



*Ray Mensah – OneWay Africa and Ghana Evangelical Missions Association
Innovation in Sending Missionaries*

Hello, my name is Ray Mensah. I'm the Director of OneWay Africa here in Ghana, West Africa. We seek to reach the region to mobilize the new generation of missionaries to reach the unreached. Africa has about 988 unreached people groups and it's our passion to see the unreached included the 19 that are in Ghana. I want to share with you about a few ways that we have been reaching to the unreached. Some of the ways that we have been using over the years and have just a few things to share with you today.

One of the ways that we've been reaching out is **leveraging the national service**. In our country it is mandatory for university graduates to save for a year and supported by the government, paid by the government. And so, we and our partners go to the universities and mobilize and recruit young graduates, Christian graduates to use their national service to serve the Lord. They go as teachers. And those who are pharmacists, those who are nurses, also use that, but mostly they go as teachers and they go to the remote areas where the unreached are. They are mostly in Ghana, where the professional teachers might not be willing to go. There are some schools that have no teachers, and they go to serve and that becomes their platform to make disciples and to share the Gospel. That has been fantastic. So many things have happened. They planted churches, they made disciples. They've used discovery Bible studies, they've done a lot of good. And it's been one of the ways that creatively solved sending and without to support them because they already are supported. So, it's been a very good way in our part of the world to do that.

Another strategy we've been using is **the water filters**. These are locally manufactured water filters with clay. It is a very interesting local technology and many villages in among the unreached -some of the villages among the unreached don't have potable drinking water, and it becomes a very good gift for them. And they get living water. They get clean water and then through that we introduce to them the Living Water who is Jesus Christ. You know, water is life and without water you can't really survive. So, the villages appreciate that. And we go into those that are very remote. The cities have water. The towns have running water. Their taps flow like every part of the world but there are villages that don't have that. And it is being a strategy in most villages. We did that recently, like two months ago and we gave every family in the village. We normally do that in every family who have no water so they can have clean water. And at other times -we sometimes- add the Bible class to it, and there's another strategy.

We use **audio Bibles**. Solar powered audio Bibles is common. It's been there for many years but what we do differently is to record testimonies, local songs, Bible stories, community health information, and anything that will help the community in their mother tongue. The testimonies are amazing. One of the

least-reached people groups we're reaching, many people have come to Christ based on the testimonies. Those who are resistant to Christianity, all the new disciples have to do is to play it in their home and when they hear they wonder if the testimony is true and that gives them to have interest in Christianity. There are many testimonies. There are Muslims coming to Christ, idol worshippers, fetish priests, witchdoctors, it's unbelievable. I call it the mobile missionary - the missionary doesn't go to sleep, is always working. And so many people -one of the cases, a young man's listening and hears John 3:16, and another hears John 14 where Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life" and he gets convicted that Jesus is really a way he wants to be a Christian. Their testimonies and their songs is unbelievable! So that's something we've been using, and it's been really working.

Another thing is **church partnerships**. We have missionaries who use the Jesus Film, and they do outreaches. And we partnered with churches. It's an old strategy but many times I've heard mission leaders say when they partner and they plant churches and handover to denominations, the churches die. What we do differently is to partner with other churches so a denomination say, oh among these unreached people group in this geographical area, we want to plant 21 churches. That's what happened with one denomination. Their pastor for the district had marked 21 communities, villages without churches on church communities. And since we want to plant 21 churches, and we went in, and partnered with them, and we planted 21 churches. Those churches are still there because the church had a plan already.

In the past, mission agencies would find areas with no church and they plant their churches and then they look for a denomination and handover to churches. And because they were not part of the process, they didn't have any commitment and those churches died out. Very sad. But the partnerships we do from the beginning is based on where the churches want to plant churches has worked, and those churches have blossomed, and they've also planted churches using Discovery Bible study, using Disciple Making Movement principles has helped and there's been a lot of multiplication.

I also serve in the role in our National Missions Network -called Ghana Evangelical Missions Association- I serve as the president. We have what we call Vision 2040. We want to send 30,000 missionaries over a period of time. And it's a beautiful partnership between the mission agencies and churches [unclear] that we want to come together as the body of Christ to send missionaries to the nations, especially West Africa, North Africa, and to the rest of the world. So it's beautiful work to see new ways of doing ministry some are revamped ways, but we have to do the work at all costs, and no matter, no excuses. We have to do it. Mission agencies, churches, we have to do it as God's work. And we're glad to be part -and we're glad Africa is part- of the global mission force. We're sending missionaries and we are excited and continue to do that. Thank you and God bless you.