



"I Am" hath sent me unto you.

Ex.3:14

Project Africa

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Report by Roy Wanta

Our trip to Ghana, January 10-23, 2014, was an exciting and eventful journey. The Lord was with us all the way during our flights. Everyone was excited, ready to be the servants for the Lord. One memorable event is about a man that we met while in Acura.

The story of blind Charles Atiogbe

Charles Atiogbe, the man who we went to visit, is 47 years old. Charles was a construction contractor, and in 2006, he lost his eyesight. He was brought to this place to live in because his only brother couldn't be located and no relative or person from his village wanted to take care



of him. He is from the Volta Region, in a village called Anyako. His living conditions are terrible, as you can see. There are people in Ghana who have open eyes, yet look upon him with blind eyes, giving no help. Pastor Francis and his wife Comfort take care of him when they can. Therefore, we are putting out a plea of help for Charles Atiogbe.

Mark 10:46 tells this story, "And they came to Jericho: and as He went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging." Here we find that Jesus was on the way out of Jericho, headed to Jerusalem to ultimately complete the journey for which

He came—that is, the cross. As He left Jericho, He encountered a man that was traveling through life by literally sitting on the side of the road.

Verse 46b says, "blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus"—note "blind"—it gives his condition before it gives his name. It is a terrible thing to be identified by a condition rather than a name. Bartimaeus was blind; that was his disability, his condition. Because of this condition, he was handicapped in society and not able to travel to Jerusalem to worship. Also, it kept him from gaining employment to provide for himself.

His father's name was *Timaeus*, meaning *value and honor*. Therefore, Bartimaeus was the son of value and honor—what a privilege of being the son! Yet, his condition had him sitting by the side of the road in hopelessness and despair.

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, he began to cry out, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." This was literally blind faith, because Bartimaeus never saw a miracle that Jesus had done. Then, verse 48b says, "...but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me." He was louder and more persistent. His cry was a faith cry, a cry of desperation. This cry of Bartimaeus penetrated the ears and heart of Jesus, and it caused Jesus to stop in His tracks. When Jesus heard Bartimaeus' cry, He turned and saw Bartimaeus sitting by the side of the road. Bartimaeus didn't see Jesus, but Jesus saw him. God is looking at you, as II Chronicles 16:9 says, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." (Can you, and will you, show yourself strong in Charlie's behalf?) God is watching you; He's got his eyes on you. You might not be able to see Him right now, but He is watching you.

As Bartimaeus sat there, his faith kicked

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in, and he began to call upon the name of the Lord. Consider this, his faith was *in* him. The Bible says in II Timothy 1:6, "...stir up the gift of God, which is in thee..." The gift is *in* you! Bartimaeus' faith was stirred. In Psalms 199:105, David wrote, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Bartimaeus stood up and walked by faith to get to Jesus, and there he experienced God's mercy.

We are looking to put a small room up for Charles Atiogbe, a place with a roof that doesn't have holes in it, so when it rains, he doesn't get wet—a room where the mosquitoes won't eat him up at night. Pastor Francis and Comfort are feeding



him during the day. We would like to help blind Charles Atiogbe so he wouldn't have to live in these harsh, terrible conditions, left sitting alone in hopelessness and despair. We try to help people in these serious situations, but only with your help can it happen.

Report by Lisa Wanta

These praise reports and stories of celebration would not exist if it weren't for your generosity and faithfulness. With a heart full of gratitude, let me say, "Thank you." What a testimony of God's grace you are!

This was not my first short-term mission trip, but it was my first trip to Ghana, Africa. The people are so friendly and happy and content while living with what most Americans would consider "nothing". It was nice to take a short walk to "town" with all the locally owned shops selling a semi-cold soda or a loaf of bread.



We met with eleven widows and one widower for a meal and time of fellowship at Victory Grace Chapel during our stay in Accra Ghana. Pastor Mary Bope distributed some gifts we had brought for them. What a heartbreaking experience to hear the stories of how each of them is without their spouse for support, and most of them are raising multiple small children on their own. My heart went out especially to a young man, named Simon, who lost his wife during childbirth seven months ago. He has five children to raise and send to school. His mother, also a widow, lives in another village and is now trying to help Simon with the children. Simon, a hard-working mason by trade, is willing to work, but finding work is not easy.

The following day after our meal with the widows, several of them walked long distances to come back to see us and thank us for what we had done for them. Two women, in particular, were so grateful and said that we had wiped away some of the tears from their eyes. We stressed that we were not the ones to get the thanksgiving—all the thanks and glory goes to our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ who provides for His children.

What your giving has done

In one of our newsletters, we had a picture of a very young mother who passed away. She had come to the midwife clinic, to Pastor Francis' wife, who was not able to take care of the life-threatening situation. The woman had to be taken to a hospital, and that hospital could not help her. After attempting another hospital, which also was unable to help her, she passed away. However, the baby was born. Because of the difficulties incurred in trying to get a taxi or a vehicle to help women in difficult deliveries, Pastor Mary Bope of Shepherd of the Lakes Church decided that their congregation would help secure a vehicle for the clinic. The clinic now has a car. We cannot put a price on the saving of a life! Thank you, Shepherd of the Lakes.



"The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them." Lamentations 4:4 We were also able to put in a well for the local people and the school there. Now, they do not have to go to a lake to get water.

There is not enough room here to tell all of what happened on this last trip and what the Lord has done, so in the next few newsletters, we will show the amazing things that God has done and provided on this blessed trip.

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Our mission is to reach the world for God and point them to Jesus