

October 2011

A Day in the Life

By the time you read this, Gloria will have started 6th grade, a wonderful achievement, considering that she is a paraplegic. I want to tell you about an unfortunate episode at Gloria's new school. She no longer attends our mission school. It is to make you appreciate the challenges that Gloria faces at school, and in life.

In the final term of last school year, Gloria's 5th grade teacher claimed that 40 pesewas, or \$0.12, that she left on her table was missing. Since none of the almost 40 students in the class would confess, the teacher said the whole class would refund the money, each student paying \$0.10, which would have made almost \$4.00! When the teacher came to collect, all of the students ran out of the classroom, leaving Gloria alone at her desk to take all of the blame. Although Gloria was innocent, she was physically unable to escape the teacher and her anger. I have since called upon the head-teacher, and have had the class-teacher apologize to Gloria. I continue to question how society can be so insensitive and irresponsible toward people with disabilities. When I talked to Gloria about it, she said she still feels the pain of being wrongly accused, and being left there by her friends. But even after this, Gloria is determined to benefit from education by finishing high school, so she will be able to fend for herself in the future.

When Gloria is not in school, she sells sugar cane for her mother. Most Ghanaian children, whose parents engage in petty trading, help their mothers with commercial activity. Gloria's mother also makes and sells Gari, or Farmia, the meal made from the root crop called Cassava. Gloria makes a small commission on this, so that she can have a little of her own money for things she needs.

Gloria's life is more difficult than most, but she is strong and determined. Please help me by praying for her, and her future.

Blessings, Pastor Ben

