



## 2014: Year in Review

*By Samuel Arthur, Director of Ghana Mission*

The year 2014 was a successful year. Pastors were regular in their monthly prayer meetings. We believe that the early Church was born through prayers. Acts 2:2 was a result of Acts 1:14. We are laborers together with God, and we cannot do without Him. Amen.

### U.S. Teams' Visits

We were blessed when Director Steve Elsey and four team members visited us last February. We were encouraged by their team spirit. When Dr. Michael Shoemaker and Nurse Oleta Witt were ministering to the sick people, Pastor Steve was taking records of the medications. Travis Bland was in every corner sharing and encouraging, while Allen Elsey brought entertainment to the children to be able to share the gospel with them.

The chiefs and elders of the villages were all pleased. The Muslim chief in Glang expressed his gratitude by saying, "May God help the church for the love they have shown to us." He said, "They did not treat the church members alone, but us Muslims also." Another woman said, "Your people are good. I have never experienced this kind of love, not even in my family, for someone I never knew to come and ask how I feel in my body and give me medicine for free." Over 500 people received medical care in the five villages where our churches are located.

Pastor Jere Gowin and Pastor Bob Thompson also came in July and ministered to all our church members in the villages. The US team was a rich blessing to our lives. They taught us how we should always look for ways to serve the Lord.

### Village Churches

The people in **Gberi** used to worship and have church services under a tree. They later made shade with wood and sticks for their church services, but this was not good in the rainy season.

In the year 2014, a church building was started. The walls were completed as well as the roof. The church members are very happy to have a building for their church services. We are left with plastering the walls, pouring cement for the floor, and wiring and painting inside.

The chief and elders in **Sogla** have shown us a piece of land where we can build a church. They have told the people in the community that no one should build or farm there because it belongs to the church. They are very good to us.

In **Motigu** the elders said giving a piece of land for a church building is not a big deal. We were able to visit three new villages in 2014. They are Sadakole, Gou, and Motigu. In September 2014 we established a church in Motigu which is on the road to **Gurumbelle**. This means the pastor



New church building at Gberi

has to leave early on Sunday morning to have service in Motigu before proceeding to Gurumbelle for another service.

The people in Motigu are delighted to know Christ Jesus as their savior. They told us that the Roman Catholic Church had been there in the past, but not regularly.

It is very difficult for even a motorcycle to get to Sadakole and Gou; we couldn't continue services, but asked them to join our church in **Glang**.

### **Medical Ministry**

The most un-anticipated facet of our ministry in the villages has been our work with the medical needs. We continue to treat a variety of ailments ranging from dressing wounds to giving medications such as antibiotics. In the year 2014 we treated about 2,000 people from the villages. About 70 percent of those treated were malaria cases and 30 percent accounted to the other ailments. Therefore, medications are normally readily on hand.

In addition to the medication, we transport people with critical conditions which we cannot handle to the nearest health center and even to the regional hospital. In the year 2014, we saved five people who nearly died by transporting them to the regional hospital for intensive treatment. Sometimes we have to bear the medical bills. All the funding has come from World Missions, and we are very grateful.

### **Literacy Classes**

These classes are to teach adult, youth, and children to read the Bible in their own dialect. People have been grouped into different classes according to their level of understanding. Some of our church members in **Singh**, **Glang** and **Gberi** are doing great. They can read the Word of God with ease in the local dialect for their own understanding.

The church bought Waali Bibles for those who can now read and understand. The Bible Society of Ghana also launched the Dagari New Testament; they have translated, and we purchased some for those who can read.



Christmas Convention at Gurumbelle

### **Christmas Convention and a Soccer Match**

At the beginning of the year 2014, the announcement went to all the churches informing them to prepare for the annual convention. That gave them time to prepare adequately. The host was the Gurumbelle church. All our churches in the villages presented themselves in numbers, except for **Glang**. The convention started on the night of December 24 with opening prayer. The Gurumbelle church members welcomed all the churches after which each of the churches was invited to sing one song.

Pastor Sammy, Pastor Isaka, and Pastor George preached through December 26. The theme for the 2014 Convention was taken from the gospel according to Luke, chapter 1, verse 37: "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Exceptional was a friendly soccer match on the afternoon of December 25. This was a match between the combined churches and the Gurumbelle community. It was wonderful to see. Pastor Sammy acted as a coach, Isaka was the referee, and George a player. The whole Gurumbelle community and people at the convention were at the field to witness the match. After the match, the evening church service was crowded with people. The number of people outside was more than those inside. Over 1,000 people attended with some standing at the windows to hear the word of God.

It was very successful and lovely. Praise be to the Lord.