



Partnering with Ghana Christian University College in West Africa through Education and Christian Community Development

## Kimberly Daniels: May 2007 Newsletter

### Getting to know them . . .



My first day of French language class at Ghana Christian University College this past spring semester, I met Justine, Elizabeth, and Gifty,

three of twelve students enrolled in the first academic school year for the School of Community Development.

Elizabeth was the first to warm up to me. When the French professor asked her to tutor me, she willingly complied. With Elizabeth's help, I learned the days of the week, the months of the year, how to count to thirty, and how to greet a French-speaking person at different times of the day. When she became ill one day, I and two of her friends sat and waited for her to be released from the clinic. What a night that was. She was hooked up to an IV drip. We tried making her laugh. I asked her if she was thirsty. She said yes. After handing her a bottled water, a doctor entered the room yelling at Gifty and I to get out of the room Lizzy was in. He said the water could have worsened her condition because of the drip. Gifty and I ran out of the room laughing at our own ignorance. Of course, Lizzy was fine—just stomach cramps.

It took Gifty a little longer than the other two girls to let down her guard. Once I got to know her, I liked her. She made me laugh with her ability to disarm some of us with a girlish pout when trying to get her way. And when we told her that we were aware of her manipulation, she just smiled all the more.

Getting to know Justine was somewhat different. I could tell just by the way she looked at me that she wanted something she thought I had. What she asked for at the end of the semester was that I serve as a board member for her new business start up, providing advice and counsel. What I heard, but what was never clearly stated, was that as a board member, I'd probably be expected to provide capital as needed for the operation of the business. Though I declined to be a board member, I did offer to give her advice from time to time. I was impressed by Justine's "know-how," but encouraged her to wait a couple of years before starting the new venture. This next semester is going to be tough for the students, who will have to demonstrate the ability for critical thinking rather than memorization, which they are taught in primary and secondary school. Please pray for the students to do well this fall.



Visiting Elizabeth (Lizzy) at the clinic.

During interviews of new applicants wanting to enroll in the School of Community Development's fall 2007 class, candidates were asked whether they believed community development was the responsibility of foreign countries (like the U.S.), their own country, or the people living in the communities. Some responded that it should be a joint effort. However, most of them, to my surprise and delight, said that the people living in the communities should take

### My perspective on community development

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responsibility for their own development. How right they are. What I've learned during my initial five months in Ghana is that most people will continue to take what they are offered, but the more they take from others of us who simply want to help, the less they give in terms of helping themselves. It's a hindering cycle of dependency and co-dependency. As co-dependents, we sometimes give out of a *need* to give, whether its because of our Christian values, our desire to see less fortunate peoples have a better quality of life, or to make up for sins of the past. Whatever the reasons for our giving (of material things), years upon years of missionary activity in West Africa has mostly served to strengthen the "colonialism" mentality so engrained in Black African peoples. It's a mentality that communicates their inferiority to Westerners as both the young and the old address us as "mommy" or "daddy."

When a twenty-something year old girl tried to call me mommy, I quickly responded by asking her to call me by my name. Ernestina needed to know that I am her friend. I have responsibility to her as a beautiful creation of God our Father, but I can't take responsibility for her, merely giving her all the money and things that she asks for. I want to see her successful in her endeavors. I want her to have a better quality of life. I want her to be able to provide for the needs of her family. But she has to want these things for herself, and be willing to work towards it. As Ernestina uses the skills and resources God has blessed her with to generate income that will help sustain her way of life long after "we" have left Ghana, she'll begin to develop a sense of dignity and self-worth, realizing her full potential as a beloved daughter of God. Perhaps then, she'll make a decision in the future that solidifies for her a place in the eternal Kingdom of God. Perhaps then, she'll begin to give to her own people---not so much material things and possessions that are temporary, but the gift of life in Christ. This is my perspective on transformational, community development. Please pray with me as I continue to discern how God wants to use me in Ghana to be a blessing to the people. And please pray for Ernestina as she continues in school, learning how to sew. She desires to open a retail clothing shop.

### Missions & Outreach

It began with a desire to hear God's voice on a Sunday morning when seeking Him for direction after graduation in 2001. I clearly heard God leading me to join the Missions & Outreach ministry team at Southeast Christian Church, where I first learned about God as a global missionary God in my job as *Perspectives* class coordinator. It has continued with the missions team support over the five past years of my work with Team Expansion. During last fall's mission emphasis week at Southeast, my photo was displayed along with other supported missionaries for people to read about my upcoming work in Ghana. What a blessing it was to receive in the mail a large stack of cards containing encouraging words from members who took the time to write. Thank you Southeast missions team for this gift, and for sending sermon tapes and music CDs to me in Ghana!

### April & May 2007 Financial Recap

#### Receipts

Christ Temple Cathedral Church of Christ	200.00
Church of the Great Commission	212.11
Everybody's Church	500.00
Faith Community Church	200.00
Green Street Baptist Church	50.00
Light of the World Church	50.00
Living Water ABF	400.00
Niche Marketing, Inc.	100.00
Sharehouse, Inc.	250.00
St. James Missionary Baptist Church	50.00
Individuals	\$ 4,995.00

**Total Receipts** **\$7,007.11**

#### Expenses:

100 - Salary	\$ 1,000.00
110 - Medical Insurance	677.82
130 - Social Security	260.00
141 - Roth IRA	500.00
150 - Housing	316.00
200 - Education/books	29.89
230 - Team Building (retreat)	165.00
320 - Hospitality	87.45
470 - Joint Team Projects	1,200.00
490 - National Co-Workers	217.38
500 - Postage in the Field	47.83
550 - Postage in the States	122.76
600 - Office Supplies in the Field	217.38
640 - Utilities	184.57
660 - Mission Phone	82.07
661 - E-mail/Internet	400.00
700 - For More Support	12.50
720 - Newsletters	100.51
730 - Reporting to Supporters	133.69
740 - Home Office Fund	200.00
750 - Miscellaneous (supporters)	12.50
800 - Car/Transportation	344.68
810 - Meals While Traveling	20.99
820 - Travel Fees/Tools	4.79
860 - Airfare	533.40
880 - Home Service Fund	500.00
990 - Miscellaneous	300.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,838.49</b>

**Budget**—miscellaneous expense represents lost funds on the day I left Ghana to return to the U.S. Please pray that I can find it when I return there in July.

**Send a personal letter or card to Kimberly at:**

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