



Joe and Denise Holman Brief Testimony Mission Call

Joe's Testimony:

I accepted Jesus Christ as a freshman in college. I was brought up in a non-Christian home. When I was in college, I was invited to a revival service at the local First Baptist Church. I walked in the front doors of that church an atheist, and I left a Christian. That was in April of 1982. I was baptized 10 days after I was saved, and God radically transformed my life.

Denise's Testimony:

I was brought up in a Christian home by godly parents. I trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior and followed Him in baptism when I was five years old (1971). I felt the need to have my sins forgiven, and asked my parents how. Through the grace of God, I have served Him to the best of my ability all of my life.

Call To Missions:

Joe was serving as the Sr. Pastor of Blue Ridge Bible Church in Purcellville, VA. While preaching a sermon, Joe asked a rhetorical question of the church: "What would your life look like if you went to the Father and said that He could do anything that He wanted to do...that there were no out of bounds?" As he asked this, he felt the Holy Spirit tell him to leave the USA and go to the mission Field. He shared this with Denise on the way home from church and she confirmed the call. They then began to investigate through prayer, fasting, Bible study and talking to missionaries. Two months later they were positive that God was calling them to Bolivia. After sharing this with their elders, they began to raise funds. Within 9 months they were, by the grace of our wonderful God, in Bolivia. They have been serving there since May of 2007.

Call To Ghana:

Joe and Denise first went to Tamale, Ghana in 2000. They began to work with a non-profit, religious organization led by Johnson Asare. In 2006, they assumed Tamale would be the mission field for them, but the Holy Spirit led them to Bolivia. However, through the years they maintained their relationship with Johnson and have been back to Ghana six times to participate in short term missions there.

Joe began to feel a small nudge of God doing a new work the end of 2021. He and Denise both sensed God was starting something in their lives, but did not know what. They both knew they were still called to be foreign missionaries.

As they prayed they discovered a close friend and ministry partner they have known since High School moved to Ghana to serve in evangelistic crusades, preaching, and training. Joe contacted his friend and both felt God was at work.

Joe contacted the leadership of the Good News Bible Church of Africa in Ghana. This is the main evangelical denomination in Ghana. They went beyond an affirmation and practically begged the Holmans to come serve in pastoral training and church planting. The Baptist denominational leaders heard the Holmans were praying about relocating to Ghana and extended an invitation to teach at their seminary and train pastors.

Johnson Asare and the Holmans talked about the possibility of the Holmans partnering with Markaz Al Bishara (The Center of Good News). This is a religious non-profit focusing on funding African missions through business as mission (<https://www.markazalbishara.org>). Joe and Denise have done various projects with this agency since 2000. Johnson echoed the passion and enthusiasm of the Bible Church of Ghana and felt God was calling the Holmans. They discussed partnering together and both felt God at work.

A businessman, not knowing any of this, approached Joe and said he was starting a foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to fund business as mission in order to provide on-going income strings so that missions and ministry will not always be dependent on donors. He asked Joe to put together a few projects for consideration and told Joe any project he presented would move to first in line for review.

Joe and Denise shared their story with their adult children and asked for prayer. They unanimously affirmed God's call on the Holmans to go to Ghana.

In April of 22, Joe and Denise flew to Ghana and met with various ministry leaders face to face. All of them experienced total unity in God's call on the Holmans to leave Bolivia and move to Ghana, Africa.