



# The Rosenbalm Family

## Missionaries to Ghana, West Africa

January 4, 2019

Dear praying friends,

Hello, and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you! It is truly shocking how quickly time is passing. It seems nearly impossible that we have begun another year. As I look back on all that happened in 2018, there is so much to be thankful for. We have had difficulties and blessings, triumphs and failures, and times we have stumbled and fallen. How grateful I am that our Father continues to pick us up and help us back on our way. I am so unworthy of His love, mercy and grace, but thrilled beyond measure that I have been made worthy through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. 2019 is going to hold many challenges of its own in many different ways, but I know the Lord will be constant through all things and will give us grace to meet every challenge we face.



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I have mentioned before that we were praying for two men (Benjamin and Ahmed) about following the Lord in baptism. Late last year, I had the privilege of baptizing Benjamin and seeing him added to the membership of this young church plant. It was my first opportunity to baptize here in Ghana. It was truly a unique blessing to see a new believer take that step of faith and publicly declare that they are a follower of Christ. Benjamin is currently studying for his masters degree in biophysics in Germany as part of an exchange program. Please pray for him as he is away from us. We keep in contact as much as possible and he seems to be doing well. He will be returning to Ghana for the summer school break and we look forward to reuniting with him. Also continue to pray for Ahmed. He has been facing a lot of difficulty in his life concerning family and finances and it has caused him to take a step backward. We are trying to teach and encourage him to be faithful and trust the Lord in all things, but he is very discouraged at this time.

Another prayer request we have concerns a man named John. A little over two years ago, John began to attend the Bible study in Bokro. Bro. Aaron and others took the time to teach him the Gospel over a long period of time and we were hopeful that he would become a believer. However, as John continued to attend the Bible study, his behavior became increasingly troubling. He began to do and say strange things and act inappropriately. Ultimately, his actions became potentially harmful. After attempting to resolve the situation many times, we were ultimately forced to tell him that he was not permitted to attend the services any longer. We hoped that things would change and he would see that his actions were wrong. That did not happen. Over the last year, he has spent much of his time trying to disrupt the Bible study and cause as much trouble for us as he can. He has returned to doing illicit drugs and has confessed to us that he is now involved in witchcraft. Sadly, in the last few months I have seen him gradually lose his mind. There is a complete emptiness behind his eyes now. I truly believe he is under the influence of an evil spirit. He now sits across the street from the building where we hold our services almost every time we assemble. He shouts nonsense and does many other things (that are not appropriate to share) to try and disturb anyone who attends. As difficult as this has been, we know that God has allowed this, and we have continued to see

people come to the Bible study. We have even had some new visitors recently, and we thank God for that. Please pray with us that we could see a resolution to this situation. We wish only to see more people come to Christ and be added to His body.

One last prayer request is for Alfred. Alfred has been attending the Bible study for at least a year. We have preached the Gospel to him many times, and it is clear to see that he is under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Alfred's big problem is alcohol. It has a powerful hold on him. He has tried many times to stop drinking, but always returns to it. We have been trying to show him through the Scriptures that the only way we can have victory over sin is through the power of Jesus Christ. I believe he is beginning to understand. He has been asking many pointed questions that let me know he close to the truth. Our prayer for Alfred is that he will stop trying to change himself and submit himself to God.

I want to take just a minute and thank everyone who sent cards, emails and special offerings to us over the holidays. The generosity of our supporting churches has astounded us again. Our holiday season was blessed in many ways through your thoughtfulness and care of us. I truly hope that your holidays were enjoyable for you as well.

Our first furlough will begin this year in August. I am doing my best to prepare for that time while continuing to fulfill my responsibilities here. This next couple of years will hold a lot of changes for our family as we go from here to the US and back again. We are sincerely looking forward to being able to see many of you again. I will do my best to keep you updated on our plans as we get closer to the time of our departure. Until next time, God bless you all and thank you for your continued and faithful support.

Because He lives,  
The Rosenbalm Family