



## Shirk Family Update From Ghana October, 2023

Dear friends and family, Greetings from Ghana.

God is good. As we journey through life we are reminded over and over that God is indeed good.



*Work Crew*

October 25 will be the start of our third year that we are back here in Ghana.

Beginning of April, we were very blessed to have a work group come from our home church. It was very special to us, and we enjoyed so much having them around here. Not only did they get a lot accomplished while they were here, but they were also a big encouragement to us as a family.

The Lonnie Weaver family served in Ghana for 10 years as the school director. Their term ended and they moved back to the USA the end of April. There was no one committed to take their place as school director so that responsibility got added to Earl's responsibilities. There is a native admin team in the school Earl works with so that helps to reduce the workload in the school. The new academic year got under way on the third of October. It was very busy getting ready for the new year. We are hoping things slow down a little bit now.



*Weaver Family*



*Husking Corn*

The weather has been cool and rainy. It keeps things nice and green and makes the grass grow. There is lots of mowing to be done. The boys are a big help keeping things mowed and cleaned up. The rain is good for the produce patch. We have corn, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, cabbage, cassava, and many other produce growing. We also grow mangos, plantain, pineapples, and coconuts. We enjoy fresh citrus fruit year around here. We just got done harvesting 2 acres of field corn by hand. Then it also gets husked and shelled by hand.



Daryl Keim Family

We have been very blessed to have one of our board members (Daryl and LaNora Keim along with their children) spend some time here with us. Daryl has been a huge help getting things done around the compound and also helping with administrative work. It has made Earl's life a lot easier. The children really enjoyed having playmates around. They will be greatly missed when they leave the end of October.

Our children are well into the new school year. We now have a highschooler. Kaden began 9<sup>th</sup> grade this year. How time flies. Carson is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Courtney is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Destiny is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. And Earl Jr is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. A neighboring missionary family has a teacher for their children, so we are working at blending our two families together for school. That will help to reduce the workload on Earl and get the children into a classroom setting. They seem to enjoy that better than doing school at the kitchen table.

We are just getting over Apollo (severe pink eye). It's very uncomfortable. The eyes swell, turn very red, and get really watery and pussy. Everyone got it. We are all hoping not to go through that again.



Nyamekye

We had the privilege of visiting Abigail and Nyamekye at the special school where they attend. Abigail has autism. She stays at our house when she is not at school. Nyamekye is a special needs boy from the children's home. We enjoyed a game of soccer with some of the students from the school.

Prayer Requests: Urgent need for a family to assist us in the work here. Strength and wisdom to deal with the challenges we are facing. Safe traveling as Amanda and the 3



Amanda and Abigail

youngest travel to Canada for her sister's wedding end of the month. The work crew from Idaho as they prepare to travel to Ghana the end of November.

Thank you to all who remember us, pray for us, and support us in various ways. You have been a big blessing and encouragement to us as we continue serving God where He has placed us.

We would love to hear from you all. email [parentsforjesus@yahoo.com](mailto:parentsforjesus@yahoo.com)



*Huge Boil on Jr's arm*



*Jr Proudly displaying the small python he found caught in a fence. Yes it is still alive.*



*Cooling off on a hot day*



*Justina, the school head cook with bowls of food.*



*Filling in front of the school as part of the flood protection.*



*Crab came up the toilet.*



*LaNora and Amanda painting school tables*



*One of Earl's favorite tasks. Preaching in a village church.*