



STEVE & SUZANNE BUCHELE

# PRAYER MATTERS

*Preparing to Serve*



The  
Mission  
Society

[ServingInGhana.org](http://ServingInGhana.org)

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**NOVEMBER 14, 2013** – Over the week-end, Suzanne and I took Motorcycle Lessons in preparation for what just might be our main form of private transportation when we get to Ghana. The venue for the class was Highland Mall, a formerly premier mall of Austin that is being repurposed as an Austin Community College site. This was the first mall I went to when I was a student at the University of Texas, the one we lived near when we were just married, and the one that became an annual pilgrimage at Christmas (even after we moved from Austin). How strange it felt to walk around this now empty mall, lined by boarded up stores.



Motorcycle Lessons

*Highland Mall could be a metaphor for this life we are closing down*, I thought as I looked around. I was trying to visualize what stores had been where, when we were last in them, and how it was that some stores were still open, even though there was almost no expectation of foot traffic. I felt I was saying good-bye to a significant place in my life, much like Suzanne and I have been saying good-bye to the friends and comforts of central Texas, as we are repurposed for the adventure that is West Africa. In some ways, Suzanne's life is very much like it has been for the past 15 years. At the same time, so much of it changing; we have a foot in both worlds.

The Mission Society stresses the importance of saying *good good-byes*. I had one a few weeks ago when I met my mentor and friend for lunch and shared how only 5% of West African young people have the chance to receive a college education. We both talked about the importance of campus ministry, but then I asked the question, "Do you know where those Ashesi students will be in 20 to 30 years?" He thought about it a moment, but before he could answer I said, "Running the country."

Suzanne and I have been invited into a position of influence with tomorrow's West African leaders, where we can speak the gospel into their lives by living it with in community. Looking back on how this opportunity came to us, I see God's fingerprints. I see how the fingerprints, or dots, connect.

"You can't connect the dots looking forward," Steve Jobs said in a 2005 commencement address at Stanford. "You can only connect them looking backwards." Suzanne and I didn't fully understand what was going to happen when we took our family to Africa in 2006. Nor did we understand the significance of a decision to stay a second year, or how when we returned to the states, to paraphrase something my father used to say, *"the enlightened heart would resist returning to its former state of ignorance."*



Empty parking lots are perfect for learning to ride a motorcycle

In Ghana we found our heart's desire, and now discovered, we see how the dots

Contacting Us

**Donations:**

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## Our Timeline

**December 2013** - Suzanne finishes at Southwestern; Anna comes home for the holidays. Grace graduates from Ursinus College; Grace and Ryosuke join us for the holidays.

Steve is Preaching:

Dec. 8, 9:30am St. Philip's

Dec. 8, 7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, Georgetown (Taize)

Dec. 24 5:30pm St. Philip's

**January 2014** - The wedding of our daughter Grace. The Mission Society worldwide gathering in Florida.

**February 2014**- Steve & Suzanne move to Ghana!

### As you pray ...

For us *personally* for our own walk with the Lord.

For our *children* that they grow into the people God created them to be. We pray each morning at 7am for our kids, let us know if we can pray for yours.

For our *ministry* at Ashesi University—pray that we connect with the students, faculty, and staff.

### Ashesi in the News

Patrick Awuah is interviewed in the October online edition of Forbes.

**Q: What motivated you to launch Ashesi University? What problem were you trying to solve?**

A: I was trying to solve the problem of development in Africa. I felt that leadership was a crucial part of the problem, and that the way leaders ...

*Link to the rest of the article*  
[www.ServingInGhana.org/Ashesi](http://www.ServingInGhana.org/Ashesi)

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### Motorcycle Lessons, continued

connect to lead us to this point.

After lunch with my friend and mentor, we went back to his office and said goodbye. Trying not to read too much into the situation, I think we both realized that it would be a very long time before we saw each other again, and we didn't want lose the weight or significance of this moment. And yet, we are both guys, so we choked back our emotions and looked away. Good good-byes.

"Sometimes you make a decision, and that decision turns around and makes you," someone once said, and I would add "in ways you could never expect, nor realize, until you look back and see how the dots connect, how the fixed points become fluid, and the great structures were repurposed." In motorcycle lessons we learned that it is easier to stay balanced when you know where you are going, and look in the direction you want to go. Another interesting but counter intuitive technique we explored was the *Counterweight Turn*, when you move the handle-

bar in the opposite direction you want to turn, so you can better lean into that turn. I expect that maneuver will teach us much in life, and how to navigate the upcoming turns in our journey.

"What this certificate tells you," our RiderCoach said handing them to us, "is that you can ride a small motorcycle, in a parking lot free of obstructions and traffic at speeds less than 20 MPH." In other words, he warned us, we have much to learn, so keep the shiny side up, and the rubber side down and enjoy the ride.



Motorcycle Steve

*Peace,*  
*Steve & Suzanne Buchele*

PS: If you would rather receive PrayerMatters via email, go to [ServingInGhana.org](http://ServingInGhana.org) and sign-up.



**The Mission  
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