (I'm amazed at how many of them can get on one bench!). It was also different in that there were a lot of men there. This people of this village are hungry for the Word of God and we are thankful to be a small part of sharing the Gospel with them.

Praise:

For the souls that were saved this evening.

For the people we were able to help with their medical needs.

For safety in our travels today.

For the blessings God gave us today. . . wow, they were many!

Prayer:

For the healing of Audrey's eye. A wasp flew into the kitchen, landed just below her eye, and left his sting. It is still bothering her – it is swollen and it is affecting her vision, giving her a headache.

Pray for our activities on the 8th. The schedule has changed from working on various work projects at the Bible Institute to being at Ron's all day. We will be sharing what God has done for us since we are here; Robert and Floyd will be sharing, etc. Pastor Jon said, "We will do as the Spirit leads".

Pastor Floyd leaves to return home this evening so he can be home for his son's wedding (Anthony and Shaina). Pray for safe travels for Floyd.

Continue to pray for us and for the work here in Ghana.

8 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

Our changed schedule turned into a Crusades For Christ 2011 Mission Group Day. Today is intended to be a personal spiritual day for each of us. It was a very rewarding day.

The swing frames came back this morning. Ron and Elmer got to work and set up the swings. There were only two swings so Ron made two more using wood for seats and rope instead of chain. It also has a set of swing bars. There were four very excited children in the household today. When Jon's children arrived, there were three more excited children so now there were 7 children who needed to take turns on the swings and adrenalin was in high gear for them!

Breakfast: Amish Scramble with gravy, toast, fruit slush, coffee cake. Dinner: Real Ghana food – rice balls, chicken in soup as a sauce, lettuce salad, peanut butter dessert.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said "I will build my church". Those of us from Griner will recognize the following statements we have recited with Pastor Robert.

Spoken Word of Testimony

This is my Bible. It is the WORD of GOD.

I am what it says I am. I have what it says I have.

I can do what it says I can do.

Today I will be taught the Word of God. I boldly confess my mind is alert, my heart is open.

And, by His WORD, I will never be the same. In Jesus name.

Joel Osteen

Robert shared the history of CFCI coming to Ghana. It can be boiled down to one word "WOW"; CFCI was and still is operating on love, faith, and trust in God. The

experiences he shared, could only have happened because of God. Floyd shared how he became involved and some of his early day experiences in Ghana.

Floyd shared on the Holy Spirit and on inviting Him into your life.

Various team members shared what God laid on their hearts since arriving here in Ghana.

Robert closed the afternoon session by reading Matthew 16:24-26. We then had free-time until it was time for dinner.

Audrey's friend (Vivian) fixed our dinner for us this evening. She, and her daughter Merci, came to Ron's house to fix the meal. It was fun watching them work and great fun to see how they cooked the rice on hot coals on the outside. After it finished cooking, Vivian used a big spoon to stir it; Merci put it into plastic bags, and formed it into balls. We took pictures! I asked Vivian if she ever burned the rice by leaving it on the hot coals too long and when I got her to understand what I was asking; she had a good laugh and said "yes". She cut raw chicken into pieces and put it into the soup to cook, bones and all. They eat the bones too when they eat this but I don't think any of us even tried doing that part! You can count me out :-). The rice is to be broken into pieces and dipped into the soup and then put into your mouth and eaten. I ate a few bites with my fingers and switched to a fork!!! It went so much better! The meal was delicious!

This evening we said our farewells to Floyd. Ron and Robert took him to the airport. It was a pleasure to get to know him and to enjoy his insights of God's Word. The Team is going to miss him.

It is hard to believe that we have been in Ghana for one week already. The time is going so quickly. We are looking forward to our experiences in week two!!!

Praise

For a day of further bonding with the rest of the Team.

For a day of searching our souls and opening our hearts to listen to what God is saying to us.

For fans that run on hot days, like today!

For generators that can be used when the electricity fails.

Prayer Requests

Pray for us as we set up our final health clinic on the 9th.

Pray for us as we participate in our final scheduled crusade.

Pray for Robert as he presents the Gospel at the crusade.

9 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

Happy Birthday, Gary Butikofer. Gary is the Administrator and a teacher at the Crusades for Christ Bible Institute.

Breakfast: french toast, Eggs, baked oatmeal, fresh pineapple, bananas
Dinner: Chicken/macaroni casserole, cole slaw salad, ice cream dessert

Robert shared with us, “A More Excellent Way”. God’s heart is that all would be healed; He is the Jehovah-Rapha. God heals in more ways than just physical healing. He also heals hurts or anything else that causes us to put a box around our hearts. God is in the healing business; but, three scriptures in the New Testament refer to doctors/physicians; it is never right to judge people that go to the doctor.

And now it was time to load the bus top with the stage and the minivan with other parts of the stage (i.e. speakers, microphones, etc.). Also included in the minivan were the supplies for the health clinic this afternoon.

Our clinic today was held at CFCI Bible Institute, in a part of the unfinished building. It was really nice. . we all had more than enough room. We did have to keep moving the tables and the meds table because the sun kept coming in at different angles (things got too hot!). It is so heartbreaking to see the sad-looking eyes of the sick children and babies still being carried on the backs of mothers and other ladies that kept bringing in sick babies. We pray that the meds they received gets them back on the road to good health again. A mother came in carrying her two-year old son who couldn’t walk. The native RN explained to the mother how to train him to walk. She felt there was nothing wrong with him except that for some reason he was carried instead of trained to walk. The number one reason mothers attended was to ask for something to help their back pain. It is easy to see why they have this pain. They carry babies/small children on their back and may at the time carry items on top of their head – to me that spells OUCH! A mother came in for herself but had her one-week old baby with her – there was a lot of aawwwing going on! Later there was also a month-old baby – I think this is the one that Ron carried around for a long time!

We again gave out beanie babies, suckers, rubber balls, and pencils. A lot of children tried to sneak in and get beanie babies. I wish there was a way to know how many children were in each village so we could bring enough things for all the children. We ran out of beanie babies way too soon and my heart ached because some children received none. It was also heartbreaking to have to say “sorry, we can’t do that” when mothers would ask for additional beanies for her other children at home.

We had a unique experience today because there were lots of interpreters available. The students in the Bible Institute were dismissed from school so they could help us. Not only was that a big help to us, it was a great practical experience for the students. It was fun to watch their enthusiasm in the things they were doing.

Our snack was stopping at a small place where they made sausage kabobs which really was a big sausage on a stick that was grilled. They were good but several of us decided it was best that we really didn’t know what was on the inside! You don’t even want to know what some of the guys were trying to tell us! Our 14-year-old couldn’t finish eating hers but one of the guys got five more and a couple of others had a second

one. This little roadside place also sold fresh juices like tropical juice (three different kinds of fruits), pineapple juice, pineapple juice with ginger, etc. We noted on the bottles that it was juiced today and the expiration date was one week later. The juice was delicious.

We then headed to the village where we were going to have our crusade. Because of our many helpers, some of the men went over to the crusade site during the time we were doing our health clinic and set up the stage so that didn't need to be done when we got there. The location was so neat. There were a number of large stones (the kind you don't really move!) located kind of in the middle of things there. It made me feel like I was back at the time Jesus walked on this earth – probably because of pictures I have seen. There was a bit of green, lots of dry dirt, huts for homes, etc.

Most, if not all, of the Bible Institute students were at this service. Our group had practiced and sang the Spiritual "shut de dor" as our first song. The natives loved it and it was fun singing it. Robert preached using the Bible stories about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Jacob later laying his head on a stone as a pillow; Jacob's dream of a ladder reaching from heaven to earth. He preached a very plain need of accepting Jesus. The result of how simply he told the story of salvation was evident in that even the bit older children understood as they came forward to accept Christ. There is no pastor at this village and the pastors from the neighboring village were thrilled to see the numbers respond. One of those pastors said a number of them indicated they would come to their village for services. As the church grows in numbers because of this village, there will be a need for a pastor in the village. We pray one of their own young men will hear the call to come for training and be their pastor.

I'm not sure I like being the "oldest one in the group" but one of the students was so impressed that I came along as a participant and feels it will be an encouragement for their growing-older grandparents to remain strong Christians and help teach the younger. If that is an encouragement, then I will overlook "being the oldest in the group"!!! Ohhh, that was hard to write. . . I really don't feel "older"!!!

One 17-year old boy was in a wheel chair. Donna saw him and felt he was kind of left on the side-line so she went over to talk to him. Robert noted her kindness and went over to talk with them too. The boy told them he was a Christian and that he was going to start going to the neighboring village and attend church services. They prayed with him and for him before they left him.

Down came the stage, up on top of the bus and into the minivan it went and we headed back to the Bible Institute grounds. It will be the last time we will use the stage so it was taken back to be put into storage. That meant, down from the top of the bus and out of the minivan for one more time! The guys got their workout tonight!

Then it was time to head back to Ron's for another delicious meal. I don't think any of us are losing weight while we are here; Audrey and Lilly are making sure of that! Audrey is such a gracious hostess. Those of you from home that have been at

their home for a meal know what I mean; she is using that special gift here in Ghana! Audrey and Lilly make a special team . . . like mother, like daughter! It is so good to help them in the kitchen. Rose and I have been going over early so we could help with the last-minute prep.

Our wrap-up time was sad. . . Robert reminded us that it would be the last time he and Lilly would meet with us during this time. They are heading home the evening of the 10th. We are going to miss them! They are leaving early so they can be home to attend the wedding of Anthony and Shaina.

Praise

Audrey's eye is healed. She says "thank you" for your prayers!
For the number of people we were able to help during our health clinic time.
For the people that responded to accepting Jesus.

Pray

For the health of the team and staff. Several of our team members have had minor issues.

For safety as Robert and Lilly travel home.

For the 10th: As we do evangelism in the afternoon and as we minister by using a film in the evening.

10 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Request

As we walked into the courtyard this morning, the Bontrager children came running to hand out scripture booklets to us. A little while later, Arielle and Carter were playing "crusades" on the front steps; Arielle was speaking in English and Carter was interpreting for her.

Rodney Crisenbery has a birthday today!

It is amazing how ceiling fans do make the hot (heat) feel a bit cooler; or, maybe that is the "power of thought"! For some reason, I thought it was really hot today.

Before we headed out for the day, we said some more sad farewells. Robert and Lilly stayed behind this morning and then Ron's took them to the airport toward evening. We are going to miss them! There were lots of tears at the airport.

We did a bit of local shopping today. It was their "market day" and there were people and goods crowded everywhere. I noted an item I would like to find and did we hustle. We were in and out, over crooked roads, over ruts, around people pulling carts, crossed roads, walked on broken cement, etc. We got everything and were back at the bus at the appointed time! They tried to give me the visitor price and Regina was right there to tell them "oh no, she is my friend from America" so I was able to get some good prices – or at least I think I did! And, I was treated like a beautiful celebrity :-). Children came out of nowhere and wanted to shake my hand or at least touch me. When we were walking back to the bus, some guy was saying something and I

thought he was talking to Regina but she said he was telling me I was beautiful. I turned and waved at him! And for today, being the oldest is okay!!!

We headed to our evangelism and film showing location. We were divided into four groups, were given a guide from the area and headed in four directions. We distributed Scripture Booklets to several villages. The group I was in only had two villages to visit. Regina was also in this group and she did a good job of telling us what was happening, inviting the people to the film showing, etc. I stepped closer to one little girl to hand her a booklet and she broke out crying and ran behind her mother. The mother explained to Regina that she had just been to the hospital yesterday and a white nurse gave her a shot. The mother was sure she thought I was a nurse and she didn't want another shot! It was hard to see her cry but at least we knew why.

After we finished distributing in both villages, the guide and Regina led us back to the church via that back way. There were times when the path was really small, often it had deep ruts, at one place there was a board across water, there was a water location where many children were filling pans and buckets to take back to the village for baths and clothes washing. Just a few steps down the path, there was a water well where other children were gathered to fill other pans and buckets to take back to the village for drinking water. It was all so beautiful. It was so amazing to watch these young girls carry the huge pans on their heads. Elmer took a turn at pumping water for one of the little girls!

Regina pointed out many plants, trees, shrubs, etc. She also showed us how they push over banana trees. They don't waste any part of it. They make various food, etc. from this tree. She said mushrooms grow on the section of the tree that is pulled out of the ground. They also make Palm Wine from this tree. She showed us two that had sap dripping into gallon jugs. When it drips, it is ready to drink and she said it is very healthy. We did indeed have a very interesting and informative walk back to the church.

The team then had a snack on the bus before we started the film – Heavenly Gates & Hell's Flames. Except before we finished the snack, it started to sprinkle and then kind of rain. Thankfully the rain didn't last long and we were able to continue with the movie. It was a powerful message and the response to the altar call was the largest we have seen while we were here. As we looked around, there were many more up front than there were in the back. The Pastor was extremely happy! PTL.

After the guys tore down the lights, projector, etc., it was time to head home. The roads were rough and at one point, the bus hit bottom. Rough roads mean slowing down often and it also means getting home later than planned. Oh well, after wrap-up time, everyone just wanted to go to bed anyway!

The Bontrager children were all in bed when we got home. While Grandpa & Grandma were here, Carter was always up and often Arielle was up too. Missed seeing them but am sure they had an exhausting day of having to watch their beloved grandparents get out of the car at the airport.

Praise

For safety in traveling and walking in rough places today.
For the many souls that were saved this evening.
For the many neat experiences of today.

Pray

For the Bontrager children as they adjust to life without their grandparents being here.
For Audrey as she prepares food without the help of Lilly, her Mom.
Pray for Robert and Lilly as they miss the entire Ron Bontrager family.
For the team as they head to Cape Coast on the 11th for a day of visiting a farm, a Castle, etc.

11 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

11/11/11 – I just had to write the date this way today!

Today was a getting started earlier day. We were to be at Ron's for boarding the bus at 5:50 a.m. They wanted the bus to be leaving at 6:00 a.m.! For some of us, that meant getting up at 4:30 a.m. Did you know there is a 4:30 in the morning??? Evidently we are not so good in the early morning hours because we left home without the coffee pot. They called and Ron brought it to us; thank you, Ron! We ate our breakfast on the bus.

Breakfast: Bananas, banana bread, apple, peanuts

Dinner: Rotisserie chicken, rice (some had French fries), cole slaw, soft drink or juice

Ron, Audrey and the children stayed home today. Jon, Sara, and their children joined us. Our first stop was at Jonathan & Juanita Groff's home. They have one son, Elliott. They are from New Covenant Mennonite Fellowship in Pennsylvania, working with Lighthouse Children's Home. They have a farm set-up where 18 year olds and older can come there and work for Jonathan on the farm. The guys live on their own, in a village close by, so they need to earn money. Jonathan's are teaching them how to work, pay bills, etc. Jonathan took the group on a tractor and farm wagon to take a look at the farm. We got back on the bus to finish our miles to Cape Coast. Juanita and Elliott rode the bus with us, Jonathan needed to come to town for some pick-ups, etc. then he picked them up at the bus. Sara and the children also went home with him. We are thankful this get-together was possible for them. They enjoyed the time together.

We traveled on to Cape Coast and toured the Castle. The tour guide gave us the history of the slave trade and the unbelievable conditions the slaves had to endure. They also had a Sure Death dungeon. When they were put in there, they received no food and no water. There are fingernail scratches on the cement floor

where men could not endure it anymore. After the tour, there was a one-hour span where we could shop, grab a bite to eat, just relax on the cool bus, etc.

We started our trip back to Jonathan's to pick up Sara and the children. Then, the closer we got to Accra, the heavier the traffic. I think the entire population of Accra was on the road we were on! I knew that couldn't be true because there were also lots of people everywhere. Jon said "welcome to Ghana!" He said there are times when he and Ron need to go somewhere to pick up something and it can take the entire day because of traffic! The rush-hour traffic in Goshen now doesn't seem like we have a traffic problem at all!!!

We were to meet Ron and family at a specific restaurant at 5:30 p.m. for dinner. Ron's were there at 5:30 and where was the bus load of the other folks. Oh yes, they were barely creeping along stuck in traffic. Jon took our orders for rotisserie chicken. He texted the info to Ron and Ron placed our order so it would be ready when we arrived. There were several more phone calls between Ron and Jon. The food was getting ready and we were nowhere in sight. When we got to the intersection to turn, there was so much traffic, the bus driver decided to go to the next intersection. What "seemed" like 20 miles of travel, he was finally able to turn and he was going to go to the restaurant via the back roads. Well, most of that travel was also extremely slow. We finally walked the last block and a half to get there faster! The time was now 7:30 p.m. and Bless their hearts, Ron's waited to eat until we got there! That chicken was well worth the wait – it was delicious! The serving portions were large and most of us brought food home! Audrey said it would probably be on the table tomorrow noon for lunch!

We dropped off a Bible at the Police Post today. Here's the story. Jon was stopped because he didn't have reflective tape on his vehicle. This requirement just became law. He didn't know about the new law and the officer said "why didn't you ask". Jon's response was "how can I ask about something I know nothing about!" They were going to hold Jon's driver's license until he would appear in court. Although he was at DVLA the day before, even they didn't say anything to him about the new law. Jon then started another conversation with the officer. Jon asked him where he goes to church and the officer told him and also told him he didn't have a Bible and needed one. Jon reached for his license and told him he would bring him a Bible. Promise delivered today.

Praise

For safety as we traveled today.

For some alone time today for Ron and his family.

Praise God, slavery such as the history we learned today is no longer practiced.

Robert and Lilly returned home safely.

Pray

For the officer who now has the Bible; that he might find the true God as he reads the Bible.

For our day tomorrow. We will hear Pastor Isaac (one of the CFCI Pastors) tell us his story of becoming a Christian. He was a Muslim before becoming a Christian.
Pray for our continued good health.
Pray for our safe travels.

12 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

As Elmer, Rose and I walked over to Ron's this morning, there was a very pleasant breeze; we thought we were in for a cooler beautiful day. When we went around the corner, we were met with some very hot air. So much for a cooler day! I know in just a matter of days, we will wish we had some of this hot weather. Just can't believe that tomorrow evening we will board the airplane for our flight home.

Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, hot baked beans, toast, fruit.
Dinner Bunko with hot sauce to go with it, rice and sauce without the sauce being hot, warm mango cobbler, warm chocolate cake, and ice cream

Audrey said they were served baked beans with scrambled eggs here in Ghana and really like the combination. It was delicious! Now about the banku. . . it is fermented corn meal rolled into balls and then baked (at least I think it was baked). I was brave and tried it and I won't need to try it again!!! The sauce was delicious but the little balls can be on someone else's plate!

Pastor Isaac came and shared his testimony this morning. He talked for an hour and I could have listened some more. He was born into a Muslim family. He was taught that Jesus was a prophet who came riding on a white horse. One day Jesus was praying and God came and took him to heaven. He was taught to hate Jesus and everyone that loved Jesus. His father would take him to church every week where he was taught all this. He was learning to hate Jesus and to hate Christians.

Pastor Isaac's mother passed away when he 7 years of age. His father passed away when he was 9 years of age. He was sent to live with his uncle.

At the age of 14 or 15, he had two dreams – one he was laying face down in garbage and he saw a man who went to heaven; the other he was in a tall building and people were being divided. He again saw this same man. He never forgot these two dreams. Still he was committed to the Muslim faith.

In Junior High, a friend was converted to Christianity. This friend would assign passages for him to read. The more he read, the more he thought about how totally different the two were. At age 18, he had another dream that said if he changed to Christianity, he would die. He talked to other Christians. He accepted Jesus but it was out of fear. After Sr. High School he attended a Bible Study. He became a committed follower of Jesus Christ. His remaining family dissented him and he has not seen them for a long time.

He has been trained in and graduated from Crusades for Christ Bible Institute. He is now serving as a pastor. He is very interested in sharing Jesus with the Muslims. He has written a scripture booklet specifically for Muslims and Jon said he would type it for him and then he wants to get it to printers who would publish it for him.

This is an extremely short version and doesn't really do his testimony justice. I could go on and on. Leon Lehman videotaped Pastor Isaac's testimony and I'm hoping he can share that often . . . ask him to share it with you. I am hoping he can find a way to transfer the info so I can get a copy and play it on my computer.

After lunch and dishes, we loaded into Jon's minivan. Pastor Isaac joined us for our shopping trip. I think he is happy for single male friends . . . the rest of the Pastor's (except his assistant Samuel) are all married. He has developed a relationship with the guys, especially with Leon. We should have known this was not going to be as pleasant a ride as in the air-conditioned bus after Adrian told us the A/C doesn't work. Being packed into the van like sardines made it even more interesting!

We headed in the direction of our shopping area and all of a sudden we were on side dirt streets that had lots of holes to make the minivan do bumps! The back way was slow but we did get there. And, there were frequent traffic jams. Because we weren't sure where to turn, we found another area of shops and stopped there. It turned out to be a good place as most of us found items to buy. We then got directions and went to the original planned place of shopping. Several also found things to buy at this location. And, Jeremy and Donna wished they had gotten something they saw at the first place and we went back so they could go get it. Sara and Mary also took the opportunity to return to one of the shops for a bit more shopping.

Then it was back on-the-road again. . . and now our driver went into "Ghana driving" mode! He was a good driver but as vehicles got too close to the van, it made me lean in toward the center of the bus. Not sure how that would help anything except to make me feel better! Rose let out a few gasps and yells! We had some traffic jams but nothing like the night before. We arrived home safely! Along the route, we stopped and Pastor Isaac got off so he could get a trotro ride to his house. This was an exciting and very worthwhile venture.

Brittney had an experience all of her own. She did not go shopping with us and was at Jon's house except the guys didn't know that and locked the front gate. Brittney didn't know the gate was locked and when she came out of the house, she properly locked the door. When she couldn't get out the gate, she realized she was by herself in the courtyard. She said someone else came to the house about a half-hour later and she was able to walk back to Ron's house.

We had dinner and then those that purchased pineapple (there were a total of 100 pineapples) needed to cut off the stems, put them in a Clorox and water solution, brush them, and put them out to dry for the night. This is to make sure any bugs that might be on them are killed.

After saying good-bye to Gary and Joy (they will not be with us tomorrow), we headed to our rooms to pack. The good thing is that dirty clothes are not hard to pack!!! Packing was a difficult thing to do though as the reality of leaving became real.

Praise

For Pastor Isaac's testimony
For our safety in our travels this afternoon.
For our continued good health.

Prayer

For our final service this morning. We will be attending Pastor Felix's church service.
For our last time together as a team.
For safety as we travel home.

13 & 14 November 2011 – Ghana News and Prayer Journal

We were up at a fairly early hour on Sunday and had breakfast at our usual location, at Ron's!

Breakfast: Egg casserole, toast, raisin bread toast, pineapple

Lunch: Potato soup, open face sandwiches, cucumber salad, bars

We attended services at Pastor Felix's church and we were blessed! This was different in that this location actually met in a school. They also had more participate in what we would call the "Praise" service. The singing goes for an hour; the song leader just goes from one song to the next song without any kind of a break. Well, sometimes they will say "Halleluiah and Amen"! After the singing and introductions of Pastor Ron and Pastor Jon, they asked the Team to sing one or two songs. We sang "Shut de dor" and "There is a God" – it sounded pretty good, if I have to say so myself! Of course, it was really the first time we could hear ourselves sing in one of the services. Their speakers weren't quite as loud as the ones before this. The audience loved both songs and got into the swing of the songs. Speaking of loud speakers, if I am not hearing you when you talk to me, it is because I've had some hearing loss – they really cranked up the volume on those things!

Pastor Jon was to give the message today. He said our Team theme for the two weeks was "in everything give thanks" and going right along with that "to give God all the Glory". Jon told them that we praise God because none of our services were ruined because of rain; and, that many souls were saved.

Jon asked the question – What does the Bible say about repentance? The Bible says to repent and be baptized. He outlined six steps to repentance:

1) Conviction: John 16:38

- 2) Godly sorry: Ps 51, II Cor 7
- 3) Confession: James 5:16, Romans 10:9-10
- 4) Forsaking of our sins: Romans 6:1-14
- 5) Make restitution: Luke 19:8-10
- 6) He requires a change of heart: Eph 5

After the services, they gave us minerals (coke) to drink before we headed home!

We were to have packed most everything on Saturday evening. When we got home from church, Elmer, Rose, and I headed to our rooms at Joy Family Lodge and we finished packing. Ron came to pick up us and our luggage. I'm thankful they didn't ask us to try and get them to Ron's house!!! I'm afraid some of it may have been lost in the ruts/holes in our road! Also, there was a small river we had to cross each day (it was dubbed the Red Sea by John Yoder!). All luggage was brought to Ron's and after lunch we began the loading process at 4:45 so we could be on the road by 5:00 p.m. We did make good time and got to the airport at 6:00. Traffic jams were minor on this trip!

We said "good-bye" to some at the house and then to Ron, Jon, and Adrian after we unloaded the van. The Team got to the airport via the bus. This was the only sad part of our trip.

Into the airport terminal we went. . . there was customs, there was immigration, there was security, there was check-in of luggage and getting boarding passes, there was the walk to the gate of departure, and there was wait. And, finally it was time to board the aircraft that would take us to Atlanta. I wonder how tired you have to be to sit down in the aircraft seat and promptly fall asleep – that's what happened to me; I never found out when we left the ground and flew into the air! And somewhere in the 11 or 12 hours of flying, we were into Monday!!

We got to Atlanta a few minutes early and were told we needed to wait on the aircraft because the customs people don't start work until 5:30 a.m. It was still dark in Atlanta! We only had to wait about six or seven minutes and we got off the plane and went to customs. Now we again had customs, immigration, picking up suitcases, security, and gate of departure. We all had our little yellow booklet that said we had our Yellow Fever shots; and, they never even asked to see them. . . oh well, at least we had them. We were actually late leaving the Atlanta airport but we arrived just several minutes late in South Bend. We did give thanks for the plane maintenance problem and were indeed thankful that all was fixed and we could be on our way without too big of a delay. We arrived in South Bend at 11:50 a.m. It was fantastic seeing Robert & Lilly again!

The Team and the Ghana CFCI staff greatly missed Floyd, Robert & Lilly after they left for home but we blessed them in needing to be back in the States earlier than us. In addition, there was a daughter & son-in-law and four grandchildren that greatly missed Robert & Lilly. We trust that Ron's, Jon's, and Gary's were able to go to bed early on Sunday night and sleep in on Monday morning! We so much miss all of you!

I headed to the Post Office after I got home to pick up my accumulated mail. It was amazing, there was no horn blowing, no one walking along the roads, no sweating, etc. I did laundry when I got home and when I put the last load in the washer, I got a little sad. Now I won't have the Ghana smell on my clothes; or, maybe it was only my sweat that I smelled on them?!?! I think I am getting hungry and there is no Audrey to make my dinner for me – maybe popcorn will do the trick for tonight!

Praise

For God allowing this Team to come together in Ghana.
For God using us to bring souls to Jesus.
For God changing our own hearts in many ways.
For God using us to sow seeds and someday someone else will see the results.
For God allowing us to help in the medical clinics to aid in the health of the Ghana people.
For God's travelling mercies both in Ghana and going to/returning from Ghana.
For God giving us good health while we in Ghana.
For allowing us to "give thanks in everything" and to give all Glory to God.
For family and friends that supported us in prayer on a daily basis. We felt your prayers.

Pray

For those that accepted Jesus so they might continue to grow in the knowledge of God.
For the seed that was sown that it may be fruitful in harvest.
Pray for the many in many villages who have not yet heard of Jesus.
For the staff of CFCI serving in Ghana.

Thank you

For allowing me some of your time as you read the journaling on a daily basis. It has been a pleasure for me to write some of my thoughts and share them with you!

Website: Check out the web for more information on CFCI at www.cfcint.com

Thank you so much for your love and for your prayers.

Arline Bontrager