

Palm Ministries

Winter 2020



Changing Lives and Changing Oil

Soon after we came to Ghana, a young man started coming to the shop after school to sweep floors and help out where he could. Ken told him that he is looking for students. Several days later, the young man's older brother Joseph came to the shop.

Joseph was going to school to learn a trade. He wanted to learn mechanics; but because the class was full, he was learning plumbing. When he found out more about New Hope, he dropped out of his other classes and came there. Instead of spending three years learning a trade that he was not interested in, Joseph spent eight months getting a basic knowledge of mechanics. He drove taxi evenings and weekends to pay his way through school.

Joseph, very interested in mechanics and naturally talented with fixing things, says if he had not come to New Hope, he would have still ended up being a mechanic because it is his gift. New Hope got him there faster and cheaper. Joseph now works for a local mechanic. He will go far in the industry with the experience that he is gaining there.

The way that Joseph found the school is very typical. Ken does his best to spread the word by telling people what he is doing. Then, most students hear about New Hope by word of mouth and contact him.

A few of them use the school as a starting point for higher education as one student Emmanuel did. He wants to go to school again for mechanical engineering. Most of the students immediately pursue a job in mechanic shops.

All come at different skill levels and with different levels of commitment and interest. Many of them have other people paying for their schooling, but a few work their way through. Interestingly, those who work their way through are the ones that thrive and grow the most.

Mission Statement

- To provide the Word of Truth to the poverty-stricken souls in Africa, while teaching them to provide for themselves
- To send men and women over to these villages to spread the Word of God and to evangelize by exemplifying the Word in normal life
- To plant churches to provide Christian teaching to the natives and to provide accountability for their walk in Christ



Here are a few comments from the other students: “I learned it is not the amount of time you spend in a school. It is the quality of the teaching that makes the difference.” “I didn’t expect the Bible studies, but they are good.” “This school has shaped my future.” A young man came to the school and told Ken, “It is all about making money, whatever I need to do to make money.” At the end of the term, he said, “It is all about adding value. If you can’t add value to the business, you can’t get paid.”

Ken’s favorite part of teaching and administering the school is watching the students grow not only in mechanics but also in character.



The questions in Bible study are deeper and more searching as the time goes by. Attitudes change. God works in their lives.

Ken has said from the start of his time at New Hope, “I can’t do this on my own, so it is God’s school.” In the two years that I have watched the school grow, clearly I see that only through God is this school successful. This school is truly God’s school.



About the Author

Ken and Marissa Zeiset and their family have served in Ghana since January 2019. Ken is the administrator at the vo-tech school, New Hope, in Abbina.



Staff Update

As this newsletter is being printed, Burnell and Lisa Martin and their family are packing their bags to attempt the trip to Africa again. They are scheduled to leave around the middle of December, Lord willing, to manage the palm press. Lavern and Sheri Martin are also scheduled to go along to assist with the daily duties in the village of Asomdwee. Pray that the borders stay open and that these two families stay safe as they settle in the village.

Your Gifts Matter!



Thank you for your prayers and financial support this past year! Please consider Palm Ministries in your end-of-year giving. (See the back page for more information)

Palm Ministries
595 Stracks Dam Road
Myerstown, PA 17067

Board Members Barry Burkholder. Roger Burkholder. Leonard Martin. Charles Musselman.
Jay Weaver. Curtis Zimmerman. Paul Zimmerman. Glen Zimmerman.

Financial Statement
Winter 2020

General Donations \$58,591
Support Donations \$24,990
Offerings \$22,804
Total Income \$106,385

Support \$15,960
Operations \$21,756
Travel \$20,325
Equipment \$6,217
Total Expenses \$64,258
Balance \$42,127

If you wish to anonymously support the work of Palm Ministries, the Charitable Gift Fund Program at Anabaptist Foundation administers gifts of cash, stock, and real estate. For more information, contact Anabaptist Foundation (800-653-9817 ext. 209). If you wish to donate directly to Palm Ministries, please send a check in an enclosed envelope to :

Palm Ministries
595 Stracks Dam Road
Myerstown, PA 17067



If you wish to be added to the mailing list or have any questions, please call:
(717) 933-4577 or (717) 866-2615

Advisors Barry Zeiset. Bernell Burkholder. Leon Zimmerman. Carl Swartzentruber.