

FAITHFUL PATH INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES MEDICAL MISSIONARY OUTREACH IN MID-NORTH GHANA CONFERENCE OF SDA, TECHIMAN, GHANA

JANUARY 22-28, 2018



The Medical Team led by Dr. Dona Cooper-Dockery and her husband Dr. Nelson Dockery – founders of Faithful Path International Ministries (on the far right) followed by Pastor Randrick Chance – mission trip coordinator from the Texas Conference of SDA, ready for the first day of service in the Mid North Ghana Conference of SDA.

1. INTRODUCTION

A 24-member team of volunteers primarily from the USA and Mexico (but also Kenya and Cote D'Ivoire) answered the Macedonian call to come to Ghana as part of Pentecost 2018 evangelistic activities to win 150,000 souls in the Western Africa Division of SDA. Most of them (16) attended to the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Techiman and surrounding regions – seeing over three thousand (3,000) patients, and performing 106 cataract surgeries and 360 dental procedures. The total service value was over \$7million USD (if those procedures had been done in the USA). Others conducted campaigns in different conferences and helped to train some 150 lay people. This group of medical missionaries effectively implemented the Trifecta model of Christ's Method of Ministry – teaching, preaching, and healing. As a result, in Techiman alone, 166 souls were converted, 96 baptized, and the remaining 70 are ready to be baptized soon. Collectively with their other team members, working concurrently in different conferences, 301 were baptized and 10 new churches were planted.

2. BACKGROUND

Mid North Ghana Conference of SDA headquarters is located in Techiman, in the Brong-Ahafo Region of Ghana. Brong-Ahafo shares boundaries with the Northern Region to the North, the Ashanti and Western Regions to the South, the Volta Region to the East, the Eastern Region to the south east and La Cote D'Ivoire to the West. The adult population of this region was 2,310,983 as of 2010.¹ When the population was 1.82 million in 2007, Brong-Ahafo Region had

¹ <http://www.npc.gov.gh/images/REGIONALPROFILE/BrongAhafo.pdf>

only 68 medical doctors, one specialist (physician), and two retired surgeons. Currently the population is above 2 million².

There are a lot of deaths in the region and Techiman is not exempted from the given statistics. These deaths include infants mortality, high blood sugar related diseases, hypertension, heart attacks, strokes, malaria, liver diseases, HIV-AIDS, breast and prostate cancers, and many more. This Region has a lot of blind people primarily due to glaucoma and other eye diseases which could have been prevented. Even in the Mid North Ghana Conference of SDA, since January 2015, more than 300 church members have died. This has been in part due to the fact that there are few hospitals or clinics, and Doctors. In some of these places, there are no resourceful hospitals or clinics to meet the core needs of the people. And where there are hospitals and clinics, there's a lack of qualified personnel, equipment, etc. to meet the urgent health needs. These challenges form the basis for inviting Faithful Path International Ministries in the USA to provide humanitarian services through healing to the people of Techiman and beyond.

3. INVITATION TO FAITHFUL PATH INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Pastor Chance visited Mid North Ghana Conference of SDA to plant a church in the year 2017. During his exit meeting with the Conference Administration, the President of the Conference appealed to him that more than 26 people have died in one of his districts within a year due to common sickness that could have been prevented, therefore, he should try to find medical personnel who will be willing to come down to help the people of this area. He extended this invitation to Faithful Path International Ministries and by the grace of God, the invitation was accepted to assist the people of Mid North Ghana Conference and beyond. The medical team of Faithful Path International Ministries consist of professionals (physicians, ophthalmologists, dentists, nurses), from Mexico and the USA.



Nana Oseadeye Akumfi Ameyaw II, the King of Techiman traditional council sending sub-chiefs and his chief linguist (holding the royal staff) to come and welcome the medical team on his behalf.

² <https://www.modernghana.com/sports/124392/1/brong-ahafo-faces-shortage-of-doctors.html>.

4. SPECIAL EVENTS

The medical team led by Dr. Dona and Pastor Chance paid a courtesy call to King of Techiman traditional area, Nana Oseadeye Akumfi Ameyaw II. He is one of the Powerful Kings in the History of Ghana. The king was greatly impressed to host them in his palace. Three days later, the King delegated some of the sub-chiefs to come and welcome the medical team.

Upon arrival, a gift of 100 tubers of yams and 7 curtains of water were donated to the Medical team. After the donation, the King thanked the President of Faithful Path International Ministries for coming down to heal his people. He again requested that this should not be the last visit to heal the people of Techiman, and that Dr. Dona Cooper-Dockery and her team should come again. He also petitioned for help to build a hospital to prevent most of the deaths happening in Techiman and beyond because the death rate in this area is sky-high.



The chief linguist (on the left hand side holding the royal staff) indicating the presence and authority of the King of Techiman. He led sub-chiefs as delegated by the King to thank the Faithful Path International Ministries' team for accepting to come to Techiman to treat the people. He pleaded that they should come again.

During the visit, the king added that, if Dr. Cooper-Dockery will need a parcel of land for the construction of the requested hospital, he will freely donate it. Six days later, the King donated a 40 acre parcel of land for Faithful Path International Ministries and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church to build a hospital. Those present expressed joy to the Lord and also to the King for the Land. Dr. Dona Cooper-Dockery noted that she'll approach donors and institutions to help raise funds to support the building of a standard Teaching Hospital on the Land to prevent those deaths in the area. She added that she saw a patient who was rushed to the emergency but because the facility lacked logistics, the patient who should have recovered died, hence there is a need for a standard hospital. Among others, her main objective to provide this hospital to the people include:

- a. To provide good health care to the people of Techiman and beyond.
- b. To collaborate with medical experts from around the globe to come and work in that hospital to save lives.
- c. To assist the people in their health needs to prolong their life expectancy to 100 years.

5. THE OUTCOME OF THE MEDICAL OUTREACH

People from all over the region and beyond came to receive services.

- a. On daily basis, the average OPD attendance was more than 600 patients. Over 3,000 were actually seen.
- b. Some of the Medical team members worked from 8am to 10pm due to the large volume of the patients to be seen each day.
- c. By God's grace and blessing, not even one cataract surgery performed was failure.
- d. Even on the last day, the 3 ophthalmologists and 5 nurses remained behind because they had to perform an additional 15 surgeries on that day – while the rest of the team ministered at the various preaching locations.
- e. The medications left behind by Faithful Path International Ministries are still in use to treat people freely.
- f. Since the medical team left, there has not been any death from any of the 40 churches in Techiman. Thanks to God.
- g. Now all the people of Techiman and beyond are thanking God for using Faith Path International Ministries to minister to their physical and spiritual needs.
- h. Even Muslims and other religious organizations are asking when Dr. Cooper-Dockery and her team are coming again.
- i. If and when she and her team return, it is most likely that they may see over 1,000 patients a day because the confidence level of the people in them is very high.

	TREATMENT CATEGORIES	OUTCOMES
1	Three Physicians	No complications or treatment failure
2	Three Ophthalmologists	No complications or treatment failure
3	Two Dentists	No complications or treatment failure
4	Seven Nurses	No complications or treatment failure
5	One Pastor	Church Planting

NOTE: There is not a single patient who has reported treatment failure or complications after the treatment.

	SURGICAL CATEGORIES	OUTCOMES
1	106 cataract removal surgeries	No complications or treatment failure
2	360 dental procedures	No complications or treatment failure

NOTE: There is not a single patient who has reported any complication after the eyes and the dental surgeries.



Dr. Castillo from Mexico, an ophthalmologist is in front of the microscope performing cataract surgery.

FINDINGS/OUTCOME OF THE MEDICAL TEAM

Medical Missionary work is one of the greatest tool to point people to Jesus – irrespective of education, religion, nationality, culture, race, tongue, or other social status. Dr. Dona Cooper-Dockery and her team gave free treatment without charging a dollar. This has opened the window for Mid North Ghana Conference of SDA to reach a lot of people with the word of God. During the screening, it was observed that:

1. Life expectancy of the people of Ghana is 64 years.
2. Most of the patients who came to the doctors were having breast, prostate, colon, and other kinds of cancers. Unfortunately, the patients did not know that they have cancers.
3. There were a lot of diabetics and hypertensive cases.
4. Significant number of patients who came to the dentists were having oral cancers and other mouth diseases.
5. Over 360 dental procedures/surgeries were performed.
6. An amount of 106 cataract removal surgeries were performed. As a result of this these, many patients have regained their vision.
7. Over 70 patients came with damaged eyes due to glaucoma diseases which the doctors could not do anything about.
8. Among the beneficiaries were a lot of Muslims, Pentecostals and some Seventh-Day Adventists Ministers and members.
9. Those with all kinds of eye conditions were 1000.
10. The good works of Faithful Path International Ministries was published in the daily graphic – the best and most trusted selling newspaper in Ghana. The article titled, 3,000

Undergo free health screening in Techiman, can be found online at <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/health/3-000-undergo-free-health-screening-in-techiman.html>.



Health team member, Jessica – a nurse from Mexico, doing post cataract surgery inspection.

FROM CONSULTING ROOM TO PREACHING AT EVANGELISTIC CENTERS

In addition to their rigorous schedule of healing and teaching during the day, the team was also willing to preach the Gospel and plant churches as well. They mounted pulpits in different parts of Techiman (and other conferences in the Country) each night. Some of them were dispatched to give health education to precede the preaching at various evangelistic centers. For example, having left the consulting room at 6pm each evening, Dr. Dona Cooper-Dockery gave health lectures on lifestyle medicine to an average of about 700 people on a nightly basis. These lectures were well received by the people. For this reason, almost everyone who listened to her wanted to be seen by her the next morning at the consulting room.



Several hundreds of people listening to nightly health messages and sermons.

After the health talks, Pastor Randrick Chance also preached the Word of God with power and compassion. These health lectures and the sermons were transmitted by 4 major radio stations in the Brong-Ahafo Region (Asta FM-Techiman, Royal FM-Wenchi, Achea FM-Nkoranza, and Star FM-Atebubu). Over 500,000 people listened to the program daily and opened the hearts of most of the people to accept the Gospel. At the end of the evangelistic campaign from their efforts in Techiman alone, 96 souls were baptized. Seventy (70) other precious souls are to be baptized soon to be added to the number. Six (6) churches were planted out of this (besides the four others planted by fellow team mates in other conferences). An additional one is to start within this month as a result of the medical evangelism. There are a lot of Seventh-day Adventists who reside in the areas where the churches were planted. Majority of these Adventists have transferred their membership to join the new churches. Some of the names of the new churches are *Mission Hope SDA Church*, *Blessed Hope SDA Church*, and *Living Waters SDA Church*.



Ps. Ebenezer Odame Kumi (Executive Secretary) of Mid North Ghana Conference of SDA baptizing the converts from Asantanso-Techiman – a campaign conducted by Ps. Dr. Vincent Roger Same (West Central Africa Division of SDA – Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director). One of the medical team members (Donald Halder – Nurse from USA), gave the health talks in the evenings just before Pastor Same preached the sermon.

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3,000 Undergo free health screening in Techiman

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Some of the beneficiaries going through the screening

More than 3,000 people in the Techiman Municipality and its surrounding communities in the Brong Ahafo Region have benefited from a five-day free health screening and treatment exercise organised by the Mid-North Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists (SDAs) at the Valley View Adventist (VVA)

MISSION SUMMARY

- 24 Missionary Volunteers (USA, Mexico, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire)
- 3,000 Patients Seen (Dental, Vision, General, Lectures, Screenings)
- 106 Cataract Surgeries
- 150 Laymen Trained
- 301 Baptized
- 360 Dental Procedures
- 10 New Churches Planted
- 2 Students Sponsored
- 1 Child Sponsored
- 10,000 Directly Impacted
- ½ Million Indirectly Impacted Thru Radio (4 stations) and TV Interview

CONCLUSION

Combining the Medical ministry and Evangelism together have a greater impact than preaching the Word of God alone. It is a reminder of the proven model given to Ellen G. White that *Christ's Method Alone* indeed gives true success in reaching the people. His Trifecta approach – teaching, preaching, and healing, when blended harmoniously, will judiciously win the hearts and confidence of many. Therefore, it must be encouraged and promoted.

That's what this mission of love and mercy to Techiman exemplified. A lot of people received Christ through the activities of Faithful Path International Ministries because they taught daily, met physical needs through health and healing, and shared the Gospel of the Kingdom with words and action. Collectively with their other team members, working concurrently in different conferences, a total of 301 were baptized and 10 new churches planted.

No doubt, the ripple effect will tell for now and into eternity. All we can say is, "Thank you God for the privilege of co-laboring with You in ministering to Your children – our own brothers and sisters." And, "*Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.*" (Psalm 115:1)

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