August, 2026

Issue 204

www.WestAfricanMercy.org

WEST AFRICAN MERCY MINISTRIES

Here I Am!

Picking Up the Slack

It has been a long time since I have dedicated a newsletter to updating you about Debbie and me. It seems kind of self-serving, but how else can you know how to pray for us unless we keep you informed. So this month's newsletter includes a number of articles explaining how you can keep us in your prayers—something we truly covet.

As you know we are involved in a ministry that supports those in need in Ghana. But lately, our "ministry" seems to have expanded in to supporting the medical community here in Wisconsin. It seems like, ever since we hit 65 and were enrolled in Medicare, the doctors "got our numbers" because we are getting calls and messages all too frequently about another appointment we need to schedule. Oh well, medical professionals have to eat to—pretty well by the looks of things.

Inside this edition you will find articles explaining some of the health challenges that we are facing this year.

As you pray for our health, would you also pray that these inconveniences will not interfere with the ministry that we are asking God to accomplish in the meantime.

God used our absence from Ghana during Debbie's bout with cancer over 10 years ago to remind us that he can



handle things pretty well with or without our direct involvement. He used our coworkers in Ghana to ensure the survival and produce growth in the ministry while we were home taking care of Debbie's medical needs. We would love to see this happen again—for the sake of those being ministered to and the encouragement of those whom he will use to pick up the slack and make up for the slackers.

July 2026 Prayer Requests

- *Please pray with us concerning Debbie's and my medical concerns (see inside).*
- *Please pray with us as we look forward to our trip to Ghana in September/October, taking two young ladies to visit Ghana and HOMe for the first time*
- *Jeremiah's post-surgery Physical Therapy which has been scheduled in September.*
- *The possibility of putting a second of our children in the School for the Blind.*

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Please scan the QR Code Below or paste the URL in you browser for a more detailed prayer list:

www.westafricanmercy.org/prayer

Looking Good!

A poor circuit riding preacher was in desperate need of a horse. One day he saw a sign in front of a farm that said, "Horse for Sale, Cheap!" Thinking this to be a sign from above, he walked up to the door and inquired about the horse. He asked the farmer about the reliability and stamina of the horse. The farmer replied, "He's a great horse, he just doesn't look so good." Unconcerned about the appearance of the horse, the preacher paid the asking price.

About a week later the preacher returned to the farm bruised and battered. He was angrily complaining that on his first ride out, the horse had walked over a cliff. That is when the preacher had discovered the horse was actually blind. How dare this farmer misrepresent the condition of the horse especially to a preacher.

The farmer calmly replied, "Now hold on preacher man, I told you this horse didn't look so good."

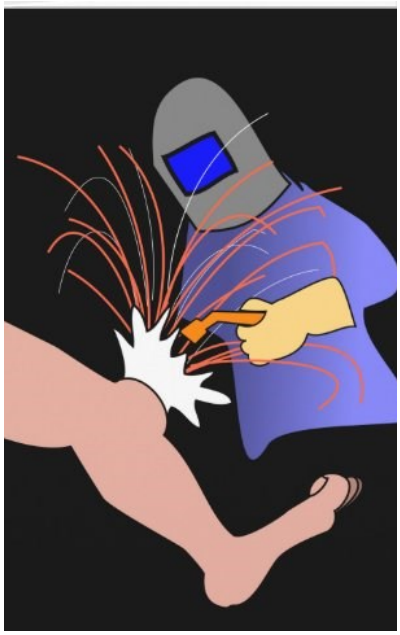
In light of this story, Debbie and I have not looked so good in many years. A few years ago, I underwent cataract surgery which allowed me to throw away my glasses (see picture to the right) which I had been wearing since I was 10 years old. This past month, Debbie underwent the same surgery allowing her to see 20/20 for distance and only requiring glasses for reading. Debbie also



received stints that are supposed to ward off glaucoma.

So, without bragging I can truly say that it has been a long time since Debbie and I "looked so good!"

Not If, But When



When I was 16 years old (1976), I was in a pretty severe motorcycle accident. This began a 30-day stay in the hospital while my leg was set using traction (that's almost prehistoric treatment). Three years later I underwent a second surgery to correct some hyperextension in my right knee. After this surgery the doctor told me, "You'll be fine until you hit 60." That was seven years ago and he was right. It was only a few weeks after my 60th birthday that I began having pain in my right knee—pain which has steadily worsened until this year when the pain forced me to the orthopedic surgeon's office where the doctor used the term **"if"** vs **"when"** you get knee replacement surgery.

Initially he tried a cortisone shot which worked for about a week (as I hear is fairly typical). The next treatment will be a gel injection that should get me through our travel schedule in September and October (see pg. 3). I hope to be able to schedule the actual knee replacement surgery in November.

Please be in prayer that the surgery will happen and will be effective.

Heart Check



On one of my recent doctor visits (one that was “accidentally” mis-scheduled three months prematurely), something unusual happened. I was sitting in the exam room and the nurse took my blood pressure and pulse rate. She looked a bit concerned and took it again. She then removed the little finger monitor she had been using and decided to take it a third time manually. Each time my pulse rate was low (apparently a rate in the 30’s is alarmingly low). So, she had me mount the exam table and hooked me up to an EKG machine. That took about five minutes and in that short time my heart rate was back to a healthy, normal level.

But, this anomaly was kind of startling to my doctor so he scheduled three different heart tests as well as blood panel, the latter looking specifically at the thyroid numbers. The blood test and the first of the heart tests (an echocardiogram) came back normal. I still have a halter monitor test in August and a stress test in September to go (which I told him we could do for free while I babysat my grandkids). So, my prayer is that these tests will come back normal and this will all truly have just been an anomaly.

What's Coming Up

What with our medical visits and the price of tickets this summer, Debbie and I have postponed our normal summer trip to the end of September and into the first week of October. We are happy to be traveling with two young ladies who are excited to visit Ghana, especially to see HOMe.

When we return in October we will be turning around quickly to travel to Michigan to be observers at the second annual Run for HOMe. Last year this fund-raising event took place in Chicago but since the participants all hail from the Grand Rapids area, they decided to find a run closer to home.

The end of October will find Debbie and I being pampered a bit by some supporters/friends who have invited us to join them on a vacation. The climate will be warm and sunny (hopefully) and may involve some snorkeling.

Upon returning home, I hope to have my knee replacement surgery in early to mid November.

Yes, we have a lot of travel and medical appointments in the coming months but our prayer is that while all this is happening, God will continue to bless the ministry of WAMM through HOME and the two churches up in Nsawam.

As I mentioned earlier, he has shown us in the past that he can handle things very well even when we can’t be around. May our God prove himself faithful once again.



West African
Mercy Ministries
P.O. Box 2028
Waukesha, WI 53187

Phone: (262) 347-7172
E-mail: Brian@WAMMGhana.com or
Debbie@WAMMGhana.com

Website: westafricanmercy.org
Facebook: West African Mercy Ministries
Instagram: @WAMM_Ghana

Building Faith and Dignity

Over twenty years ago I was challenged by a Ghanaian Doctor of Education to work hard at helping to give his people their dignity back. This was a startling request which prompted me to ask for an explanation.

He explained that one down side to missionary activity in Ghana has been an unintentional belief that God could not provide for the needs of Ghanaians except through expats. His request was that we do whatever we can to demonstrate that God can and will provide for Ghanaian ministries "immediately" rather than intermediately. He wanted to see his people believe that God loves Ghanaians directly, He didn't have to use "the whites" to show his love and care.

My prayer in 2026 is that God would accomplish this dream of 20+ years. Would you please pray with me that God would amaze our brothers and sisters in Ghana (as well as those of us here) with not only his ability, but his willingness to do this. May God use this to restore the dignity and grow the faith of believers across Ghana as He works amazingly to provide for WAMM-Ghana and HOMe.

Support Opportunities



If you would like to . . .

- ☐ Sponsor a Baby Bed at HOMe (see https://youtu.be/ZpHik3mG0CI).
- ☐ Help Support the McIntyre's—insuring their continued involvement in WAMM
- ☐ Help Support the Dekus—our Ghanaian Missionary Partners
- ☐ Partner with WAMM in planting mercy-ministering churches in Ghana

With a . . .

- ☐ One-Time Gift of $_____
- ☐ Monthly Gift of $_____
- ☐ Annual Gift of $_____

Please fill out this form and mail it with your name and address to

West African Mercy Ministries, P.O. Box 2028, Waukesha, WI 53187 or to Brian@WAMMGhana.com

Or Check out our PayPal option on the Website: WestAfricanMercy.org