

Seth ● Ghana

I am so grateful to God for this conference. I believe seed has been sown for greater things to follow that will beat our understanding. I am looking forward to this. One newspaper has published it. The whole staff of the School of Performing Arts at the University speak so positively about the conference.

Carol ● Kenya

The conference was brilliant on many levels. How to explain the joy of sharing and fellowshiping with dancers of all abilities from different corners of the globe? Or the unity and kindred understanding of our place in God's kingdom as worshippers first and also as ministers - evangelists, preachers, teachers and leaders? I experienced many firsts at the conference - my first dance conference, my first time doing close partner work, my first flash mob, my first time using flags in dance, my first Hawkins Technique class, my first dance drama class among others.

Paula ● England

We thank God for Mr Seth Newman and his work in reclaiming Ghanaian dances for Christian worship - a spiritual work that is way deeper than we could explore in an evening but one that I would think would have gone hand in hand with the freedom of a colonised people. I couldn't help but think that Jesus would be more at home in the Ghanaian culture than the westernised model of church ... but maybe that's because I believe Jesus loves and gets dance and the Western/Greek mindset still struggles with the body in worship... a great discussion no doubt!

Edem ● Ghana

I enjoyed my first ever conference. One thing I took away with me from the conference was that God has given me a great gift that syncs perfectly with His calling for my life. All I need to do is boldly hold on to it, dance as much possible with Him and for Him, and move freely without concern that anyone looking at me will think I am from a different planet! At the Conference, worshipping in dance was wonderful and there was this freedom that made me not want to leave. This resonated in the kind of workshops I participated in. It was exciting to see how passionate people were about dancing, too.

Attending the conference was very significant for me as it drew my attention to what God was calling me to ... 'To still my soul before Him'.

Everyone was nice and happy. It was fun when we were invited up on to the platform to dance. Everybody danced. That is unusual! I liked to dance!

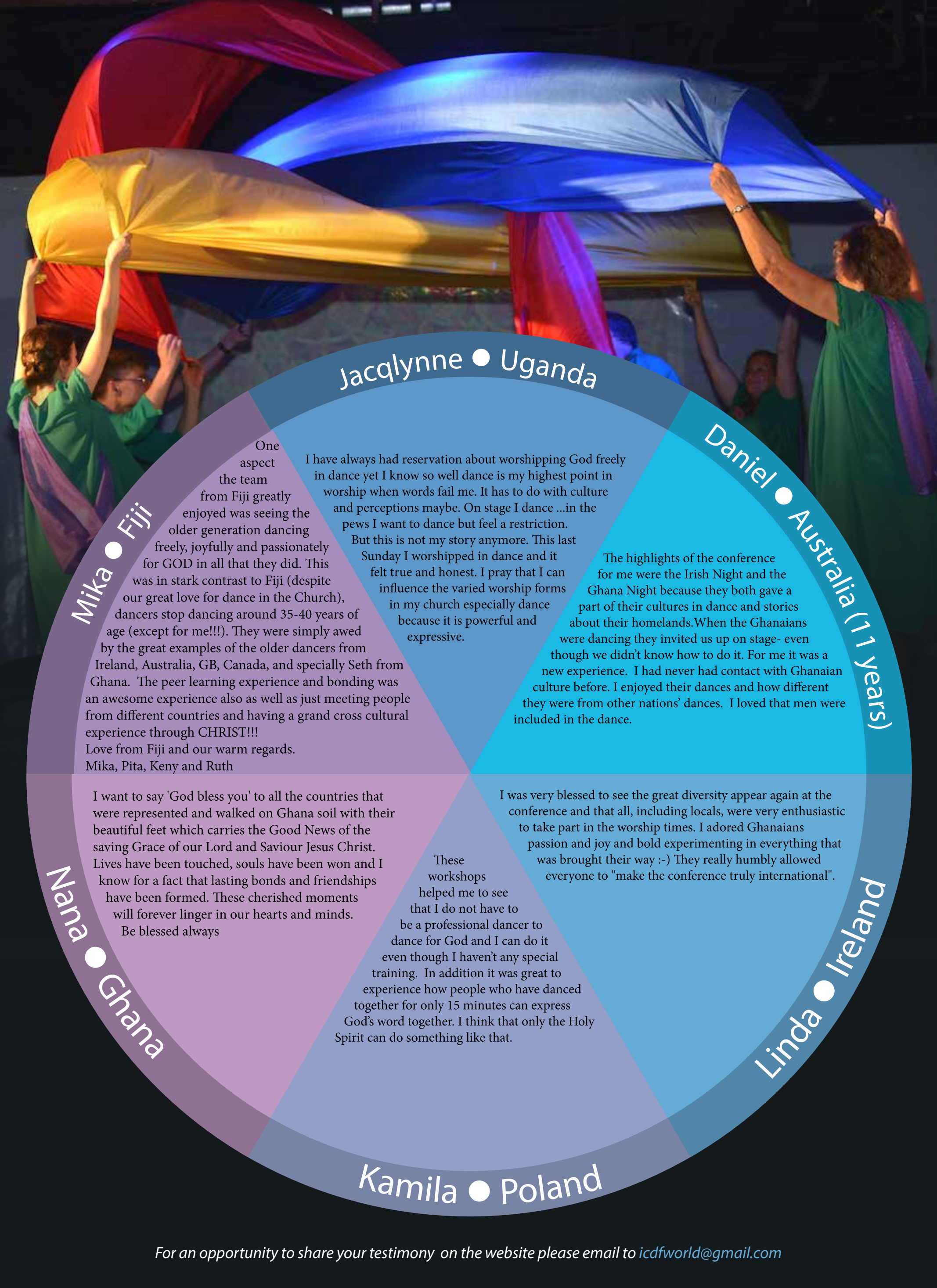
During the flag-dance-prayer Anna prayed for me and told me a lot that God said to me. That was cool. God spoke to me through Anna!

The storytelling with Jan was great fun! The drumming we tried was great fun too. The children dance was hard ... and easy ... and great fun. I enjoyed the flashmob even though it was warm. I might join the next time. If my mother does :))

I saw a people who were one, undivided by ethnicity, race or colour but marching together under one banner which is CHRIST, proclaiming the goodness of the LORD and worshipping HIS holiness. I saw at first hand how through dance people could freely and openly express themselves; coming before the LORD and laying every burden at HIS feet; picking up the garment of praise and worship dancing away their problems, fears, and sickness into the joy of the LORD which is our strength.

Samuel ● Ghana

Ella ● Sweden (11 years)



Jacqlynnne ● Uganda

I have always had reservation about worshipping God freely in dance yet I know so well dance is my highest point in worship when words fail me. It has to do with culture and perceptions maybe. On stage I dance ...in the pews I want to dance but feel a restriction. But this is not my story anymore. This last Sunday I worshipped in dance and it felt true and honest. I pray that I can influence the varied worship forms in my church especially dance because it is powerful and expressive.

Daniel ● Australia (11 years)

The highlights of the conference for me were the Irish Night and the Ghana Night because they both gave a part of their cultures in dance and stories about their homelands. When the Ghanaians were dancing they invited us up on stage- even though we didn't know how to do it. For me it was a new experience. I had never had contact with Ghanaian culture before. I enjoyed their dances and how different they were from other nations' dances. I loved that men were included in the dance.

Mika ● Fiji

One aspect the team from Fiji greatly enjoyed was seeing the older generation dancing freely, joyfully and passionately for GOD in all that they did. This was in stark contrast to Fiji (despite our great love for dance in the Church), dancers stop dancing around 35-40 years of age (except for me!!!). They were simply awed by the great examples of the older dancers from Ireland, Australia, GB, Canada, and specially Seth from Ghana. The peer learning experience and bonding was an awesome experience also as well as just meeting people from different countries and having a grand cross cultural experience through CHRIST!!!
Love from Fiji and our warm regards.
Mika, Pita, Keny and Ruth

Nana ● Ghana

I want to say 'God bless you' to all the countries that were represented and walked on Ghana soil with their beautiful feet which carries the Good News of the saving Grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Lives have been touched, souls have been won and I know for a fact that lasting bonds and friendships have been formed. These cherished moments will forever linger in our hearts and minds.
Be blessed always

These workshops helped me to see that I do not have to be a professional dancer to dance for God and I can do it even though I haven't any special training. In addition it was great to experience how people who have danced together for only 15 minutes can express God's word together. I think that only the Holy Spirit can do something like that.

Linda ● Ireland

I was very blessed to see the great diversity appear again at the conference and that all, including locals, were very enthusiastic to take part in the worship times. I adored Ghanaians passion and joy and bold experimenting in everything that was brought their way :-). They really humbly allowed everyone to "make the conference truly international".

Kamila ● Poland

ICDF & Networks Afternoon



An Afternoon celebrating all that makes up ICDF and culminating in a choice of workshops led by the ICDF Network leaders. The Networks were introduced through a poem presented by Lucy Jarasius and Debbie Bright, intriguingly featuring all past ICDF Conferences, and including dance interpretations by the Networks leaders. The ICDF Afternoon not only gave a taste of the diversity in ICDF and breadth of dance style and more in our Networks, but opened the invitation for delegates to find out more about our networks by 'having a go' as they joined a workshop offered by the Network leaders. A fun afternoon!

Quick Quiz

Ten of our Networks were represented at Conference but do you know how many Networks we have in total? If not, we invite you to go to <http://www.icdf.com/en/networks>. Is there one there you would like to join?

Missed the poem

.... or want to see the powerpoint presentation again, you will be pleased to hear a link will go up on the website soon.

A Feast of Praise and Worship



What a feast of dance presentations - truly a box of delights for our blessing each day, including ...

- Indigenous dances from Ireland, Ghana, Fiji, Uganda, South Africa
- Expected styles of ballet, contemporary, ballroom, flags, banners, tambourines
- Surprise of Krump, inclusive dance, spontaneous celebration
- Sharing of prepared Outreach dances from Morning Electives

... and more, all adding to the diversity of dance found only at an ICDF International Conference. A gift from God and our gift to God as we worshipped, praised, prayed and reached out in His Name, for His Glory, proclaiming His Goodness that His Kingdom may indeed come into all the earth.

The Lord delights in the praises (dances) of His people (Zephaniah 3:17) and, as the ICDF Family dancing together in Jesus' Name, we were lifted into those heavenly places of His delight. Dancing together changed us as we "Proclaimed the Goodness of God" (1 Peter 2:9) to one another and to the people of Ghana through our dance. Praising His Name!

Jan Dyer

Flashmob & Outreach

Well, I wouldn't have called us that! We weren't "flash" people by any stretch of the imagination, but I reckon we certainly did "shine the light", Proclaiming the Goodness of God, through the joy we shared dancing together in His Name!

I trust we were dancing God's dream that every created human being would be so "star-struck" by the divine story displayed in the constellations, a glorious message in the heavens, that we would gladly give our hearts to his purposes... partner with God in bringing about the New Heavens and the New Earth through the Way of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit! Ghana is known as the Gateway to Africa... it was a privilege to proclaim such a prophetic message alongside our Ghanaian brothers and sisters in their homeland at such a time as this... AND have such a flash-fun time doing flash-in-the-pan choreography that finally worked!

May the unspoken words of our dance moves continue to echo the message of the goodness of God in the hearts and minds of all who were touched by our group dance offering... may they in time, find themselves prepared to dedicate their hearts to God's purposes, dying to selfish motives, and find themselves caught up in the joy of such a heavenly view!

Lucy Jarasius

To read the full story of how the Flashmob developed go to

<http://www.icdf.com/en/publications-inspire>

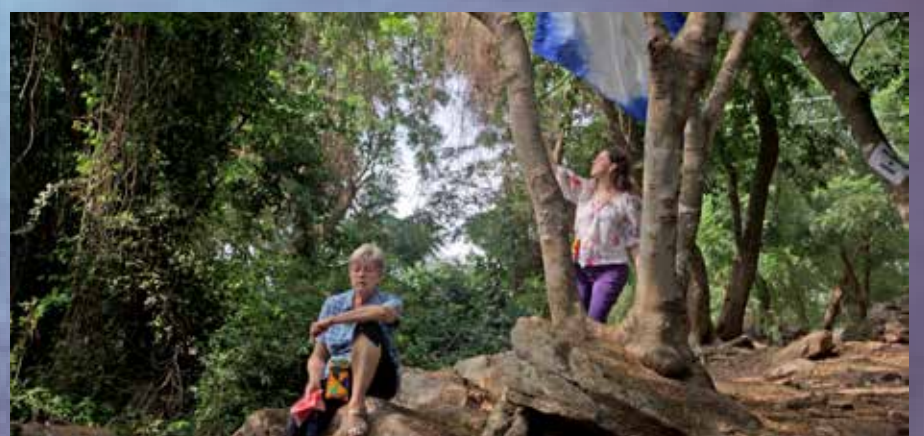
What an amazing opportunity it was to go into the community and display the dance styles learnt throughout the conference as we ministered God's glory to the general public through dance. The performances at the Bus terminal and at a mall in Ghana started with the Flashmob performance. This attracted a large crowd that included most of the delegates from many nations in sync together which drew the attention of the locals and enticed them to come to see more.

Following the Flashmob, each group performed their routines learnt in the Morning Electives over the week. It was amazing to see how the words of the songs and the movements of each style demonstrated our love for the Lord and his unfailing love for us. Many of us sat amongst the locals while watching other groups perform and had opportunities to speak with them and answer questions about our faith. Some of our local Ghanaian delegates and trainers helped some find a local church.

What a wonderful opportunity it was to put our Dance ministry into action. I personally came to the conference saying, "I am not a dancer but here to observe." But on that day, I performed in the African Dance Stream routine and enjoyed every minute of it. I now call myself a dancer and will be confident to include dance in my worship and ministry.

Kerry Derley







Beyond Conference



Elmina Castle

Saturday after conference about 30 delegates undertook the three hour trip to Elmina Castle on the Gold Coast of Ghana. It was of significant historical value being the first European fort built in the tropical belt. For many it was a deeply spiritual experience as the delegates had a guided tour followed by a time of repentance and intercession through the use of movement using symbols, declarations with tambourines and the use of banners.

Belinda (New Zealand) writes: "After the conference had officially ended several of the delegates including me chose to visit Elmina Castle – one of several castles along Ghana's coastline where African slaves were held for 3 months before being shipped around the world. Also known as the African diaspora or, as I saw it after our trip to this area, the African holocaust. After a sobering guided tour of the castle, including the slave dungeons and 'door of no return' Rev. Mary Jones lead the group in a time of repentance. We then went outside where David had set up various banners alongside the outer wall and we flew banners over the walls in a declaration of blessing to Ghana and her people. Finally David pulled out his 'giant' (10m x 6m) freedom banner and went up onto the top seaward facing wall and wielded it in majesty and freedom - a declaration from the Lord over Elmina Castle and to all those who had passed through her gates; and to Ghana's future."

Carol (Kenya) describes the trip as follows: "The Saturday Gold Coast trip to Elmina Castle was both moving and liberating. We prayed through the fort and gathered together in the old church to pray for the descendants of the slaves who had passed through the castle. We also repented of the sins of those who had participated in and benefitted from the slave trade; declared freedom and liberty over Ghana, Africa and the world; and dedicated ourselves to courageously stand for freedom and liberty wherever God has placed us."

Daniel (Australia), the youngest member of the team writes: "On the day after the conference we went on a prayer journey to Elmina – the oldest slave castle in Africa. It was interesting to learn about what had happened in the past. I was deeply saddened and sickened to know what humans can do to other humans. I was gladdened that people on our tour really repented and asked for forgiveness for what their relatives did during the slave trade."

As one pilgrim phrased it on the way back to Accra: "Now it is complete". There was a feeling of fulfilment and contentment knowing that this assignment had been accomplished.

Saartjie de Wet



A Taste of African Church

What a joy it was to be able to worship in a space at the front of Seth's Presbyterian Church on Sunday with dancing, flags and streamers and be joined by members of the congregation. Debbie, Saartjie, Mary and more of our group brought dance presentations which were warmly received. It was delightful to see a little girl in the aisle, totally uninhibited, following Mary Jones' movements to the Lord's Prayer (CaraMayan). Amazingly inclusive the service moved from traditional hymns to modern (loud!) music by a band to beautiful anthems sung by robed choirs. Being a family day, groups of children proceeded to the front to recite verses and Mr. Newman's address was to parents and children. The offering was an opportunity for more joy and celebration as row by row people danced up the aisle to place their envelopes in the offertory bowls. The colour and style, exuberance, joy and timelessness of this Ghanaian church will stay with us for a long while.



Visit to Accra

It was my last day in Ghana and we had the opportunity in the afternoon to visit the city centre and view the First President Memorial Park, the President's Residence and to embark on some last minute shopping in the Craft Village. The latter was quite an experience as we were bombarded by a group of shopkeepers all eager to engage us in sales of cloth, carvings, jewellery, and other crafts. Extricating myself from the bunch I managed, with a friend, to find some quieter stalls and make some great purchases. We all reconvened on the bus to the airport laden with bags of gifts and artworks to gladden the hearts of friends around the world and grace our homes with memories.



Farewell to Ghana

A short trip to the airport and it was time to say our final goodbyes, sadly, but with hearts full of the Goodness of God lavished upon us in Accra; goodbye to our family from around the world and goodbye to our many wonderful new friends in Ghana who are now part of that family.

Alison Bourke