

CHALLENGES FOR PRAYER

(Operation World)

Christianity has long been established in the south. About 63% of Ghanaians call themselves Christian, but many have only a tenuous link to a church, and attendance figures rarely top 10%. African traditional worldviews and practices too often lie beneath a veneer of Christianity; this dual spirituality is the greatest challenge to the Church in Ghana.

Pray for a Christian vision for the nation. Although statistically Ghana enjoys a strong Christian presence, reality presents a much more significant challenge.

- The 1.7 million who call themselves Christians, but have no link to a church.
- The millions of Christians who may attend church, but whose worldview and values more reflect traditional animist beliefs (the belief that natural objects, natural phenomena, and the universe itself possess souls; the belief that natural objects have souls that may exist apart from their material bodies) than biblical.
- Church planting throughout the nation, especially in the north. Thousands of villages in Ghana remain unchurched.

Mature Christian leaders remain at a premium. As churches multiply, biblical faith is challenged and doctrines become confused. Compared with some other countries, however, Ghana is blessed by the number of training institutions. Among the many schools are Christian Service University College in Kumasi started by Worldwide Evangelization for Christ International, Maranatha University College, Serving In Mission, Ghana Christian University College and Good News Theological College & Seminary. There are over 30 other accredited denominational and interdenominational Bible schools as well a range of training programs run by different denominations and agencies.

The mission's vision of the Ghanaian Church has grown, as have the agencies and workers. The commitment of southerners to sacrificially reach

out to northerners is increasing. There are a number of significant movements worthy of prayer:

- Missions training given by several organizations and institutes: African Christian Missions, Ghana Evangelical, Missionary Institute, Globe Serve Ghana and Maranatha University.
- Christian Outreach Fellowship with more than 50 missionaries working among Ghana's least reached peoples. Torchbearers (12 missionaries) and others are also good examples for Ghanaian indigenous missions.

Young people remain key in the efforts to bring revival to Ghana. Over 40% of the population is under the age of 15, but specific efforts to reach them are insufficient, despite their spiritual openness. This is particularly the case outside the major cities. In the villages, Islam and African traditional religions tend to hold them in bondage. ***Pray for the conversion and discipleship of a new generation of Christians who will make an impact in the religious, cultural, and political and economic life of Ghana.***

Missionary personnel are still needed to serve as Bible teachers and trainers, Bible translators, in support roles and even as pioneer evangelist. A key area for prayer is for healthy, helpful partnerships between indigenous church leaders and missionaries. ***Pray for missionaries serving the Lord in this land; the largest are Mercy Ships, Serving In Mission, Pioneers, Worldwide Evangelization for Christ International. and GMS.***

Islam has set out to conquer Ghana and is making serious headways. The number of Muslims has grown significantly through birthrates, immigration and conversion (especially Muslim men marrying non-Muslim women). Now, the majority of Muslims live in the seven non-Muslim southern regions. Mosques are springing up everywhere, and Islam is becoming a dominant force in the political scene. Education is one area of Islamic attention: founding Islamic educational institutions in Ghana and offering scholarships for promising young Ghanaians to study abroad in Muslim countries. ***Pray for loving witness by believers and for the Holy Spirit to win many more Muslims to Jesus.***

Specific Goals for the Mission trip

- Pray that God's glory will cover Ghana and go before The Team.
- Pray for the Missionaries and their Families
- Pray for The Team, as they prepare for their mission.
- Pray for the Mission, i.e.:
 - The Team that will teach women business skills
 - The Team that will evangelize
 - The Team that will do leadership training
 - The crusades
 - The Team ministering to children
 - Souls to be saved and the people walk in victory