



The Harvest Times

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A New Name

In the village of Singh in northwest Ghana, a baby girl was born to one of our church families. On the newborn's eighth day, some significant events will occur.

First, the baby's soft, curly hair will be shaved. Secondly, her ears will be pierced, denoting to the villagers that the baby is a girl. And, her parents will name her.

Naming a baby carries more significance than just a parent's preference. In Ghanaian culture, a name means something. While many villagers have Muslim or Ghanaian names, a Christian family such as this one chooses a biblical name for their new child—a witness that the person will carry throughout adulthood.

In the case of this baby girl, the parents were considering the name "Mary," an early little Christmas miracle.

When an adult chooses to follow Christ and become baptized, he or she will also choose a new, Christian name. There is no middle ground for these new, first generation believers. In a culture where families can belittle or cut off support from those who follow Christ, the believers take a stand anyway, choosing a name that tells everyone where their loyalties lie.

A new name at baptism is another symbol of the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:17, which says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."



A new baby in Singh



Missionary Oleta Witt with two children in Singh

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The Woods family

AROUND THE WORLD

CAYMAN BRAC

December 4 marked three years since the Woods family moved to Cayman Brac to serve as pastor at Watering Place and Spot Bay.

God has used this family and blessed their ministry. Thank you for your continued prayers for David, Zenia, Joseph, and Noah.

ALBANIA

“The first week we arrived in Albania, our family was walking around the City Center looking for a place to eat,” Gabe and Erica Wait shared recently. “We passed a man who looked curiously like one of the Albanian men we had come to know as a close friend of ours in New York City named Alfred. (We had met Alfred on our first visit to NYC . . . We soon became good friends, and he eventually began attending our house church.) We all did a double take, and sure enough — it was New York City Alfred! He was visiting old friends in Tirana! We went to dinner together that evening, and we mentioned that we wanted to learn the language but still needed to find someone to teach us.

“The next morning, Alfred called. He said he had done some asking around, and he had found someone to teach us. . . It happened to be his closest and most trusted friend in Tirana, who had recently lost his job and needed work. Enter, Parid! Pray for us . . . as we form a relationship with Parid, who is not a believer. What a great opportunity we have been given!”



Gabe Wait with Alfred



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