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Taste and See (Psalm 34:8)

Do you want to be **made whole** (<u>John 5:6</u>)? That seems like a strange question for Jesus to ask the man at the pool of Bethesda, who had been infirm for 38 years. Why else would he stay at the location where supposedly one could be healed by entering the water first after an angel stirred it? Yet, Jesus' question was valid and crucial for this man's healing. In reality, many invalids do not want to be **made** whole, at times, whether the challenge is spiritual, emotional, or physical. Perhaps we become accustomed to others taking care of us. Or the feeling may develop that the established habits are impossible to overcome or too risky for us to accept ultimate responsibility. Some attitudes may become so ingrained that the dependent person feels guilty about past choices, unworthy of being forgiven or helped, and justly punished by God. Others may simply prefer to wallow in bitterness and revenge toward benefactors or perceived wrongdoers rather than forgive. Jesus' solution for this passive, "woe is me" man was provocative. He challenged the invalid to take immediate action by faith, commanding him to rise, take up his bed, and walk.

People who wholeheartedly engage in Community Health Evangelism (CHE) seek Jesus' healing for themselves and others. To be made whole, trainers must have the confidence to dare belief and to exercise faith in God's orchestration of life to overcome any incapacitating doubt. The journey of seeing personal and community transformation is typically long and arduous until faith overcomes self and communal naysaying. Nevertheless, seeing the real and the metaphorically infirm take up their beds and walk is incredible! Thank you for helping us ask Jesus' pertinent question(s) in W. African communities. People here, as there, tend to believe God will bless their traditions and perspectives rather than honor trust in His revealed Word enough to discover faith in practice that is ever more sound for living life abundantly. The West African CHE Internship gathers people who want to be **made** whole and help others gain wholeness. It's a privilege to participate in this seminal yearly training.

Come and See (Psalm 66:5)

The Ghana visa did make it on time! Yes, Verlin safely embarked on his trip Friday morning as planned to exit the 737-Max in Accra Saturday morning. As Debbie wrote this update Friday morning, Verlin collaborated on the writing between the Newark and Dulles airports. He stays at a Baptist questhouse in Accra, Ghana, for two nights before continuing to the Internship site late Monday afternoon. While he arrived safely and established local phone service, which is far less expensive, a local ATM confiscated one of



the three ATM cards he uses during travels to obtain cash as it remains the medium of exchange for the vast majority of W. African goods and services

Prayer & Praise

Thank the Lord that Verlin's Ghana visa arrived on time and that he left Nashville without problems. Thank the Lord for loving family members who will check on our small Cookeville place during our absences.

🖻 Pray that leaders, trainers, and students who arrived at the CHE internship location are open to new experiences for themselves. Pray that Spirit-filled sessions and mutual encouragement guide the learning. May Verlin quickly readjust to the West African heat!

Ministries all over the world prepare for focused outreach during the Easter season. Pray that many people will hear the Gospel and respond.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: Safe Travels-240302.PDF Prior videos: Simple Servants - Reflect & Rejoice 2023 Q2Report: Pruning Priorities -2023 Q2 Report 230722 PDF

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