



## JOHN AND PATTY SOMMER

### MISSIONARIES IN GHANA, WEST AFRICA

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Dear Praying Friends and Family,

***“Jesus calls men, not to a new religion, but to life.”***

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

There are those times in life when everything aligns and the truths that we live by come together and we see just how much God is working in our world. Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> of January was just such a day. On that Sunday, Biblical Baptist Church witnessed the ordination of Daniel Kisseh Nartey as pastor.

God’s work is organic not mechanic, which means it grows over time and is gradual. It is not constructed in a predictable step by step pattern that repeats over and over the same exact same way for each and every person. Each plant is unique - a miracle. Yes, God has ways that He works and ways He will not work, but His work in souls is always personal and perfect. There is no one size fits all plan for God’s people. The Lord works with individuals not crowds. If we are going to see Him work, we will have to watch. We will have to wait. We will have to know that as the days pass God is growing a soul. We will have to pray at each intersection that soul comes to, and we will have to let them stand with God, and let them hear His voice saying, “This is the way walk ye in it.” Then we watch and wait and pray as they choose to yield to That voice. This is how God grows lives for His service. If we will do this, this waiting, watching, praying, giving, living, and dying to ourselves and our plans, day by day, month by month, year by year, we will see God growing lives. We are not called to a religion that manufactures catechists, but to a faith that grows into discipleship. No man or ministry has ever made a true disciple, because God is the only Creator.

For 17 years we have watched God growing Biblical Baptist Church. For 15 years we have watched God growing and forming a man to pastor it. I was on furlough when Daniel first came to BBC. My friend and fellow missionary Andrew Aaron was shepherding and helping the flock of BBC at that time. Daniel was raised a Traditionalist. He was raised in a fishing village on the coast and taught to fear the gods from birth, but God was working and calling. At 13 years of age, he came to Kumasi for education. With this new found freedom, he began to seek for the True God of Heaven and Earth. As always, God brought him to Himself, for no man seeks God alone. God has always been seeking him before he seeks God. Some years later he entered Biblical Baptist Church for the first time after receiving a Gospel leaflet some months before. He remembers that he had a huge smile on his face from almost the first minutes of that service. Why? Because he had found what he was looking for. He did not yet understand, but he wanted to. Not long after, he became a believer. Thus, our Jesus met him and they began their journey together. About a year later, he was baptized, and Daniel took Jesus Christ as his Master, and he became a disciple. Since then, we have prayed for, watched over, and taught Daniel. We have walked together as disciples of the same Lord. We have hoped, cried, laughed, and lived together, and God did his work -- often underground. We have watched him say ‘yes’ again and again to the Lord: about work, about schooling, about training, about marriage, about children, and about life. We have seen God work, FOR GOD WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH.

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 was more of a celebration than a ceremony. Yes, we had all the due reverence needed as we laid hands on a man that was officially entering the ministry, but it was not us making something happen so much as it was us celebrating what God has done in Daniel's life and in Biblical Baptist Church. We give God the glory, because as Revelation 5:12 tells us, "...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." We hope you will rejoice with us for what God has done in this life and this church.

### Prayer Requests

- 1) Biblical Baptist Church of Atonsu
- 2) The new church plant in Deduako -- please pray as we gather together for new people to join the ones already attending faithfully.
- 3) For individuals who are in Salvation Bible studies right now: David, Akyedee, M'Awurah, Afia, Naa Sei, Randy, & Gloria.
- 4) For the believers in baptismal class: Auntie Bea and Marine.
- 5) Pray for Ella as she returns to college and for Carey as she visits us in January and then returns to get a job to pay bills and save for the future.
- 6) Pray for family health issues and some out-standing unspoken requests.

In Christ,

*John Sommer*

Ghana, W. Africa

