

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Mark 10:14

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters,

The weeks since I wrote my last letter have been very full, with much to praise and thank God for.

Since returning to Sandema in July, I have been working with one of the local Good News Bible Church pastors, Ps. Nicholas, Asang-Bisa, to contact and encourage other church leaders to consider using the Global Children's Network Malachi Club model to develop their church's children's work.



GCN-Ghana trainers and delegates 6th February

What makes GCN's Malachi Clubs different from traditional children's work, is their emphasis on contact with the home and family and the role of the Pastor: The Pastor Parent Partnership. Pastors encourage parents to disciple their children at home during the week through Malachi Family Clubs, building on what the children have learned in their weekly Malachi Kid's Clubs. Family Clubs can happen in the home at any time when the children are not at church, Sunday school or Malachi Kid's Club. The Pastor trains parents to make the most of teachable moments with their children, suggesting ways to strengthen family relationships, learn about God, and serve Him together as a family.

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Through Pastor Nicholas' contacts with the Local Council of Churches and GNBC District Council we were able to meet with pastors and explain the Malachi concept.

This is a very relational culture, so Ps Nicholas' presence gave me the right introductions to church leaders. Their interest led to us arranging a day training course for Pastors and potential Malachi Club Directors on Saturday 6th February.

The trainers were Saviour and Humphrey Hooper, who together, lead 1for50 and Global Children's Network in Ghana. This was their first training in Upper East Region, so we were so thankful to have forty-one delegates from nineteen churches, representing ten denominations.



Humphry explaining that parents can influence their children for up to 166 hour/week at home, while they are only at church, SS or club, for 2hours/week

The feedback from the event has been very encouraging, and we have already heard of churches meeting to see how these ideas can be incorporated into their programmes. We are praying that many Malachi clubs will start soon in Sandema.

Our Christmas shopping trip to Bolga was not the happy carefree event we planned. I stepped into one of the deep ditches beside the road, but miraculously the ditch was clean and dry, and no bones were broken. However, a large skin flap was opened on my shin. The leg was quickly bandaged, and a pharmacist guided us to the regional hospital. The theatre staff were incredibly thorough at cleaning and stitching the wound. They then passed me on to Sandema hospital where it was dressed every other day for six and a half weeks. Now it is completely healed, and even the scar is fading.

I am so grateful to God for giving us bodies that heal themselves and hospital staff who were kind and efficient and used to stitching wounds. Also, for Yvonne, who drove me wherever I needed to go.

Christmas was quiet for us. We went to Town Church on Christmas Eve, and came home after midnight. However later in the week we had a celebratory dinner, Ghana style, to honour our neighbours and those who help us live here safely during the year. Ps Nicholas' wife, Vivian organised the menu of guinea fowl in groundnut (peanut) soup with rice-balls. Yum.....



Ps Nicholas' boys, Glory, Ivan, and Everett, at Tonga Dam

Another special occasion in January was my 70th birthday. I came home from the hospital to find Ps. Nicholas and his three young sons had decorated the whole house with purple and gold ribbons. A virtual birthday party with friends in Scotland followed, and then a trip to the beautiful Tonga Dam (lake) in the afternoon. The day ended with another Ghanaian meal with friends from the community and church, under the giant mahogany tree in our compound.

Another milestone was reached on Tuesday 9th February, when I took delivery of my, 'new to me', Nissan Hardbody truck. I had an enjoyable and trouble-free drive back to Sandema. It has had two journeys to Kori on unmade roads, including one moto (motorbike) track and behaved perfectly. I think I will enjoy driving it!!

With love and Prayers, Pam



PRAISE GOD FOR -

Complete healing of my leg.

Good relationships with our neighbours.

A wonderful birthday surprise.

Great response to Malachi Clubs training.

My 'new to me' truck.

PRAY FOR

Churches to consider and work towards Malachi Clubs.

Knowing the next steps for Children's work in Upper East Region.

Safety as we travel.

My New Postal Address

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