

April 2014 #47

## A Day in the Life...

Dear Friends,

After a very memorable, though very short visit to Lorain, I returned to Texas on February 7th to prepare to leave for home: to Ghana, to family. Pastor Jimmy & Marcia Geary took me to the airport in Cleveland. I left Texas for Ghana on February 17th. This is the first article coming to you after my return to Ghana.

This year's two week stay in Ohio was too short for me and for many people. As much as I wanted to spend time with friends and honor invitations extended to me by many, the snow and icy conditions didn't help at all. During my very first ever visit to Lorain in 1993, the city experienced similar weather. So much snow & cold, that I slept between two electric blankets. Again, this year I was so cold. Fortunately for me, Pastor Jimmy had saved my electric blankets!

Three events were very special to me during my stay in Lorain this time. On January 26th, I had the joy of witnessing the reception given in honor of Carolyn (church secretary) & Janet (church treasurer). They had both been links between the church and myself since 1993. Even though it was a very snowy day, it touched my heart to see how many people came out to honor these two women for the wonderful work they have done for FLC. The other two events took place the following Sunday, February 2nd, another very snowy & icy day. I was honored to preach at both services that day & to be able to speak about Akrapma during the Sunday School hour.

I arrived back in New Braunfels, Texas in the evening of February 7th, and the very next day joined Dr. David & Amy Templin, and Bob & Gloria Johnson on a trip to the NASA Center, Houston, for a tour. Before leaving New Braunfels, we stopped at the Aquarium. I was amazed at the ingenuity and wonder of the place! That is another place that I won't easily forget, in addition to the tour of Pastor Jimmy's hometown that he took us on, in December.

I left the USA with three extra bags, paid for from your generous donations toward my trip; by Mr. & Mrs. John (Kay) Magness, two new friends in New Braunfels; and by the Men's Bible Study at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Texas). I also came home with a brand new donated wheelchair for Gloria, a paraplegic 9th grader in Akrapma. Bob & Gloria Johnson & John Magness took me to the Austin airport. By the Grace of God I arrived home safely, in Ghana, and was met at the airport by Julie, Ida and Benjamin. Isabella and William were at work and joined us in the evening to welcome me home.

My first visit to Akrapma was for the main purpose of giving Gloria her wheelchair. I then went around the village to visit with those still at home who had not gone to the farms or school. The first thing I noticed were the lamps on the electric poles, signs that Akrapma now has electricity after more than 25 years of waiting to be hooked up to the national grid. The pole that sits outside the Akrapma school has a lamp on it, so now at night most of the school buildings & yard are illuminated.

Before I end this, I would like to thank the Women's Group of FLC (led by Sheryl Hobart) for their generous donations toward Julie's current medical care. We thank you very much.

Blessings, Pastor Ben

Reporting from  
Ohio - part 2