**TRIP SUMMARY**

**Accra, Ghana – July 2014**

Mike Taylor, Steve Taylor, and Russ Woda spent several days with Eyra Agudu in evaluation of her foundation Even Haazer in Accra, Ghana. It was our privilege to meet and spend time with the following people:

**WHO/WHERE WE VISITED/MET**

1.The president of the Ghana's board of medical/dental examiners. It was here we learned that medical and dental professionals are welcome to come and help Ghanaian health professionals.

2. Ghana School of Public health - The dean, a professor, and the medical director of student/faculty health.

3. Even Haazer's Ghanaian board of directors.

4. A site visit to the proposed Even Haazer medical clinic and future Women's Center.

5. A private meeting with the director of advocacy for the ~ 50,000 "kayayei" who are basically "human shopping carts" in Accra's outdoor markets. It was heartbreaking to visit the congregating points where 1000’s of women and children sleep on the sidewalk using small pieces of plastic for cover. It was unbelievable!

6. Two face-to-face discussions with the leadership team of Opportunity International. OI is a micro lending organization that works with the "active poor" to transform their lives. They have $32,000,000 in micro loans with a very low delinquency rate.  We visited one of their schools where 100 children are being fed and educated 5 days a week for $.65/day. Fascinating. Russ Woda flew to London, England on his way to Ghana to meet with OI’s CEO.

7. A great time with the leaders of "Creative Storm" who are an advocacy organization making Ghanaians aware of the plight of the poor.

8. A trip to the local market where we spent quality time with a spice vendor.

8. Meetings with an evangelical missionary from England as well as a local Ghanaian pastor.

**WHAT DID WE LEARN**

1.Our hostess (Eyra Agudu) is very passionate about caring for her people, especially less fortunate women.

2. She has worked hard and laid a good foundation  -- making moving forward with her dream a real possibility.

3. While there are signs of progress and an optimistic spirit among many, there is great opportunity among the poor here.

4. The government seems open to outside help in collaboration with Ghanaian nationals.

5. English is the national language, making ministry much easier for Americans.

6. The country enjoys political stability, making team ministry a real possibility.

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE**

1. Three Strands is in continued dialog with Even Haazer’s founder Eyra Agudu and her board of directors about her two phased ministry and how we might partner with her. (Phase 1 is a primary care/ pre-natal center and Phase 2 is a Women's Hospital.)

2. We will continue to pray for and champion Even Haazer and their dream to be established in Ghana.

3. The Three Strands Board will be de-briefed in one week and board input will be sought regarding our future involvement.

**HOW WE SAW THE HAND OF GOD WORKING**

1. Steve, Russ, Eyra, and I were all able to free up time in our schedule to all meet in Ghana at the same time. That was no small feat.
2. We were blessed to have a full time vehicle and driver supplied by the University School of a Public Health for minimal cost. Had this not happened, Three Strands would have had substantial transportation costs.
3. A Ghanaian friend of Russ Woda provided our breakfast and housing at no cost to Three Strands. This is a co-worker of Russ who 2 weeks before our departure made this incredible offer.
4. We were able to meet many high level workers in Ghana due to the good foundation and life long relationships Eyra has established.

**Questions or comments?**

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