



# Faithful Servant in Ghana

## Missionary Sid Barnes Gave his Life to Shepherd the Lord's Sheep in Western Africa

Story by Carmel Palmer

Longtime Calvary Chapel missionary Sid Barnes had been missing since arriving at the Ghanaian airport. Recent news reports concluded that on the day of his arrival, March 18, 2010, the missionary was allegedly murdered by Kofi Seidu, the driver who received him at the airport. Seidu confessed to police on October 4 and led them to the well where he had placed the body. As the Calvary Chapel family mourns his loss, Sid is remembered for his great sense of humor and the devotion to Jesus Christ that defined his life. He was known for his wide smile, quick wit, and jovial nature, but also for his determination and toughness that carved out his 21 years of mission work in Africa.

Sid was the pastor of Manna House Mission and Crossroads Christian Mission. In 2005, he also established Crossroads Secretarial and Computer Academy with the twofold goal, in his words, of “teaching practical skills and the truth of Jesus Christ.” The school has drawn classes of more than 50 students in their late teens to early 20s, many of whom are not Christians. Yet they are led by believing teachers and join together in worship each morning before classes begin. Recently Sid had commented how the students’ initial resistance to the Gospel starts to dissolve throughout the school term.

In recent years, he moved into a more administrative role with these projects and focused increasingly on discipling other pastors and teachers. His experiences in Africa inspired him to begin writing books on prayer and spiritual warfare, which were still unpublished at the time of his death.

Sid was a businessman in Santa Ana, CA, in 1972 when he committed his life to Christ. Following that commitment, he moved out of the business world and onto the mission field—first in London’s red light district, then in Nigeria, before settling in Ghana in 1998. In choosing a central point from which to begin ministry, he realized it was the rural areas, not the cities, that were the true crossroads of Ghana. These were the stronghold of the occult, and from them

the message and influence of occultism was carried into the cities. He based his efforts in Koforidua, a medium-sized city in eastern Ghana from which he could reach out to the surrounding countryside. Through church planting and evangelism, he hoped to replace the oppression of the occult with the freedom of the Gospel. By 2004, the first church was established. Fittingly, it was named Crossroads Christian Mission.

Through that initial church plant Sid met Kofi Seidu, whom he hired as a driver in 2000. Sid later hired him as manager of another project, Mana Mission Farm. As a driver and project manager, Kofi was tasked to pick up Sid at the airport upon his return from a three-month visit to the States. Kofi left as planned in Sid’s Land Rover, but then called Padmore Goodwill, the church’s presiding pastor and principal of the school, and said Sid had never arrived. Suspicions were raised when others noticed injuries to Kofi’s hands, and it was discovered that he had attempted to sell Sid’s laptop. Further investigation revealed compelling evidence, including the airport records of Sid’s arrival. When arrested in late September, Kofi denied

any involvement, but after three weeks he confessed to murder and led police to the body. He had hidden it in a well on Sid’s own farm. Pastor Goodwill and another suspect are also being held for questioning.

The guiding Scripture throughout Sid’s ministry in Ghana was 2 Peter 1:3-4:

*As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Even in grief, the Calvary family rejoices that the legacy Sid left is greater than the tragedy and that he now stands in the presence of Christ, Whom Sid served so faithfully. 🙏



Sid Barnes dedicates a baby to Christ at Crossroads Christian Mission.