



Cathy Bristol
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Dear Friends, *Friends at Calvary Baptist Church,*

Recently, I was browsing in a Christian book store and I saw a display of plaques and framed pictures. One of the plaques caught my eye. It said, "Thankful and Blessed". I purchased that plaque and have it hanging on the wall by my apartment door. As we approach the busy season with celebrations of two holidays, I have been thinking of the many things I am thankful for and how blessed I am. I am thankful for my little apartment; I am thankful for new friends, and the church where I have been worshipping since I moved to Grand Rapids. I thank the Lord for good health. It is a blessing to hear from my Ghanaian friends and keep up with events at the Samuel Seidu Memorial Clinic. I am so thankful and blessed to have had the privilege of working with Baptist Mid-Missions in two different countries (Liberia and Ghana) in West Africa. That would not have been possible if my faithful churches and individual supporters had not provided the finances I needed to do the work. I remain thankful and blessed by those who continue to support me in retirement.

Recalling the regular e-mails I have received from Pastor David Sabogu and the monthly phone calls from Simon Sungdong, I realize that I am witnessing something special. I read years ago that the proof that you have taught someone something is when they make that principle theirs and live as if it was their own idea. The medical ministry in northern Ghana has always been challenging. When I left in June, 2016, I knew my Ghanaian co-workers would continue to face daily challenges. I knew in my heart that the Lord was able to guide them and keep the ministry going. I prayed daily for them and asked others to keep the ministry in their prayers. Still, there were times I worried about events taking place out there. It was yet another lesson from the Lord in trusting with all my heart. Last week, Simon called with some news. He said to me, "I said to the workers in staff meeting, this clinic does not belong to Miss Bristol or to any of us, it is for the Lord. It is His ministry." I use to say the same thing to them whenever we faced a new challenge—often without any idea of how we would solve it. The fact that the clinic is still in operation and seeing so many clients and offering such good care is the Lord's doing. The staff and leadership were committed to being a testimony for the Lord and feedback from the village is that they have succeeded. Please continue to pray for this medical outreach. Pray for the wisdom, strength, and grace to continue.

I wish you God's peace that passes all understanding and joy in your service for Him.

*Sincerely,
Cathy Bristol*