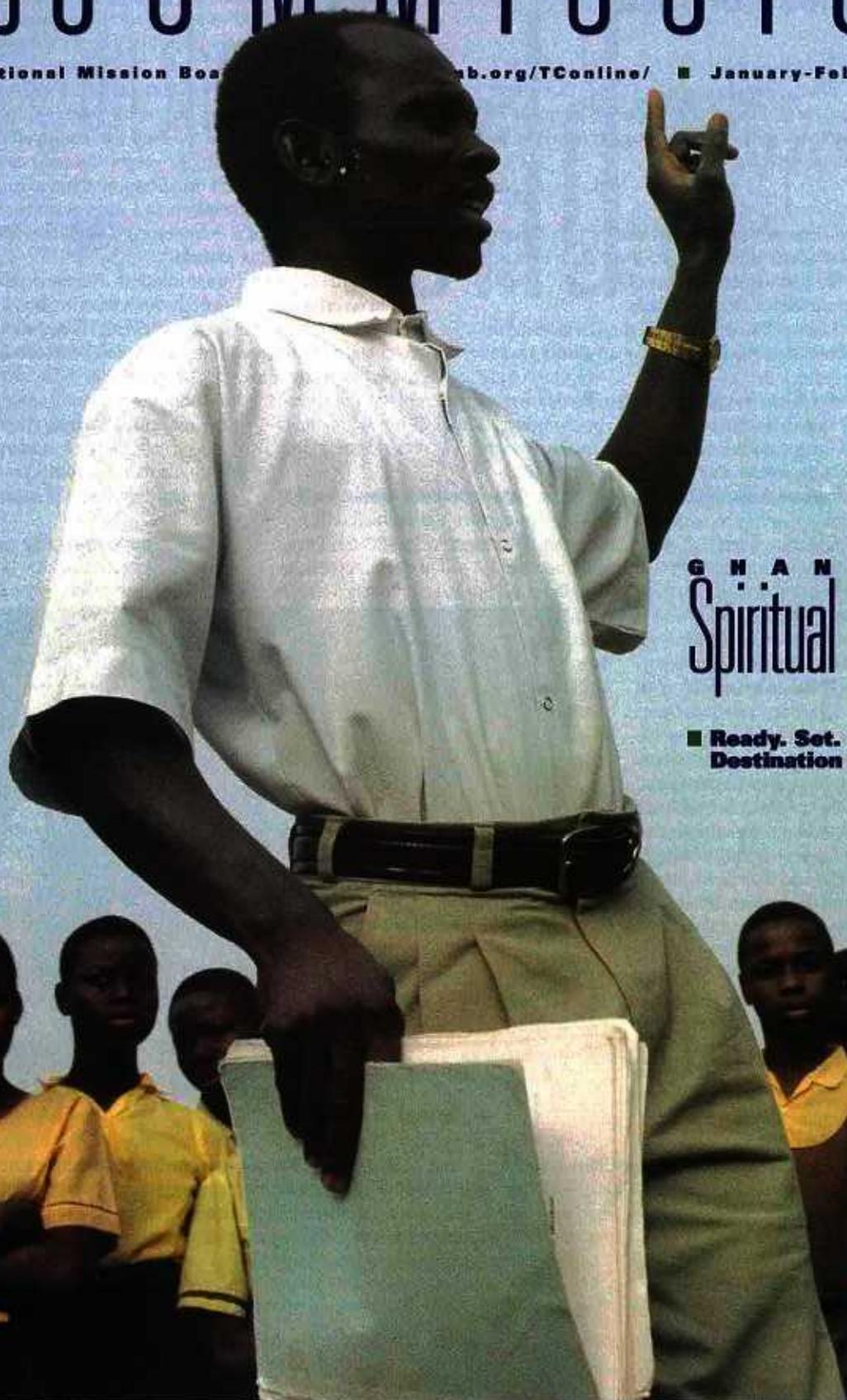


# the COMMISSION

International Mission Board [www.imb.org/TConline/](http://www.imb.org/TConline/) ■ January-February 2001

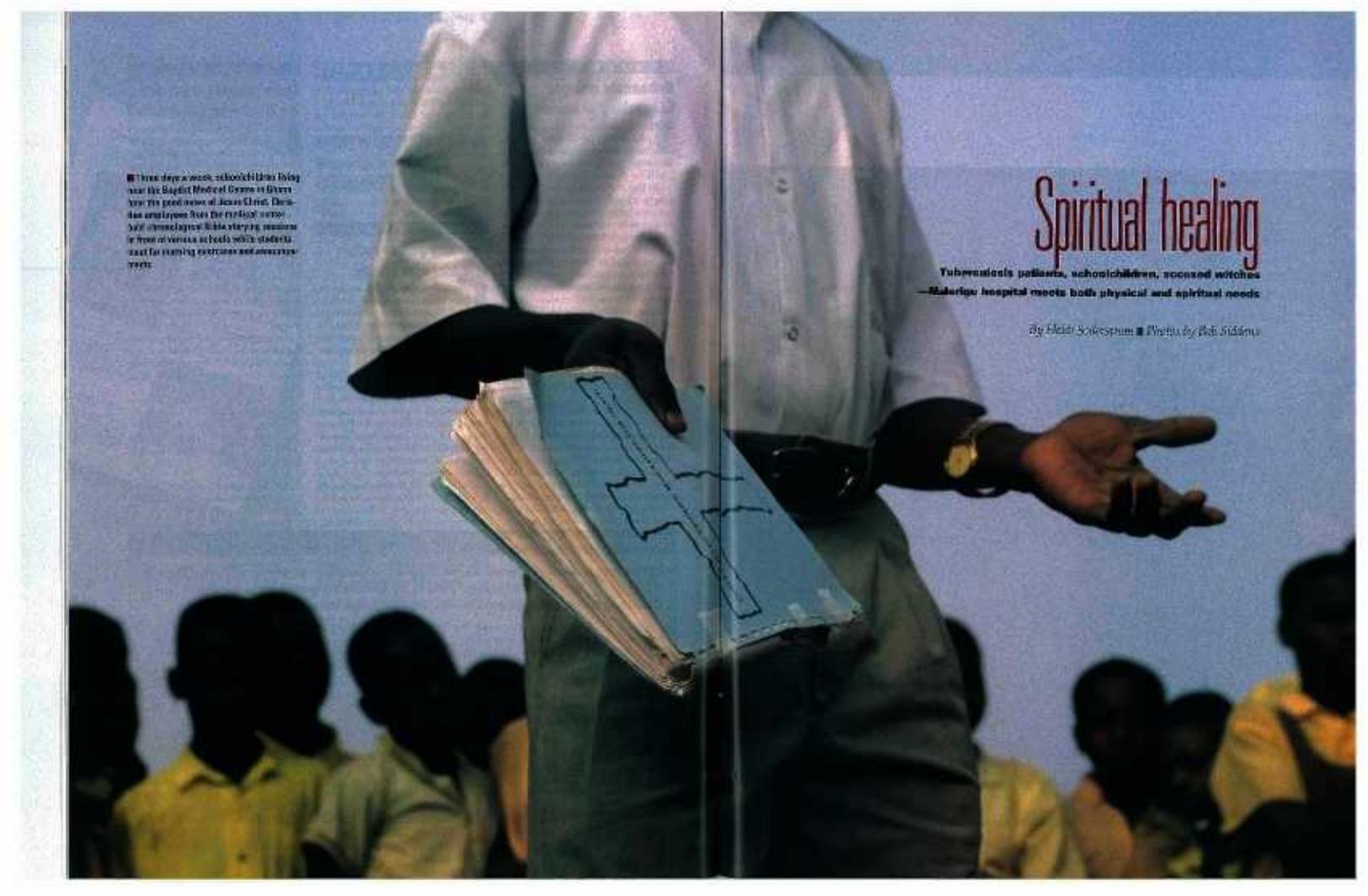


## GHANA: Spiritual healing

—page 22

■ **Ready. Set. Go.**  
**Destination BRAZIL!**

—page 6

A man in a white lab coat stands in the center of the frame, holding a large, thick book with a blue cover featuring a white cross. He is gesturing with his left hand towards a group of people in the foreground, who are mostly in silhouette. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Three days a week, schoolchildren bring  
near the Baptist Medical Center in Liberia  
for the good news of Jesus Christ. The  
theologian from the Episcopal church  
of the Episcopal Bible society, members  
in front of various schools with students  
out for evening exercises and answers  
to their

## Spiritual healing

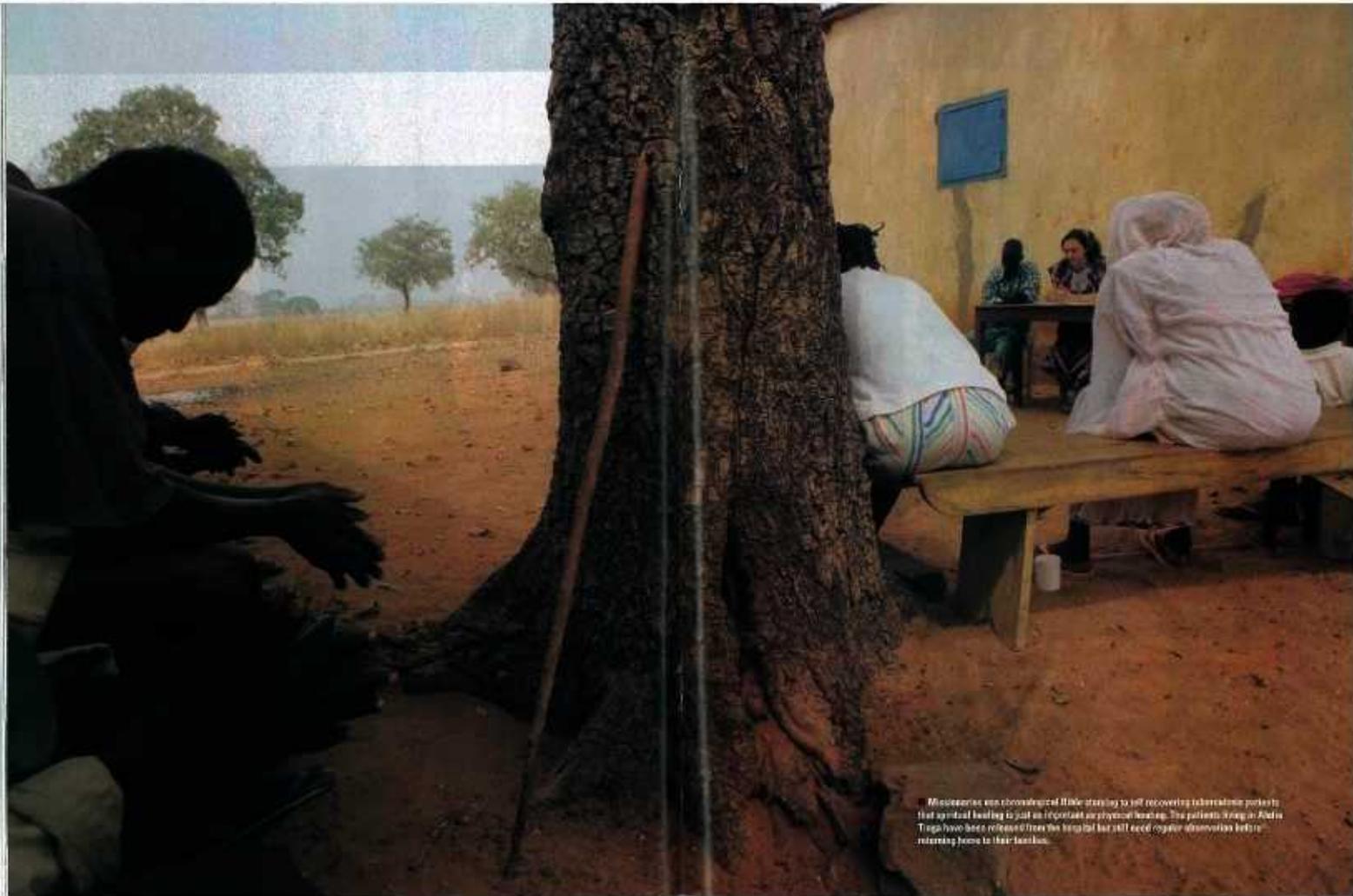
Tuberculosis patients, schoolchildren, accused witches  
—Liberian hospital meets both physical and spiritual needs

By Melvin Scoverson ■ Photos by Bob Gidycz

“I don't want you to have just physical health when you leave here. I want you to have spirited health as well. The medicine for spiritual health is Jesus.”

Before every scheduled surgery at Baptist Medical Centre, the focus is on praying for both spiritual and physical healing. Ghanaian pastor Paul Mueah (left) waits to pray with an elderly Musprui man awaiting surgery. The man's wife waits in the foreground.





Midwives use chloroform to help women give birth. Patients in Adia Togo have been released from the hospital but still need regular supervision before returning home to their families.

■ "We can better appreciate the miracle of a sunrise if we have walked in darkness."



■ Above: Daylong clinics for women and children take place weekly in various villages. Public health workers from the Baptist Medical Center weigh babies and provide vaccinations and examinations.

■ Right: Dr. Danny Crowley, IMH missionary (right), and Dr. Sarah Barr (left), a medical volunteer, repair a hernia for a Mangrasi man. Dr. Barr is a member of Morningstar Baptist Church in Columbia, Ga.

The rattling cough echoes across the West African courtyard, where people sit patiently on benches, waiting to hear a Bible story. The rattling spasm doesn't disturb the crowd, however, because everyone here does it.

It is, after all, the reason 70 men, women and children from every Christian tribe came to this village in the first place. Everyone here has inherited one: Alafia Tingo (meaning "sacred village") boasts an 88 percent asthma rate in both the drenching rains, which each year kill the routine 2 million more people in sub-Saharan Africa. But International Mission Board missionary Mary Jane Crowley speaks about a different kind of health to the residents of Alafia Tingo.

The prescription here, as in other ministries of the Baptist Medical Center in Nalerigu, Ghana, is for spiritual medicines.

"I don't want you to leave just physical health when you leave here," Mary Jane tells the crowd sitting in front of her. "I want you to have spiritual health as well. The medicine for spiritual health is Jesus."

Mary Jane is serious about everyone understanding the message. The storying lessons are translated from English to Manprɛ (MAN-prɛ-lee) in the Taa, two major languages known in Ghana.

Walk so many people on the waiting list to get into the village, doctors are vigilant in

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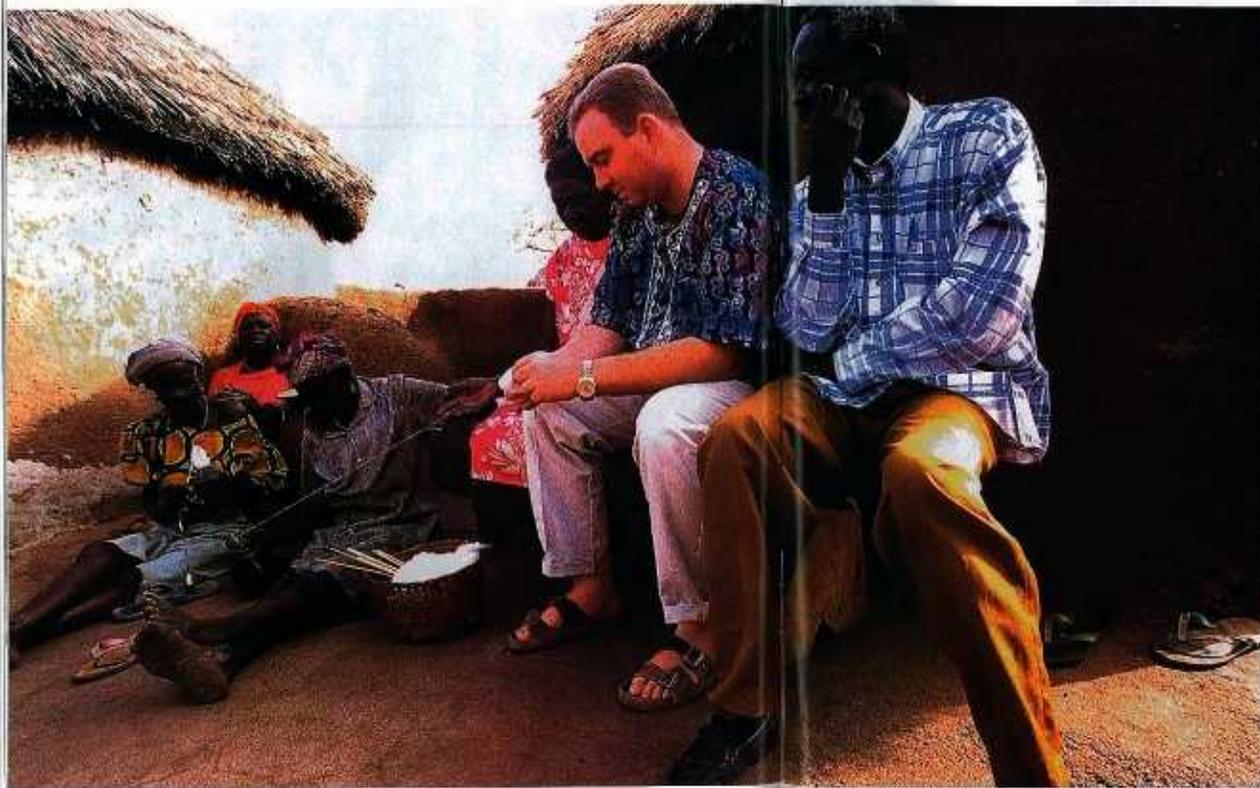


With a long waiting list, Crowley and Barr are vigilant in scheduling a hernia repair for a Mangrasi man. Crowley is a member of Morningstar Baptist Church in Columbia, Ga., and Barr is a member of the same church in Columbia, S.C.

## Pray

- The prayers offered last night for the Ghana Baptist Medical Center are increasing. Your prayers will help them grow.
- Pray for Mary Jane and Sarah as they speak of Jesus' power and healing to over 100,000 in the wetlands every day.
- Pray for Mary Jane Crowley for spiritual as well as physical healing among the TB patients in the villages.
- Pray for Mary Jane and Sarah as they lead the one generation of Christians in Alafia Tingo to Jesus in their lives.
- Pray for the many in the Ghana Baptist Medical Center to support the needy, needy, hospitalized patients going through the storm and walk with them until they are healed.

■ "If they know of sin, they can turn from it, and maybe some of them will be saved from what they think of as the white man's lie."



**Missionary Jimmy Mauldin (center) often tells women in the "witches' village" how to overcome the darkness of sin through the power of Christ. The village is home to women ostracized from their families. Jimmy is hospital administrator at the nearby Baptist Medical Centre.**



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their care so patients don't come back. A combination of initial quarantine, aggressive treatment and regular checkups ensure the highly contagious disease doesn't return or get passed to others. Worldwide, TB patients who quit taking their drugs prematurely are a major contributor to a resurgence of the disease and development of drug-resistant strains.

The Baptist Medical Centre reaches out to more than just the TB patients, however. The staff does its best to bring light into the darkness of all the people they encounter.

All of the 36 to 40 Baptist churches in the area have been started because of the hospital's 40-year ministry, says Cherry Fulk, daughter of the hospital's founder and a nurse at the center. Either someone from a village has been a patient and shown interest in becoming a Christian or a hospital staff member has gone to the village to preach.

"I found that I was always welcome in the village to preach," said Doris Ley, one of the first TB nurses at the center and now retired. "The chief would always tell me, 'I know you, you are at the hospital, and you have helped my people!'"

For his part, Peter Wain teaches the good news to the next generation of Ghanaians. "We speak in the primary school, ages 8 years and up, because we think if once they receive the message at that age, they'll grow up with it," said Peter, clinic supervisor at the medical center. "Also, they go home and tell their parents the truth about it."

■ **Access:** Teaching women how to feed their babies see young children in Tonya Tucker's job at the nutrition center next to the hospital. Terry (inset, right), a maternal missionary, leads up a program to teach Marjoni and Fobeni mothers how to regularly meet all nutritional needs of their babies.



■ **Access:** Visiting surrounding villages provides Heather Dorsett, an International Service Corps missionary, and David Dine, a public health employee, the opportunity to talk about water quality and health concerns. Heather is a public health representative for the hospital.

Peter's main occupation is supervising work done in the center's outpatient clinic, but when the principal at a local school offered him the chance to lecture about morality in March 1994, he ran with it.

The response was so enthusiastic that he and four other hospital staff now take turns speaking in three different schools each week. Lectures on biblical morality supplement the abortion/HIV talks.

"If they know us, they can turn from it, and maybe some of them will be scared from what they think of as the spirit in man's lie," Peter said.

Another group of people the hospital staff ministers to is the "witches" sent to a village just outside of Nalerigu. The chief of the village says he has a magic that makes them impotent, so when people are accused of witchcraft, they are sent here to live.

Here shadows in the night, about 15 mostly elderly women sit in a circle on the ground, listening intently to the only news offered them. Missionaries Jerry Mauldin and Tonya Tucker are telling the women about Jesus.

"It's really sad because most of these ladies are sent here just to get them out of the way. A man takes a second wife; the second wife says she has a dream about the first wife, something bad happens, and the first wife is blamed because of the dream. She's accused of witchcraft and is sent here," said Tonya, a nurse at the medical center.

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■ "We can better appreciate the miracle of a sunrise if we have waited in darkness."



*Continued from page 33.*

Of the 100 or so in the "witches' camp," some are self-professed witches. But most are not.

"There are even a few Christians here, which is hard to see. But God will use them, even in this hard circumstance. Maybe because of it," said missionary Jennifer Mauldin.

As the storying time ends, one woman says, "We can better appreciate the miracle of a sunrise if we have waited in darkness." □

■ *Above: Doana Humphreys, an ISC missionary, works in administration at the Baptist Medical Centre. But her ministry also includes working with local children.*

## Opportunities:

Is God calling you to medical missions in Ghana? Here are some opportunities there:

■ Career or associate personnel are needed to fill a physician assignment (#6619).

For more information, call 1-888-1 CAN GO 1 (422-6461), or e-mail [initial.contacts@imb.org](mailto:initial.contacts@imb.org).

■ International Service Corps/journeyman/masters personnel are needed to fill the following assignments: family practitioner/general surgeon or business manager.

For more information, call 1-800-789-GOYE (4693), or e-mail [isc@imb.org](mailto:isc@imb.org), [journeyman@imb.org](mailto:journeyman@imb.org) for recent college graduates or [masters@imb.org](mailto:masters@imb.org) for those age 50 and above.

■ Volunteer family or general practice physicians are needed to serve three or four weeks each. For information, contact the International Mission Board Volunteers in Missions Department at 1-800-888-VOLS (8657) or e-mail [vimd@imb.org](mailto:vimd@imb.org). □