

*"...he is worthy, for he loves our people and has built churches for us." Luke 7:4-5*

As Cecil and Julie completed their final mission to Africa in February, 2011, Prelate Sunday Ola, leader of the Methodist Church Nigeria (MCN), honored them in a service of appreciation. Since 1985, when Cecil first joined hands with the MCN, more than 300 churches have been planted in Ghana and Nigeria. Many of the archbishops and bishops gave words and gifts of appreciation and one said, "Cecil has shown us that we can start churches in the predominantly Muslim North."

This year alone, more than 5000 people came to Christ in Ghana and Nigeria, and 21 new churches were established. Cecil and Julie both remarked that so many are worthy of the appreciation and adulation that was given to them by the church leaders in those countries. Among the partners in ministry who are to be thanked are Archbishop Joseph Ajayi, with whom the work in Nigeria was begun; our current leaders in Nigeria, Sir J.K. Udeze and Dr. Mike Oye; our leader in Ghana, Mr. Joseph Otsin; the dozens of team members from the U.S. who have joined missions through the years; and the thousands of supporters from the U.S. who have given and prayed so that each of these precious souls could come to know Christ and have a church home in which to be nurtured.



Their final mission to Africa as leaders of CWM was a powerful one. Their first few days were spent reviewing the churches that were planted in 2010 in the Oda Diocese of Ghana, most of which had at least doubled, if not tripled, in size. One of the churches had even started a daughter church in a nearby village.

Repeatedly on this mission, God showed Americans and Africans how dependent we are on one another. Over the last few years, as the U.S. teams have gotten smaller, more Africans have joined the ranks of preachers to conduct the crusades. Sometimes, though, it seems that a white American is the messenger the people want to hear, and Julie was frequently asked to sing. Her high, "Voice of America" was a big hit among the Africans. On several occasions, she also preached, and many came to know the Lord as a result. Julie commented that it was the anointed partnership in ministry with Evangelist George Gaskin (a Ghanaian) that resulted in such fruit.

Stella Otsin, wife of Joseph, is a power-house of prayer. Stella was ordained in 2010 and now serves fulltime with Joseph, preaching, coordinating visiting mission teams, and helping to administer the many duties of an active ministry in evangelism and church-planting.



Joseph acknowledges that Stella's ministry has multiplied his, many times over.

At most locations, Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ," is shown, with a preacher preparing the crowd. Julie did this several times, sketching Bible history and prophecy, showing how prophecies foretold of Jesus long before He came; that He was God's way of salvation; that Jesus was predicted to be King, and the Lamb of God; that as the Lamb, He suffered to pay for our sins. She concluded by asking them to "watch and remember that He was suffering for your sin and mine."



Each time the film was shown, more than 75% of the crowd came forward to accept Christ. The following night, Julie would share the rest of the story – how Jesus arose, was seen by many, returned to Heaven, sits on the throne of God, sent us His Spirit, serves as our High Priest, and lives to pray for us. One night, monsoonal rains began just as the crusade was to start and the program had to be cancelled, but once again, Americans

learned just how dependent upon Africans we are. After an hour of rain, the local circuit pastor came to send the Americans home to their hotel and tell them that they would resume the program the following morning, complete the follow-up, and hold evening revival services. Cecil and Julie remarked, "How blessed to be a part of a church team where others could complete the work we had begun. We could return home knowing the work would be on-going."



The next week, the mission team was off to Nigeria, where their first crusade was held in a village that was reached by driving through a forest. More than 800 showed up to hear the Gospel and around 600 of them responded to the altar call to repent. At least half of these took a stand that they wanted to be part of the new church to be built, and almost the entire crowd came for healing prayer. This is what Christian World Missions is all about!



As Cecil and Julie begin a new phase of their lives, they do so full of gratitude for the many partners they have worked with around the world. Truly, the Kingdom of God has advanced and many will be at the Throne of God because of the faithfulness of these two servants and those who have joined hands with them over the last 60 years of ministry. "They loved us and they planted churches among us."