

SIX PACK DELIVERY IN GHANA

INTRODUCTION

Let me try to explain why 6 pack in order not to confuse our North American brethren. A set of six courses, Old and New Testament Survey, Basic Beliefs, Homiletics, Wesleyan Discipline and Holiness and Church Administration and the role of the pastor. I first came across this material when I visited South Africa the first time about five years ago. All across Africa, I think I can safely say that one of the greatest concerns of the church is the training and equipping of leaders to man the churches that are springing up all over the continent. I realize that in some countries you have established Bible Colleges that are handling the training of leaders. The kind of training that we are asking for with the 6 pack is the basic mostly practical information that someone who would be leading a church must know. We want to teach them the importance of personal devotions, prayers and Bible study. Again teaching potential pastors the need to live a life worthy of their calling and as my brother Usman mentioned the other night, to be able to counter the false doctrines that are out there with the true word of God.

A little background about the work in Ghana may be helpful at this time. The church started as a missionary effort by the Standard Church of America about 20 years ago. In 2004, the Standard Church formally merged with the Wesleyans and our mission in Ghana officially became part of Global Partners work in Africa. I am sure by now you recognize how important it is for us to get things right. As a branch that has been grafted on to the Wesleyan tree we want to ensure that we do not stray from or dilute our Discipline in any way, shape or form.

As a new work people came to us from various Christian backgrounds, we realized that if we were to speak with a common voice then we needed to train our people in the Word and in the Discipline of the church.

DISCUSSION WITH PARTNERS

We started by sourcing for support. Since our partners agreed with us that leadership development and training were essential to our survival as a church, they readily backed our plan.

A number of pastors from the two districts of Canada expressed their desire to come to Ghana to teach courses. We tasked some pastors to prepare the curriculum for to be used. All these preparations were done in consultation with the Africa Area Office.

TEACHING IN GHANA

The first two facilitators from Canada arrived in Ghana in November 2009 to teach two courses with the last two courses finishing in March 2011. The second batch of the program has started and we are praying that within a year, that one too will be completed. Through this program the church has empowered some 20 people with District License to operate as Lay or Local Preachers. The need and

justification for trained pastors in our churches cannot be overemphasized given the current situation in Africa where people emerge from nowhere and call themselves pastors.

SHORT TERM GOALS

The plan is that facilitators from North America will come and teach about 2 batches of the program. On subsequent ones the Ghana church will have one or two of our ordained clergy work alongside them. The two groups will alternate teaching the courses. When everyone is satisfied that the Ghanaians are capable of teaching the materials themselves, the North Americans will stop coming for the purpose of teaching the 6 pack.

Our DBA has identified two individuals, one is a high school teacher who also holds a B.Th. The second one is a graduate in political science, also holds a B.Th. in Pastoral ministry. Both men are ready and willing to work with our North American partners.

ADVANTAGES

One major advantage of this program is that even without a Wesleyan Bible College in Ghana we can still offer some quality training for our people.

The program can be held any time of year and anywhere in the country. Flexibility of schedule allows our North American brothers plan their travels around their schedule.

DISADVANTAGES

High cost of hosting students for ten or more days. Transportation, food, materials but above all the Airline ticket cost for our facilitators and in country expense is quite prohibitive.

Language difficulties- many of our students are not proficient in English, even those who at times find it difficult following the speed with which some of our brothers talk.

Social and cultural relevance. Some examples used may be understood by or applicable only in North America. Sometimes jokes are told and nobody laughs, not because they are not funny, but because they miss the whole thing, it goes over their heads.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

Within the shortest possible time to train local facilitators and/or engaging the services of some Ghanaian theologians to do the teaching.

Ghana church to start making significant contributions by way of cash or in kind as to reduce the burden on our partners. Work towards Ghana absorbing the total cost of the training in the near future.