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## Three Emmanuels

It is Christmas time again which means it is time to focus again on Emmanuel. (I guess it should come as no surprise that a newsletter entitled *Here I Am!* should focus on this concept at this time of year.) Recently I had an opportunity to speak at our sending church in Wisconsin and I shared with them concerning three Emmanuels. Let me summarize it for you.

The first Emmanuel was a little boy we met in Ghana. He came into the care of Beacon House Orphanage as a severely malnourished desperately ill little boy. And he served as a reminder to Debbie and me of a very important ministry need, a reminder that has helped shape the ministry we hope to return to Ghana to establish (see our update on page 4).

You see, no one wanted Emmanuel. The hospitals refused to admit him because he was terminally ill and another death would upset their morbidity statistics. His family wasn't caring for him because of the stigma attached to his illness. But someone needed to love this little boy as long as his life on earth would last. That is where Beacon House entered the picture (and where Debbie and I hope to upon our return). Emmanuel, "God with Us", is now with God. But the workers at Beacon House ensured that Emmanuel died

being held and loved, not stuck in a crib in a corner with no one to care for him.

This brings us to our second "Emmanuel". Jesus told his disciples "as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matt. 10:40). In other words, when we encounter people in need, we find ourselves in a position of ministering mercy to Jesus himself.

Now I am no pantheist, but I believe that in a sense Jesus is saying I am among you (Emmanuel) when you come into contact with those in need like the little boy Emmanuel. One reason God has allowed poverty to continue to exist is that it gives us an opportunity to minister to him as we minister to those in need. Think of it. This means that any time we are involved in ministering mercy in Jesus' name, we are ministering mercy to God himself. What a tremendous opportunity for worship.

That is just what Jesus did while he was on earth. How often do we see examples in the Gospels of Jesus ministering to the physical needs of people as a prelude to meeting their spiritual needs. When Jesus took on a body and walked among us as Emmanuel, his ministry was one of extending mercy to those in need.

This brings us to our third

Emmanuel. Jesus' physical body is no longer among us. But that does not mean he no longer intends to be Emmanuel on earth. 1 Corinthians 12:27 reminds us that just like his incarnation once gave him a body to minister through, *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.* You and I have an opportunity to serve the same function Jesus' hands and feet served over 2,000 years ago. We can now be the conduits through which God's mercy flows to those in need just like Jesus' hands touched the lepers, restored sight to the blind and raised the dead. It is not true that Jesus is no longer physically among us. He is simply among us in a different form and you are part of that new form.

This Christmas season, I ask you to consider how God might want to be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Emmanuel through you. Would you spend some time alone with him asking how he might want to use your body in a world in which poverty and the accompanying maladies continue to exist. Would you take some time to ask him what he would like to use your body to accomplish? And please, if we can be of any help to you in this, would you contact us so we can discuss how we might work together to be Emmanuel to other little Emmanuels?

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# What We Came Home To!



A house full of food and Warm Clothes thanks to Rhonda Hunter, Janet Richer and a loving KMCC family!



All of Our Children to help celebrate Tommy's 14th Birthday—they really are in there!



A beautiful snow storm that made us stay inside and provided plenty of exercise the following morning.



Christmas as we remember it and have missed for the past two years!

## Dinah's Doings

We are thankful to God for his protection, love and mercies to our family up to this time. We are all doing well, and the same is true of the church, Frafraha Baptist (formerly Greater Grace). The children are writing their exams and school is about to go on a month-long holiday for Christmas.

In the last newsletter I shared with you concerning the little girl, Vincentia, who is undergoing surgery for hydrocephalous. We continue to praise God that someone has provided the resources for her medical treatment. However, we continue to ask the Lord to remove the delays that have

prevented her from actually having the surgery.

The initial date set for her surgery was the 5th of November, but when we went to the hospital there was no bed for her so they could not admit her. Of course this meant the surgery had to be delayed. We have tried to gain admittance four additional times but have met with the same difficulties. So please pray with us that God himself will continue to provide all that this little girl needs, including admission to the hospital.

Also, please pray with me that God will provide for my visa

needs if I am to be able to come and visit those of you who have supported my family and me in the ministry here in Ghana. I am long overdue for my home assignment (furlough) but have been prevented from coming due to the visa restrictions we face through the American Embassy.

Again, thank you for your prayers and support and have a Happy Christmas.

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Dinah Kwao*



### Dinah's Contact Information:

P.O. Box 10182  
Accra North, Accra,  
Ghana

Phone :011 233 243 464 062

E-mail: [dkwao@fim.org](mailto:dkwao@fim.org)

Please Send Support to:

FIM, 555 S. 24th St.  
Allentown, PA 18104-6666



### Pastor Gaisie's Contact Information:

c/o FIM-Ghana  
H. No. 11 Orange Loop  
Christian Center,  
East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Phone :011 233 243 080 171

E-mail: [gaisieky@yahoo.com](mailto:gaisieky@yahoo.com)

Please Send Any Support  
to Address Above

## Kofi's Korner

Church planting continues to be one of the major foci of ministry for FIM-Ghana. We so appreciate the recent addition of Kofi Gaisie to our ministry team. But the addition of Pastor Gaisie to the GIM-Ghana team was a step of faith on both sides. In extending this invitation, FIM-Ghana was trusting that God was going to provide for his needs and those of his family. And Pastor Gaisie's acceptance of the offer required the same kind of faith.

But his step of faith was a more personally costly one. Though FIM-Ghana has agreed with Pastor Gaisie that his initial salary would be 800 Cedis/month (about \$550.00 U.S.), we have no control over what comes in each month to pay his salary. Unfortunately,

only about 50% of what is needed on a monthly basis has been coming in for his support.

We are praying (and we ask you to pray with us) that God would bring to FIM-Ghana, individuals and churches that desire to partner with us in church planting. As a mercy-focused ministry, we desire each church plant to be a center of mercy-based ministry in its community. This helps the planted church worship God as he desires to be worshiped, and helps the church make additional contacts for future church planting.

If you would like to be part of planting churches in Ghana through supporting the Gaisies or in sponsoring a new church

plant, please contact Pastor Gaisie using the information provided under his picture or contact me using the information below. We would love to help you or your church get actively involved in establishing churches that act as centers of mercy in Ghana.

*Sincerely*

*Pastor Brian McIntyre  
For the FIM Ghana Board &  
Pastor Gaisie and His Family*

### U.S. Contact Information

Rev. Brian McIntyre  
953 Meadowview Lane  
Mukwonago, WI 53149

Phone: (262) 347-7172

E-Mail: [bmcintyre@fim.org](mailto:bmcintyre@fim.org)



U.S. Address: 953 Meadowview Lane,  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
U.S. Phone: (262) 347-7172  
U.S. E-mail: WAMM@centurytel.net

Ghana Phone: 011 233 273 178 259  
Ghana E-Mail: <bmcintyre@fim.org> or  
<dkwao@fim.org>

Check us out at  
WAMMInc.org

*Please Send any Support to  
FIM, 555 S. 24th St.  
Allentown, PA 18104-6666  
(Indicate for whom the support is intended)*



## ***We Are Home for Christmas!***

Yes, we are enjoying being home for Christmas. But we are only home for a short period of time. We have been asked over and over again whether we are planning on returning to Ghana, and the answer is “yes”. We have come home for a time of rest and to take any opportunity God brings our way to share with people how they can get personally involved in Mercy-Based Worship through ministry in West Africa.

## ***Here We Are Update on the McIntyre Family***

But our plans are to return to Ghana in June of 2010. This is because we believe God continues to have a heart for orphans. “*Father of the fatherless . . . is God in his holy habitation*” (Psalm 68:5).

Since sub-Saharan Africa remains “home to over 48 million orphans” (UNICEF report Aug., 2006), we believe it continues to be an area of the world for which God has great concern. We continue to long to be a conduit for which he can extend his mercy to children in need.

On returning to Ghana, we hope to develop an Infant Foster Home designed to operate as:

1. **A Receiving Home:** We hope to be a facility that provides a short-term housing option for emergency placements that will provide initial basic care based on assessment of the child’s particular needs.

2. **A Hospice Home:** Ghana has a great need for facilities that will take very ill and terminally ill children into care (see *Three Emmanuels* article on page 1). We desire to provide a home for such infants and toddlers believing that even these children should experience the love of Christ as long as their little lives on earth may last.

3. **A Placement Home:** We hope to provide a facility for children while their case studies are being done and their permanent placement needs are being assessed. We hope to offer a transition option for children needing loving care en route to becoming part of new families or while their existing families are being prepared for the child’s return.

*Only by the Mercies of God:*

*Pastor Brian for the McIntyres*