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## UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

# REACHING THE UNREACHED IN GHANA

In September 2019, PPC partnered with Center Point Christian Church, International Needs USA, and International Needs Ghana (INGH) began “The Gospel, My Life, My All” project, a focused attempt to bring the gospel to two unreached people groups (UPGs) in Ghana: the Chala and Kotokoli. The project included hiring two Chala missionaries, Samuel Awiagah and Peter Adisi. Patterson Park committed to providing 75% of their financial support, a total of \$1800 per month for five years.

From June through September 2019, the project was gradually introduced to the church. In late July and August, we conducted a school supply drive, collecting over 300 lbs. of supplies which were eventually provided to four Oti-region schools in November. Two major events officially kicked off the project in September. The first was a prayer dinner to introduce the requirements of this endeavor, which was attended by over 70 leaders. The second was a Sunday Service in which INGH Executive Director Cromwell Awadey spoke, a fund-raising dinner was held, and almost \$10,000 was raised to support the project.



In November, two PPC members, Patti Turner and Brenda Eakins, participated in a medical mission trip to the Oti region, the location of the two UPGs. Cromwell later stated that this trip “opened up the communities to us”. As people came through the clinic, Chala people self-identified and their contact information was collected. This information was then passed to Peter and Samuel. They have since used this contact information to meet Chala people in the various Oti communities. The medical trip had an even greater effect within the Muslim Kotokoli community of Kue. The leaders were so impressed with the free medical care that they gave Peter and Samuel permission to start Bible clubs in the schools and visit the people in the village.



Literacy classes were started in two villages in January and continued through March. The classes included telling Bible stories as a means of introducing the students to the language and the gospel. They were attended very well by the children, but many of the adults were unable to continue the classes once the farming season came into full swing. The classes were suspended in March as a result of the pandemic quarantine. INGH leaders are currently re-thinking how to re-start in such a way to include the adults. They averaged 42 people per class in Old Agou and 62 per class in Keri and had a total of 107 different children between the ages of 5-15 attend.

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In addition to literacy classes, child evangelism classes have also started in two villages twice each week. Samuel and Peter tell Bible stories, teach children to memorize Scripture and encourage them to bring friends. Doesn't this sound like AWANA? Well, INGH is working with AWANA Clubs International to bring child evangelism training to four Oti villages: three which include Chala people and the Kotokoli village of Kue. Samuel and Peter have secured facilitators and teachers from local churches. An AWANA team was planning to go to the Oti region to train all the facilitators the week that the quarantine started, so the training as well as the Bible club were put on hold. However, on June 12th, INGH staff returned to the Oti region to assist with training of local church leaders.

Samuel and Peter are hosting a weekly radio program in the Chala language on Beyond FM, a station in Nkwanta. This has been well received. The gospel is presented and social matters are discussed. The radio program has actually benefited from the pandemic, as they are able to provide much needed COVID-19 information in the Chala language.



COVID-19 has indeed reached Ghana. As of June 13th, they had over 10,000 cases, but only 47 in the Oti region. Much like our country, the government had shut down many activities and gatherings, so Samuel and Peter's work has been mostly limited to home visits, planning, and the radio ministry.

Patterson Park Church continues to provide the \$1800 per month to support Samuel and Peter. Thus far this fiscal year, we have given \$26,068 to support ministries including motor vehicle purchase and maintenance, training of missionaries, medical expenses, radio ministry and initial ministry investigation including Bible translation, audio Bibles, AWANA training, and other related expenses.

May we continue to pray that the Kingdom of God reach the Chala and Kotokoli people.

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