

**Choose this day whom you will serve....  
but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters

Greeting from a Sandema that becomes greener by the day. The rains are becoming more frequent and the temperatures have dropped a few degrees. Our neighbours have been busy ploughing. Many are sowing, and green shoots of rice, millet and maize are beginning to push through the rain softened earth. Soon the animals will no longer be free to roam but will be tethered so as not to destroy the crops.

I had not realised how long it has been since I last wrote a Pam's Pages. Saviour and Humphrey had just been to hold the initial 1for 50/Malachi club training and I had just bought a Nissan Hardbody truck. Since then, the ongoing development of the family and children's work, and a truck that developed a life of its own, have been the two major themes in my life.



*Fr. Wisdom blessing the children—Palm Sunday*

On Palm Sunday, Yvonne and I worshipped with Father Wisdom Ayaah Asuuga and Sandema's Anglican congregation at their new 'church' at Baliansa. It is still under construction, as are most of the surrounding properties, but it has a roof and the uncompleted walls let the breeze circulate freely, making it a cool Covid-free zone. It was lovely join to with the congregation of 40 adults and 20 children, singing praises and waving palm branches as we followed the cross in a walk of witness. Yvonne and I were both given a time during the service to share the vision of Malachi Clubs, in my case, and Work as Worship in hers. The children had their own group time during the sermon but came back for a special individual blessing at the close of the service. It was a special day.

One evening later that week Ps Nicholas and I showed the 'Jesus film' outside his church at Bilinsa to an audience of over 100, mainly children. It was received with great excitement. This was followed two nights later by the first part of Global Recording's Networks, 'Look, Listen and Live,' Book 1 accompanied by a soundtrack in Buli. Afterwards there was singing and a very competitive Bible quiz between the boys and the girls.

Later in the month we piloted two days of storytelling training with adults. The results were rather mixed and unfortunately, we have not been able to return to complete the training yet.

At the end of April, Sandema Local Council of Churches arranged a week-long training with Child Evangelism Fellowship. Many things interfered with the CEF team's preparation, and on the Sunday only 12 people out of the 40+ expected had registered. An urgent prayer request went out to my SIM colleagues. By Monday morning there were 54 delegates and the team had run out of resource books! The course was excellent, and the participants learned many new practical children's ministry skills which I saw being put into practice when I visited churches and spoke to children's ministry leaders afterwards. As with the Malachi course, it seems many churches were eagerly waiting for help with their children's work.

However, I also know some pastors and congregations have not yet understood that children can come to Christ and be part of God's kingdom from a young age and that they have as much need for good, age-appropriate teaching and discipleship as adult members. Please give thanks for those who, 'have got it', and pray for a new understanding of the place of children in the church for those who have not yet got there.

There have been encouraging visits to various churches around Sandema and district. Some very new and still small, others larger and becoming more established.



*The first Malachi Club in Siniensi*

One Thursday afternoon, I was invited to a very small Baptist church at Siniensi, about 10km from Sandema. We travelled through an almost empty landscape dotted with trees, and then up a small track. About 50 children from 4 to 14 gathered outside Harvest Baptist Church to sing, dance, praise God, and pray. They learned a memory verse, and hear that 'The Lord our is Redeemer', through His wonderful provision for Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. And thus, the Kingdom of God grows!

And the tuck? After a couple of months of relatively incident free driving, it came to a halt with a grind of gears as Ps. Nicholas and I drove to Bilinsa for a story telling training. An acquaintance of his 'happened' to be passing, stopped and arranged for the truck to be transported to the mechanics. Yvonne and Ps Stephen were behind us and dropped us at the church. On their way back they stopped in the next town and picked up the new part for the clutch and the mechanics fitted it. By 7pm the battery had been fully charged again and the truck was back on the road.

After the CEF training I drove the team leader to catch his bus and went on to visit a church in Chuchuliga. Just after I started on the very rough road back to Sandema, I heard a metallic scraping noise under the truck and I thought my exhaust had fallen off, but no, it was a large metal plate which protects the extra large fuel tank. I drove on slowly. Further on a young man at a roadside stall stopped me and got under the car and wired the plate up so I could reach home safely.

The next day, between Ps Nicholas and the welders at the end of our road, the bits of broken plate and the leaking fuel tank were repaired. All was well except the truck did not start the next morning. After several attempts I looked under the bonnet to be met with lots of flames. Fortunately the fire extinguisher quickly put them out. The mechanics came and repaired the starter motor and recharged the battery. At this point I decided it needed a new and larger battery and a proper check-up.

Since the new battery, alternator and starter were fitted and it had a full service in Bolga, it has been running well. I do thank God for the helpful and skilled people He sent to help me just when I needed them. The resourcefulness of Ghanaian people to fix things when they break never ceases to amaze me. Love and Prayers, Pam

## **PRAISE GOD FOR -**

The Malachi Clubs which have already started. The CEF team and all they achieved.

Sending His 'angels' to help with the truck, just at the right time.

The people who pray and support me and the work here. That support is very important!

## **PRAY FOR**

More churches to start Malachi Clubs.

More ways to offer training for club leaders, pastors & parents-virtually or face to face.

Safety as we travel on the roads.

**N.B** .Please let Karen Skillen or I know if you no longer wish to receive PAM'S PAGES.

My Sandema P.O. is working, Thank you to everyone who has written to me there.

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