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Dear Family, Supporters, and Friends:

When we were first raising support to come to Ghana, The Mission Society recommended a five-year first term: one in language learning, three in ministry, and a final year on furlough, speaking in churches and raising support for the next term. As we approach the summer of 2010, we reach the time when, under this plan, we would be preparing to come back to the US for a year of deputation and discernment about where and how God would have us serve next.

However, as we have been on the field and in ministry for the past three years, and especially over this last year, it has become increasingly clear to us that God has a different plan for our first term as missionaries. We have spent much time in prayer this past year, seeking God's plan for our lives, and at this time, we believe he is calling us to add an additional two years to our first term here in Ghana. This means we would be here in Ghana through June 2012 before returning to Atlanta for a year of furlough and itineration, while we determine what the next phase of our ministry would look like.

The reasons that underlie this change are several:

- The water ministry of the Methodist Church Ghana is not yet fully established. There have been numerous challenges associated the church having its own drill crew. At the same time, there is a large backlog of projects that have been funded and need to be completed. The additional time will be spent in shoring up the local drill crew, completing projects, and planning MCG's future water ministry.
- Pure Home Water, the charitable organization that Mary Kay manages in Tamale, is at a critical time in its history. PHW is currently in the midst of building a factory to manufacture its own ceramic filters, with construction scheduled to complete in June and production to start in July. July will also see the start of testing for a new type of ceramic pot filter that holds great potential to improve the existing product. At the same time, the founder of PHW is unable to spend time in Ghana for family reasons. Therefore, Mary Kay is needed to continue to oversee the activities of PHW, to hire a factory manager and other key personnel, and to shepherd the organization through this time.
- Methodist Development and Relief Services, the development arm of the Methodist Church Ghana, where Mary Kay focuses most of her efforts, will be going through a major transition during 2011. The current and founding Director of this four year old organization has been elected a Bishop of the Methodist Church Ghana effective October 2011. Mary Kay will help the new Director set the focus of MDRS going forward.
- Academia has traditionally structured itself around a seven year cycle, with the seventh year as a sabbatical year. Thus, the switch from a five year term to a seven year term is in keeping with current practice at Methodist University College Ghana, and Charlie's leave would be viewed as normal, rather than a special privilege.

- Ken is currently completing 10<sup>th</sup> grade. This revised schedule would allow him to graduate with his friends at Lincoln Community School. We feel that an 11<sup>th</sup> grade year at home, followed by a 12<sup>th</sup> grade year back in Ghana or somewhere else, would be too disruptive and challenging for Ken, especially when combined with his current IB curriculum and special learning needs. Staying in Ghana seems to be the best academic choice for Ken at this time.

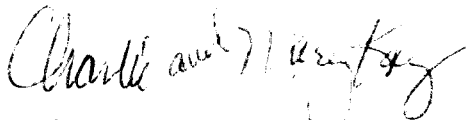
We have discussed our situation with our field leadership, both here in Ghana and with The Mission Society in Atlanta. They are supportive of our decision and agree that it seems to be the direction in which God is leading our family at this time.

But we cannot remain in Ghana without the financial support of you, dear friends. So we are asking you to consider continuing your partnership with us. We will require an estimated \$80,000 per year to be able to stay. This includes our ministry expenses (except boreholes), salaries, living expenses, and Ken's tuition. To extend your partnership, you need do nothing more than continue to send in donations as you have in the past. If you have not supported us in the past, but would like to start, with either a one-time donation or ongoing monthly, quarterly or annual donations, we welcome you to the team! Of course, if circumstances are such that you cannot continue to give, we understand. We trust that since God has called us to this work, He will be faithful to provide for our needs! If you have any questions, or want to discuss this decision with us, you can reach us by e-mail at [marykay.jackson@yahoo.com](mailto:marykay.jackson@yahoo.com), or talk to us this summer while we are in the US.

We will be coming back home this summer for about six weeks, starting July 1. Charlie will stay until late August, while Ken and Mary Kay will return to Ghana in time for the start of school August 18. We look forward to seeing or at least speaking with as many of you as we can while we are home. While we are in the United States, we can be reached on our cell phones at (770) 653-7305 [Charlie] or (404) 631-0634 [Mary Kay].

Thank you for your friendship, love and support of us on this amazing journey. Truly, it has been an incredible experience to know that we are serving God on the path He has laid out for our family! And we could not have made it this far without you!

In Christ,



Charlie and Mary Kay Jackson

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# The Jackson Journey

Serving Christ in Ghana, West Africa

Volume 6, Issue 1

www.jacksons-in-ghana.blogspot.com

June 2010

## Summer 2010

We are coming home for six weeks this summer! The plans have been very last minute in coming together, so we can't give a complete schedule yet. But we will be in New Jersey for the 4th of July, then travel to Atlanta. Mid July will see us in Utah, Houston, and Kansas City for family events, a conference, and to speak at supporting churches.

Then the remainder of our time will be spent in Atlanta. We are also trying to squeeze in a quick trip to Blacksburg to see Chip, but don't know when that will happen!

We will put together a detailed schedule soon, and send it out to everyone on our e-mail list. We would love to see you all, but probably can't squeeze everyone in to six weeks! But if you want to try to arrange something, send us an e-mail at marykay.jackson@yahoo.com, and we will see what we can do.

Please pray for our travels and for all that we need to get done here in Ghana before we leave.

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 1:4-7*

## MK's Musings:

### Procrastination

**I** have a confession to make—I am a terrible procrastinator! Always put off for tomorrow what doesn't have to be done today. But of course, all of you know that—especially since it has been almost a year since our last newsletter!

This has been a challenging year for us. We thought that by the time we had lived in Ghana for four years we would be old hands—our ministries would be running smoothly and we would be effective at life here. Boy were we wrong! And that is part of the reason for the procrastination—it isn't easy to write a letter home to all your friends saying that life is challenging...but it is even worse not to write at all.

This year has seen significant changes in our team. While last summer we had five families plus interns working in Ghana, now we are just two, as the others have

moved on to the next phases of their lives. We miss the Mozleys,



*Our interns, Lee and Anna, hard at work!*

Sims and Russells, but fortunately, Cam, Anne and Caylor Gongwer have moved to Accra, so we still have "family" around. It has been fun to spend more time with them.

We were host family to two interns this year, which was a wonderful experience, and yet a great challenge as well! Lee Ferguson and Anna Saffer each spent a gap year between high school and college in Ghana. While they moved around the country and found their own ministries, we were home base. I loved having a daughter for the first time! And we enjoyed getting to know Lee again as a young adult—we have known him since he was born! But the experience of having interns stretched us in some unexpected ways, too. In the end, we all grew closer to God, and we pray Lee and Anna have made cherished memories here in Ghana and with



*Taking a break from drilling, Anna and Lee taught the children of Yawsae how to play Duck-Duck-Goose!*

The Jacksons' primary sending church is



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Or find me on Facebook -  
Marykay.jackson@yahoo.com

### *Donations*

We are truly grateful for your generous gifts that allow us to remain here in Ghana doing God's work. If you are able, would you prayerfully consider a one-time gift to us, or even becoming one of our monthly supporters? You can mail your financial contributions to The Mission Society at the above address or donate on-line at

www.themissionsociety.org.

Designate gifts as follows:

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*We thank God always  
for your faithful support.*

our family.

The biggest challenge has been with my drill rig. The crew and I went to Yawsae in western Ghana in October to drill a borehole for the Methodist clinic. This project should have taken about a week, but that was not to be. On our first attempt, we sited the borehole and started drilling—no problems the first day, but the second day we returned only to find the drill pipe stuck in the clay of the borehole. A week or so later, we were able to get a crane from the Newmont gold mine nearby to come and pull our pipe out. In December we returned to finish the borehole. Drilling was going well, and we hit water at about 140 feet—quite a celebration! But short-lived as we were beset by seal problems on a motor. Then, in our hurry to pull the pipe, we lost 120 ft of pipe, plus our



*Pulling the stuck drill pipe at Yawsae.*

drill bit down the hole. So now we are waiting on new drill pipe.

We did manage some water projects this spring anyway. We just drilled a borehole at Nyobido using a commercial driller, and are preparing to drill at the Dansoman and Wenchi campuses of Methodist University. We dug a protected hand-dug well for the church in Vieri. And I have done some consulting with the US Em-

bassy for some waterline extensions in the Tamale area.



*Just finished—a new well at the Vieri Methodist Church. The well was later capped with concrete to protect it from contamination.*

**Charlie** continues to enjoy the challenge of teaching. It has been fun for him to supervise Senior projects this year, as this is the group he had as "Freshers" his first year! One exciting development was that last summer we used MUCG students as translators in a survey conducted by Arizona State University in Fawomanye. The students were so moved by the situation they found in Fawomanye that they have organized an evangelism and relief event in the village this July. Charlie and I are excited to see the students catch a vision for missions and evangelism!

We are also leading a Home Care Group for our Ghanaian church now, which has been a great way to get to know other members better as we study Scripture together!



*Testing the flow rate of the new borehole in Nyobido—30 liters per minute!*