

Several months ago I approached you asking to help me with a mission trip to Ghana, Africa. The generosity I experienced from OLA was just the beginning of what would be one of the most memorable and spiritual experiences of my life. Because of your prayers and donations, our group was able to travel to Ghana, interact with the people and the culture there, and assist a small village called Pepease located in the eastern region of the country. Pepease is one of the poorer communities in that area, but the people that live there are welcoming, hardworking, and full of life. The church was the central part of their village, but the building needed cleaning and repairing. During our week in the village our group, along with plenty of help from the locals, cleaned the church, painted the exterior and interior, and repaired the concrete walkway around the outside of the building. When we were not working on the church we were visiting the local school children, giving them the donated rosaries, bracelets, and t-shirts that we had brought with us. We became friends with many of the young people of the village, and spent our time off playing soccer or volleyball with them. We were able to meet the chief of Pepease, who is 95 yrs old and has been a leader of the village for over 55 yrs, and we also celebrated mass with the people of Pepease, who squeezed into their half-finished church in order to pray and worship.

During the other days of our trip we learned about the history and culture of Ghana, visiting the historical Elmina Castle on the Cape Coast (the last place Africans were held before being sent to the Americas as slaves), as well as an all-girls, Catholic boarding school located on the coast called Our Lady of Apostles (OLA). We had the privilege of meeting the first and only Ghanaian Cardinal, and we visited several parishes across the region, giving out donations and celebrating mass.

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to have this amazing experience. The Ghanaian people are the friendliest and most kindhearted people I have ever met and they truly demonstrate what it means to be a Christian. Their enthusiasm for life was contagious, and the people that I met there will be a part of me forever. Once again thank you for your prayers and your generosity. This trip would not have been as successful without you.

Medase (Thank you),

Megan Chevis



Working on the interior of the church





Painting the exterior



Visiting with students at Our Lady of Apostles boarding school (OLA)



Children watching us work



Children in their classrooms



Playing volleyball



The finished church