

## A Time to Celebrate!

A very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all of you from the Doggett family! We truly pray that you will find (or, if necessary, “carve out”) time to retreat from the noise and the normal busyness of life, to reflect on God’s incredible gift. *Justice* has become almost a constant demand in society today and yet when we examine the facts (which quickly come to my mind when I stop, and take time to reflect on my own life), our “demand” quickly turns to a plea for *Mercy*! Only in the gift of Jesus, do we see God’s plan for how these two, normally opposing values, work together in perfect harmony. John 1:14 reminds us that Jesus entered our world full of both *Grace* and *Truth*! In fact it has often been said that *Mercy* and *Justice* meet at the cross. How important it is for we, who are “His Disciples”, to balance these same core values as we answer His call to join Him as He transforms lives around the world.

We want you to know that ACM International is in a particularly festive mood this season! Though God is most certainly at work all of the time, His hand of blessing upon our ACMI family has been particularly evident this year. Almost exactly a year ago I was writing to tell you about six brand new adult members that had recently heard God’s call to long-term overseas missions. Maybe you’ll remember that we had just spent a couple of weeks in up-state New York at our Sala Springs Farm with these special people and

their families as God led us through their Pre field Orientation. I remember clearly that, while each of them expressed a strong conviction that God had called them to these new ministries, they also acknowledged some fear about the rather daunting task of developing a team of partners—willing to commit to provide for them financially and to uphold them spiritually. This was a task which loomed ominously in their future. After all, our country is experiencing a recession! What a joy it has been to see God work in each of these lives and in those that He has specifically chosen to fulfill this vital need. And what a vivid demonstration of His *Truth* (found in His promises to provide for us, promises that are activated in our own lives by faith) and His *Grace* (evident, almost daily, in His willingness to grow the tiny little seeds planted this year, into such beautiful fruit!) What a ride this has been!

As of October 20th, when Alicia Crabtree boarded her plane, bound for Thailand, we are able to report that all six have developed those crucial partnership teams, have completed all the preparation steps we required of them and have officially “launched” out into their new ministries. Though we certainly understand that the spiritual battle has only just begun, we also have every intention of following the scriptural principle of celebration, as we acknowledge God’s hand at work! And... How about yet another reason to celebrate?! Within days of Alicia’s departure, we received an application from two new potential candidates for ACMI membership! Please rejoice with us!

## A Short Trip to Ghana

In just a few days, Cheryl and I will depart St. Louis for Accra, Ghana in West Africa. Our purpose is to walk beside Jared and Anna Odle, ACMI Missionaries, as they survey several prospective ministry sites and visit face to face with contacts that, so far, we have only corresponded with long-distance. The trip is planned to last just over two weeks, and each day has its own rather ambitious goals. We’ll plan to return home mid December.



For the past four months, we (especially Jared and Tim) have talked and prayed over a unique strategy designed to encourage the African Church as it engages parts of society (including but not limited to the business sector), that are sometimes overlooked; parts in need of the transformation that can only come through disciples that are passionately following our King, Jesus Christ. Ultimately we would pray that this vision would be realized in every field that God has called us to. As this process has unfolded, God seems to be continuing to open doors of opportunity

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(both through past relationships as well as some brand new contacts) in Ghana. Another indication that God seems to be issuing this new calling is that we are seeing strong signs that He just might be raising up a whole new ACMI team. In fact, as mentioned previously, we are in the beginning stages of the application process with a new family. (More to follow on this!)

Please pray with us that God would use this trip, and the follow up planning and discussion that will continue for the foreseeable future, to guide the Odle family, this new team, and ACM International toward His purposes.

### Ghana Trip Itinerary

- Friday– Dec 2** Arrive visit Beach Property
- Saturday— Dec 3** Estuary Boat to Agorta, See Rice Processing
- Sunday– Dec 4** Church, Jatropa, Fruit processing
- Monday– Dec 5** VLTC, G & G Ghana Christian College and Bead Factory
- Tuesday– Dec 6** Drive to Techiman then visit
- Wednesday– Dec 7** See Permaculture, drive to Buipe/ Tamale w/Ruffs
- Thursday– Dec 8** Meet with Ruffs, Kings through Friday
- Saturday– Dec 10** Drive to Kumasi
- Sunday– Dec 11** Worship at Garden City Church
- Monday– Dec 12** Gonwers/ MRG BOD
- Tuesday– Dec 13** Rest, Contingencies, prepare for return

### Holiday Plans

We are so excited that Luke and Erika have been able to arrange their schedules to join us here in St Louis on Christmas Eve. There will be a few empty stockings this year, with the Neufelds overseas. We will miss them so very much. Eva, Erik’s Mom, however, will be joining them for the holidays!

#### Pray for Cheryl’s Trip!

We are in the process of making final plans for Cheryl to visit Alicia Crabtree in Thailand and our kids in February of this year. We are also hoping to make a field visit to Kenya soon!

### Electronic Mailings

Our electronic mailing list continues to grow. This certainly is a more timely way to get our news.

IF you would like to be on our electronic mailing list or even on both, **please send us a quick note, from your current e-mail address to our personal e mail: [tcdoggett@acminternational.com](mailto:tcdoggett@acminternational.com)**

### Praise God For:

- \* Healing for June Crowl who is back to work in Kenya—an amazing recovery.
- \* God’s provision for all our new members!
- \* The opportunities that are opening up in Ghana for the Odle family.
- \* The chance to be with Luke and Erika Doggett for the holidays!!

### Please Pray For:

- \* The Ghana trip and the follow up plans and discussions.
- \* Our ACMI potential candidates. May God speak very clearly through the application/ orientation process.
- \* Our new missionaries and the teams they are a becoming part of as they adjust to their new roles.
- \* That God’s plan for Cheryl’s trip in February will become clear.
- \* Our leadership team as we continue down the road of examining our governance structure.
- \* Focus on His priorities

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