

TAKING THE SAVING GOSPEL TO A LOST WORLD

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"...GO INTO ALL THE
WORLD AND PREACH THE
GOSPEL TO EVERY
CREATURE..."

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TAMSO, GHANA

The latest estimate of the population in Ghana is 27 million. The Lord's church is strong in many parts of the country. In spite of widespread corruption there is more political stability than in some African nations. So far, unlike in nearby Nigeria, Islamic violence is not a serious problem. They have also escaped the terrible disease of Ebola which has plagued three neighboring countries. **Jacob Dassah** grew up in northern Ghana in a family of idol worshippers but was converted when he was 18. Now, at age 47, he preaches for the congregation in **Tamso**, a town about 200 miles from the capital, **Accra**. The Tamso church conducts a preacher training school—a three year program of study which graduated its first class last December. This was my fourth trip to teach in the school. Jacob and three other preachers from that region do the teaching but they would appreciate additional help. For some—teachers and students—just getting to the class is a difficult procedure. The economic situation there, of course, is nothing like what we have here. There is no financial support to enable the students to study fulltime. They must continue to work to support their families, often in what we would consider dire circumstances. Therefore, the classes are at night—three hours of study beginning at 6 o'clock. My assignment this time was **The Scheme of Redemption**. We have two full weeks of classes and I am there on three Sundays. I get to preach in some interesting places—often in village congregations where just getting there is a real challenge.

Horrible Story...Hopefully, A Happy Ending

When I arrived in Ghana late on a Friday night Jacob and his wife, Rita, picked me up

at the Accra airport. They had with them a man named **Louis**, age 29. They had just come from the northern part of the country where they help some congregations and also provide care and schooling for a group of orphans. They had discovered Louis in a terrible situation of captivity and were able to rescue him. People in that area believe in all kinds of gods and demons. Louis had a serious drug problem and was acting out of his mind. His family concluded that he was possessed by an evil god that lives in the river. They imprisoned him in a little room in their house. One leg was put through a small hole in the wall and his foot was chained to a log in the other room. He was on the floor in an uncomfortable position with one leg basically immovable. He was fed there and lived in his own filth for *50 weeks!* His treatment was certainly cruel and inhumane to the extreme. Jacob managed to gain his release and they picked me up in Accra on the way back to Tamso. I helped to buy clothes and shoes for Louis. He is living at Jacob's house and undergoing medical treatment. He is also now attending worship. Jacob expects that Louis will soon become a Christian. His hope for Louis is that he will learn a trade and attend the Bible school in Tamso. He will then be encouraged to go back to the north to become an ambassador of Christ, to help point people to the Lord—including his family that abused him so.

Literally hundreds of congregations in Ghana will be affected terribly by a recent government decision. Beginning the first of next year churches will not be allowed to worship in government school buildings. Many of these churches could build a *very simple* but suitable concrete block structure for as little as \$5,000...maybe a bit more depending on the size of the group. Unfortunately, this is beyond the reach of most. The government's decision is certainly a surprise in such a religious country. It will affect the Lord's church and numerous other groups.

I will leave for **India** on August 13. I will be working in the same areas in south India where we regularly go and with the same preachers who usually help organize our work—**Raja Rao** and **Vandan Kumar**. I will have many preaching opportunities but the emphasis of the work will be, as always, training preachers. *Please pray* for God's blessings to be on this effort.

Your coworker,

Ronald Coleman