



Living Grace Ministries

*Equipping Leaders, Planting Churches, Mobilizing Saints,
Strengthening Families, Touching Nations*

April 18, 2012

Living Grace Ministries African Apostolic Trip, March 2012

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Greetings! How can I possibly express adequate thanks for your involvement through prayer and support for our trip to Africa? Pastor Bryan McGrouty was a wonderful partner for this trip. We want to thank you from the depths of our heart for your involvement through prayer and financial giving for the trip.

The following is a summary of our apostolic trip to Africa. The trip from all appearances was a success spiritually and functionally. The African pastors received us kindly and were wide open to what we had to share with them. Even more important is that our hearts were opened widely to them, and we came away greatly enlarged by their love and openness toward us. The following is a chronology of our time in Africa.

March 19: I am sitting in the Roberts International Airport in Monrovia, Liberia, on Monday, March 19, 2012, waiting for my flight to Accra, Ghana. What a wonderful two weeks Pastor Bryan McGrouty and I have had! First, he was a great companion and made my trip easier at every turn. He accounted for himself well as he ministered the Word and related to the people. We arrived safely on Tuesday, March 6, after a 26 hour trip, via Paris, France.

God went before us and certain things happened that could only be the hand of God at work. Our hearts were covenantally knitted with four pastors in particular, Pastor Morris Brown at the Kingdom Focus Ministries in Outland Community, Pastor Samuel Momoh at the New Life Bible Church in Soul Clinic, and with Pastors Julius Togba and Samuel Chea with the Grace of God Churches at Blackie Island, although they have renamed the island Grace Island. Each of these pastors has an apostolic heart and has already begun to plant new churches with a passion to plant many more. They are raising up congregations of true disciples of Jesus Christ. By the end of the two weeks, they had formed a heart-to-heart covenant relationship with Living Grace Ministries. I am confident that Liberia is meant to be a key apostolic field of service for Living Grace Ministries to engage with in the future. We also met and enjoyed entering into friendship with at least two dozen other fine pastors.



Three Apostolic pastors: Samuel Momoh, Morris Brown, and Julius Togba

The first week Bryan and I ministered at the New Life Bible Church. We preached a three-night evangelistic outreach and revival in the open field under the stars. Good crowds gathered, many children and youth came, and a wonderful time was experienced. During the day, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, we taught and trained pastors and leaders on the subject, "Jesus' Expression of Kingdom Ministry." On Saturday, I participated in baptizing four new believers in the Atlantic Ocean. On the fourth baptism, a big wave hit us and I fell into the ocean, experiencing my own African baptism.



On Sunday, I preached at New Life Bible Church, a three-year old church; the place was full and it is emerging as a true apostolic base community. One other church linked with Pastor Samuel Momoh, is pastored by a godly man named James. On Sunday, Bryan ministered at Grace of God Church at Blackie Island and the leaders and people fell in love with him.



New Life Bible Church built within the last six months.

The next week, on Monday, we went sightseeing in Monrovia, going by the United States Embassy, visiting some higher up officials with the University of Liberia and also those at the United Methodist University, even having an audience with the president of the university, a fine Christian gentleman.

On Tuesday, we both sat for three and one-half hours with the pastors and leaders of the Grace of God Churches, and I preached at night. This group has an apostolic passion and mandate to plant churches in the interior. The General Coordinator, Julius Togba, is emerging as a true apostle of Christ and is a fine example to the people and a thoughtful, dignified man. He lost his wife to illness in 2009 and is raising several young children alone. On Wednesday afternoon and evening, we spoke at the Grace Gospel Church, pastored by Michael Flomo and his assistant Hector. We enjoyed the time there.

Once again, during the second week, this time in the Outland Community, Bryan and I preached a three-night revival at the Kingdom Focus Church. God worked mightily and I believe the Christians were stirred to seek the Lord and experience revival. Also, on Friday and Saturday mornings, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, I taught about 55 pastors and leaders on the subject, "Kingdom Dominion Mandate." It was well received and the pastors couldn't stop appreciating it. The pastors are sincere, godly, and humble men. I handed out several charts and they just gobbled up everything I had for them.



The Africa Trip Continues

Tuesday, March 20: My chronology continues. Pastor Bryan McGrouty has flown home after two weeks in Liberia. I continued on solo to Ghana and Togo. On Tuesday, March 20th, Pastor Emmanuel Apeaning and his leaders gave me a wonderfully warm welcome. I preached a message on "How to Achieve a Godly Heritage" from 7-8:30 pm, Tuesday evening to all the gathered people, and then ministered to about 50 leaders from 8:45-10:15 pm. The response was encouraging to me. Such gracious and enthusiastic people! On my 2010 trip, Pastor Apeaning reminded the people that I prophesied over him that he would become a major apostolic leader in Ghana. Since that time, Apostle Apeaning has started nine branch churches and the main church has grown to several hundred people.

I also had the privilege to stop by the Marfo Children's Village in Tema with Adwoa. There are now twelve children at the home and they were so excited to have us visit. They were all dressed in school uniforms and doing their classes when I arrived. Adwoa is doing a fine ministry of love and compassion, generously serving as the children's mom. Gracious hospitality was extended to me as I stayed in the beautiful home of Benjamin and Edwina Acheampong in Tema, Ghana.

Monday, March 29: It is now Monday and I have just returned from Lome, Togo, where I spent four days with Apostle William Tettey and the Jesus Is Alive Ministries. Moments after arriving by airplane on Thursday, Apostle Tettey rushed me to the Thursday Noon Prayer Meeting, where over 600 hundred believers were gathered, and I had the opportunity to greet them. On Friday evening, I addressed a large crowd at the home church on the subject of "The Bride and the Bridegroom," and what it means for revival.

On Saturday, I taught for three hours to over 400 students in Apostle Tettey's School of Leadership Training, a nine-month school training up evangelists and leaders. It was a joy! On Sunday, I ministered at the mother church. I highly appreciate these ministries.



Speaking at Jesus Is Alive Church with Apostle Tettey



Teaching and Exhorting 400 plus students at Bible School



Preached twice at the ELWA radio station run by Sudan Interior Mission



Apostle Tettey loves to dress me up to look like an African, as I speak at the Bible School



The Kingdom Focus Evangelistic Church Choir

I spoke over thirty times in three and one half weeks, and it seemed that in every meeting, God's grace and favor prevailed. Many heart-to-heart relationships were formed. Pastor Bryan McGrouty spoke many times and was well received and he stood tall as he ministered. Thanks Bryan for going to Africa with me.

Let me share some observations from this trip about Liberia.

1. The Church of Liberia is emerging in the last six years after a fourteen-year devastating civil war. The economy is minimal, and the people of the nation work very hard to earn but a few dollars a day. One of the pastors teaches 4th and 9th grades in a public school, and only makes \$35 dollars a month.
2. The Church of Liberia has functioned pretty much at a "Child-Church" level, preoccupied with running from here to there for miracles and healings. However, many of the pastors and people are beginning to move into the "Sonship-Church" stage, with an increasing emphasis on teaching, character, responsibility, and what it means to live the overcoming life.
3. Many of the pastors are beginning to gain a perspective for what it means to expand the Kingdom of God into every area of life: not only in the church, but also in business, education, government, social issues, family, and much more. The pastors are praying and taking action to see Liberia return to a Christian nation focus, as a few years ago a few politicians sought to move Liberia to be a purely secular nation. The results were not good, and much corruption and power-politics prevails at the political level.
4. Most exciting is that the pastors are gaining an apostolic vision for the Sevenfold Ministry (apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral, teaching, deacons, and elders-overseers) and are gaining the confidence that they are called to take a radical, courageous leadership to call Liberia to embrace God's Kingly Rule and that is their task - not waiting for American or English foreigners to come to their rescue.
5. The Liberian people are a kind and generous people, hard workers, and persistent in the face of severe hardships. This is especially true of those who have genuinely accepted Christ as their Lord and Master. We were especially touched by the faithful and kind sister, Evelyn, who cooked our meals for the two weeks. We also got a chance to meet her husband who is a pastor-evangelist out in the interior, one hour away.

I want to thank all of you who made this ministry trip possible by your financial participation and for your prayers. Your investment resulted in great fruitfulness and the Kingdom of God was advanced. I also thank the students of Living Grace Christian School who prayed for me daily on this trip. God bless you students! Praise the Lord!

Thurlow Switzer

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