



Nieuwsbrief June 2022



Dear friends of Houses of Hope- Ministries International,

This is our second newsletter this year. A little late.

Pastor Wim flew to Accra, Ghana on April 5. Actually, pastor Wim should have left on March 27, but both he and Sonja contracted Covid and after that pastor Wim had pneumonia and a respiratory infection. Therefore, the time of departure and the planned activities had to be adjusted.

Upon arrival the first few days were needed to acclimatize, as it was very oppressive and hot in Ghana because of the tropical rainshowers. Air-density of 76% and temperature felt like 36 degrees. He did have a number of talks with pastor Cennick to plan the weeks ahead. Meetings, speaking engagements in our churches and in churches where pastor Wim had been invited to share the Word, as well as the Easter-conference for our churches in our HoH-church in Berekum, Brong Ahafo Region in the middle of Ghana.

Now looking back on the journey that lies behind us, we can conclude that much work has been done.

Easter-conference

The annual Easter-conference was a wonderful time where all HoH-churches met with us. Especially this year it had the added dimension of not having been able to have a conference for the past two years because of the Covid-19 situation.

An impression of the Easter conference based on some photos:

Praying in the early morning



Praise and worship, listening to the Word in the morning and evening-services.



During the first evening-service six young people found salvation. Great to see that.



But also sharing a meal after the evening-services and sharing the joy of being together, is not an obvious thing for our people in Ghana.





Celebrate supper together

Many of our people do not have an income and had never been outside of Accra and the other places of residence. Then they looked forward to travel together for eight hours in a rented bus to attend the conference; a feast in itself. Really, it was quite tiring to travel with adults, young adults, teenagers and little children. But it was worth it when we look at what God did in the hearts of the people.

Each time it amazes me, that penniless people can experience such joy in the meetings, where they can leave their worries behind and can sing and dance before God.

It was special that the conference-expenses and rental of the bus had been paid in advance by us, from the proceeds of a missions-service and the sale of home-made bakery and other treats made by the members of the church.

Also special was that this was the first conference in our new church-building in Berekum. Which is not finished at all. The roof has been done; the concrete-floors have been poured. The walls are up to the window-heights, no doors or windows yet. But wat a celebration!

After the evening-service a number of the brothers would remain in the church to prevent our chairs and material from being stolen.

Financial situation in Ghana

Also, in Ghana, prices have increased tremendously because of the war in Ukraine.

Half a liter of sunflower-oil in Ghana costs €2.--. How will you pay this when you have hardly any income? Or the average income is between €1.60 - €1.90 a day. All goods, including gas, are too expensive. That is why many people started cooking outside again, using charcoal-fires. And we also see within our churches that people need more practical help. Also outside out churches. During the time Wim was in Ghana he regularly gave food to an elderly neighbour who indicated that he had not eaten for four days. Well, if you have food yourself, sharing is normal. At least for us it is.

After the first time we had helped this man, one of our elders with his family was at the door hoping I had cooked a meal. I had not, so then you share the food that is there in the house,

so that they can prepare food for themselves and their children at home. That is life in Ghana/Africa.

During the last weeks of pastor Wim's stay in Accra pastor Cennick and he mainly spent time taking care of different practical matters and putting down projects on paper. There are some businessmen in the Netherlands who want to see a number of projects on paper. Because the internet-connection in Ghana is terribly bad, you must first put these projects here on paper and then later forward them to the people concerned.

We also visited befriended pastors of other churches. It was encouraging to us, but also to them to see and share how ministries develop. Wonderful stories and a great testimony of the Great and Almighty God.

After the return to the Netherlands, we continued developing the projects. During the next few weeks there will be meetings with a number of companies to discuss the projects and how they may be supported.

Travel to Baltimore, Maryland

Last month pastor Wim received an invitation of a befriended pastor in the United States of America to come and do Bible-studies and to speak in a number of churches in Baltimore, Maryland. God willing, he will fly to Baltimore on August 15 to serve them with the Word. He hopes to return to the Netherlands on August 30.

This is the end of our newsletter report.

We thank you for all your prayers and financial support in the first part of 2022.

It enabled us to perform the planned missions-trip to Ghana and support and encourage the churches there.

Together we are building God's Kingdom!

United with you in Christ,



Pastors Wim and Sonja Odendaal

Servants of the Lord, our God.

Superintendent and founder
Houses of Hope Ministries International.
Suriname, Baltimore, USA & Ghana.

Help us to help!!!

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