

HALF ASSINI

WESTERN REGION, GHANA

On the southwestern shores of Ghana, nestled between the Gulf of Guinea and the Ivory Coast (la Cote D' Ivoire), in the Western Region is a small but important town named Half Assini. Half Assini is the district capital for the Jomoro district (Jomoro means "fresh fish" in the local dialect. Half Assini's real name is "Ewianeh" and is supposed to mean "the end of Nzema".

Centuries ago, this region received European merchant ships which arrived to trade with coastal forts for gold and slaves. On the beach at Half Assini is the sunken ship of Captain William, whose vessel sunk on the 24th of August, 1913. He is buried in the center of town.

There are beautiful beaches, historic forts, popular cultural events, a village on stilts and charmed crocodiles.



90km west of Takoradi, the region's capital, and 5km north of Beyin, is Nzulezo, which means "surface of water". This settlement is located on one side of Lake Tadane which is fed by two nearby rivers.



A visit was made to a location where one can see the Oil of Half Assini on the ground surface!

Inhabitants of the Nzulezo village are said to have migrated here from Walata, a city in the ancient Ghana Empire. According to legend their ancestors were guided to this particular spot by a snail.



Nearly everything in this village on stilts take place on or just above the water - cooking, schooling, recreation, church, etc. Whenever a new baby is born, it is baptized in the lake, which is believed to be a protection against drowning.

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana, was born in this region in a village called Nkroful.

A garden and monument is located in the centre of the town and marks to site of Dr. Nkrumah's childhood home. He also built a holiday home at the beach in Half Assini which lies in ruins today.

It is a new experience for us interacting with yet another ethnic group in West Africa, the Nzema. Ghana's first president, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was from this region. Unfortunately, after his overthrow and death, subsequent governments shunned the people of this area. The jute factory he established (because of the lush coconut plantations here) was shut down immediately after his death. Most of their land was allowed to be taken over by Ivory Coast, the country with which Ghana shares her boarder to the west. The other half (Big Assini) is in another country all together. The people are the same; speak the same language and were a part of Ghana some time ago.



Strangely though, the Nzema are predominantly farmers even though they live by the sea. Fishing is done by the Fante tribe (who have built settlements along the coast from Ghana to as far as Liberia and beyond) and the Ewes (from the east of Ghana)!

The architecture of the Nzema people stands out in an interesting way. They neatly arrange coconut branches vertically to create the walls of the building. This allows for excellent ventilation and prevents flooding. Roofing is done with thatch.



In the recent past, the Nzema people celebrated their Kundum festival and enforced a ban on drumming in churches. When the churches violated the ban, their church buildings were burnt down and church activity (with the exception of the Catholics, Anglican and Methodist) was ceased for 3 and a half years! This was in 1998.

It was on this background that Evangelist Dag Heward-Mills led the Healing Jesus Crusade team for 5 days of powerful crusading with miracles, signs and wonders. Multitudes surrendered their lives to Christ and fetishes were burnt and buried in exchange for a life with Jesus!

The crusade, held on the Half Assini Secondary School park, was the largest gathering ever seen in the district, according to Mr. Ebbatey, the Headmaster of Christian Academy, Half Assini.



Evangelist Dag Heward-Mills preached the Gospel in such a crystal-clear way. On one of the nights, he preached on "Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock." The people of Jomoro district received the message with great joy and many opened their 'door' to the Lord that night!



Thousands prayed the sinner's prayer and accepted Christ as their Lord and personal saviour.



The miracles that followed each night's message were simply breathtaking. It reminded us of Philip the evangelist in the book of Acts, chapter 8: "Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims."



And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. There could not have been a more accurate account of the Half Assini crusade than this.



Dag Heward-Mills also ministered to pastors from various churches and denominations in the Jomoro district during the conferences held each morning. Ministers, in addition to all the impartation they received, were given several free books authored by Dag Heward-Mills and Healing Jesus Crusade magazines.



Praise God for His mighty works through the Healing Jesus Crusade in Half Assini!!