



# Erickson's Quarterly

SPRING 2025

*Dear friends,*

Daylight Savings Time has begun (yawn), so although it's still snowing outside and everything lays dormant, we know Spring is just around the corner! However, we have not had to wait until Spring to see fruitfulness in our Growing Through ministry during the winter months.

In January, N. Ireland teams led by Adelyn Carr at Ballyclare Family Focus and Mary Gault at Greenisland Baptist completed yet another 13-week cycle of Pot of Gold. Between the two groups, 18 children got the help and support needed to cope with the grief of losing a loved one. Please pray that having been taught to find peace and comfort in a relationship with Christ, the children will move forward in their relationship with Him as they become connected to the sponsoring churches. As most of these children were referrals from the local social services, Adelyn and Mary are working to schedule Pot of Gold groups to run at different times of the year so that there is always a group available to accommodate grieving children.



2025 above, 2024 right



Malawian children playing our Snakes and Ladders Game where they learn that though, as children, they are given few choices in life, they can choose the right attitudes and actions.

In November, Eric Kordjo Ahiabile, our Ghanaian associate, went to Malawi under the auspices of another organization, but brought some of our Growing Trough materials with him. During his time in Malawi he ministered to about 100 children



20 of whom gave their hearts to Christ. He said the Growing Through materials were well received in teaching the children, so in the future he would love to return to train Malawian children's ministers in the use of them.

Pastor Ahiabile ministering to the Malawian children



February was a very exciting month because Pastor Francis was given a scholarship by Lifeway Publishers to attend their Hand n' Hand conference in Birmingham, England. He was met at the conference by members of the team from our Birmingham church, as well as by Adeline McClenaghan and Mary Gault from N Ireland. We were so blessed to hear how they were able to encourage one another in their shared vision of ministering to children who have experienced loss! In a sense, though small, this was our first international conference!



Left to right: Pastor Francis, Mary Gault, Adeline McClenaghan, Helen Wilcock, Linda and Steve Brown.

Both our N Ireland and Birmingham delegations were also able to donate more Growing Through kits for Pastor Francis to take back to his ever-growing ministry in Ghana. And furthermore, Pastor Francis received a 150 GBP gift certificate to purchase additional youth materials from conference exhibitors because he had travelled the furthest distance to attend. In addition, one of the exhibitors even promised to ship him a whole case load of Bibles!

How the Lord helped Francis get all that luggage safely back to his



Above: Adeline and Mary congratulating Francis on his Long-Distance Award

Right: Frances packed suitcases of materials for his return trip to Ghana



another 7 hour flight to Accra, Ghana, then 19 hours by bus from Accra to Bolgatanga and then 30 minutes by tricycle.

Francis says that every single minute put into the trip was worth it, as he arrived back in Ghana restored, refreshed, and renewed for greater works, which are already in the planning.

At the end of April, Francis hopes to train pastors and volunteers in Zabilla, a town near Bawku, where we once had a thriving Growing Through ministry. Both ministries and families have fled Bawku to Zabilla, after witnessing unspeakable massacres due to tribal conflict.



High School students in Bawku witnessed this school bus burn with the driver still in it.

Francis has estimated that the Zabilla training will cost \$1,666, \$600 of which has already been donated by two families who, prompted by the Holy Spirit, spontaneously gave money to our account. Because we understand the urgency of establishing a ministry in Zabilla, we have already given Francis the remaining \$1,000, trusting, in the words of Pastor Francis that "He who gives the Vision also Provides for the Vision and calls it ProVision!

*Trusting in God's provisions ... Dale & Jewell*

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