

WHERE THE WATER TAKES CHILDREN, WE GO

Let justice roll on like a *river*

On the world's largest man-made lake, tens of thousands of children cast nets they were never meant to hold. This is the story of why we travel to the far islands, and why we will not stop.

AMOS 5:24



A young boy on the lake alone paddling to get to shore
GlobeServe Media

~21,000

children estimated in forced labour
on Lake Volta

4

years old: the age of some
children already on the water

83%

of children in lakeside communities
are trafficked or in exploitative
labour

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

A river that should give life has become a place of bondage

Dear friend and partner, for thirty years GlobeServe has followed the call of Christ to the hardest places in West Africa. This special edition takes you to one of them: the fishing communities of Yeji and the Volta Lake, where children are trafficked, enslaved, and too often drowned. We want you to see what we see, understand why we go so far, and celebrate what God is doing through your partnership .

The prophet Amos gave us our marching orders: not empty worship, but justice that rolls like a river and never runs dry. That is the heartbeat of everything you will read here.



The Founder and President of GlobeServe on a canoe with the Discipleship Coordinator and a young boy
GlobeServe Media

The lake hides a forest, and the forest takes children

When the Akosombo Dam flooded the Volta valley in 1965, the trees were never cleared. Six decades later, a petrified forest still stands beneath the surface of the largest reservoir on earth. Fishing nets snag on those submerged branches, and so the smallest children, whose bodies are prized for the work, are sent diving into the dark water to free them. Many never come back up.

Children are trafficked here from poorer communities such as the Central Region, the Tongu districts and Greater Accras' fishing towns, lured by promises of school, an apprenticeship, or a little money sent home to a struggling mother. Once on the lake, those promises vanish. In their place come fourteen-hour days, casting and hauling nets before dawn, bailing water, sorting the catch, and diving. No school. No pay. No childhood.

Yeji has become so central to this trade that trafficked boys are known across Ghana by a single, haunting phrase: *"the boys who went to Yeji."* They are held by the fishermen they are made to call *"master."* Boat owners prefer children not out of cruelty alone but arithmetic: a child is paid for once, then worked for years.



The vast waters of Lake Volta Young boy paddling a canoe



Rev Samuel with two young boys who are into fishing at the Volta Lake

A child is not an economic tool. A child is not a commodity. A child is not a debt to be paid. The church must be more than a place that prays for suffering. It must become a place that interrupts suffering.

To reach the children, you must first reach the far water

Lake Volta covers 8,500 square kilometres, about 3.6% of Ghana's entire land surface, and its shoreline runs some 4,800 kilometres past roughly 1,200 fishing villages. Many sit on islands and hidden banks cut off from any road, beyond the reach of clinics, schools, and law enforcement alike.

This is why our team travels for hours by road and then by canoe to arrive where almost no one else does. It is why a single outreach means loading nets, medicines, and water equipment into boats and pressing on to one more community, and then one more. The distance is not an obstacle to the mission. The distance *is* the mission. The children furthest from help are exactly the ones Christ sends us to find.



Our team crosses the Volta to reach communities no road can.



ROOT CAUSE · POVERTY

Empower the mothers

Around the lake, families living below the poverty line are the ones traffickers target. When a boatmaster's wife can make soap, antiseptic and pomade to sell, her household no longer needs to pull a child from school to fish. We have trained 50 wives from five communities in exactly these skills.

ROOT CAUSE · THE MASTERS

Train the boatmasters

We do not come pointing fingers. We come alongside the fishermen who hold these children, building trust and preaching the Gospel of Justice, because a master transformed by God will release a child that no raid could reach, and will not simply take another.

ROOT CAUSE · DISEASE

Purify the water

Over 70% of illness in these communities is linked to contaminated water. We train local people to produce chlorine and treat their own water, breaking the cycle of cholera, dysentery and bilharzia that keeps families sick, poor, and vulnerable to traffickers.

ROOT CAUSE · HEALTH

Protect against malaria

Isolated island communities have almost no malaria control. Every insecticide-treated net and every deworming dose we distribute keeps a child well enough to stay in school, and keeps a family out of the debt that feeds the trade.



Five communities, in one week, by boat

Ahead of this year’s Justice Conferences, our team carried nets, medicine and the message of justice into five fishing communities, registering boatmasters and their wives, treating children and adults, and winning souls for Christ.

Kodome • Dzagbantse • Gbetekpo • Korpevikope • Awudzakope

COMMUNITY	NETS	ADULT DEWORMER	CHILD DEWORMER	REGISTERED FOR JC
Kodome	59	51	51	50
Dzagbantse	41	31	42	35
Gbe te kpo	287	253	242	93
Korpevikope	72	73	66	58
Awudzakope	77	70	80	66
Total	536	478	481	302

536

mosquitonetss
distributed

959

dewormingtreatments
given

302

boatmasters & wives
registered

5

souls won for Christ



Bringing every stakeholder to one table

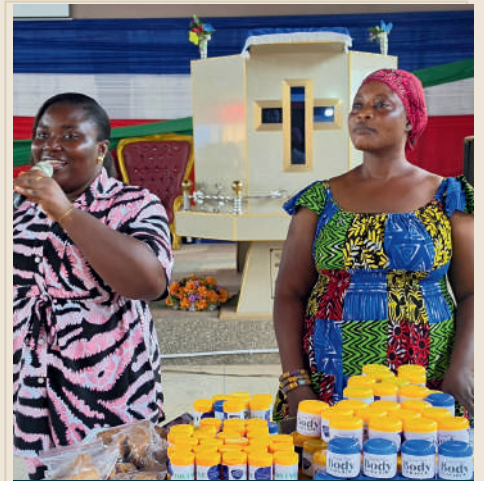
Prevention lasts when a whole community changes its mind. Our Justice Conferences gather boatmasters, their wives, chiefs, pastors and families to confront trafficking together, and to hear that every child bears the image of God. This year we carry the message to two gatherings.



Women's cooperative training,
Ghana



Team loading cloths and other
supplies unto a truck



Showcase of products the
boatmaster's wives learnt from their
skills training

4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Mepe Justice Conference

Our first conference of the season opens in Mepe, in the Tongu area, one of the very source communities from which children are trafficked to the lake. Reaching families here means stopping trafficking before it begins.

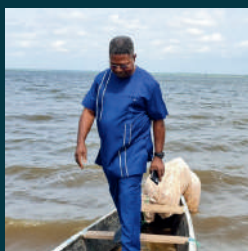
18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Yeji Justice Conference

At the heart of the trade, we return to Yeji, where the 302 boatmasters and wives registered in July are invited to encounter the Gospel of Justice, and where released children have already begun to smile again.



Protecting our children, renewing our communities



Rev. Samuel A.K. Dunya

Founder&President, GlobeServeMinistries International

A Gospel-centred address to boatmasters, families and community leaders

"We have not come to stand above this community. We have come to stand with you. We have not gathered to disgrace anyone or to point accusing fingers, but because we share one responsibility before God: the life, dignity, education and future of every child entrusted to us."

When a boat leaves the shore, what is the most precious thing it carries? Not the net. Not the catch. Not the money the catch may bring. If a child is in that boat, the most precious thing in it is that child.

Nets can be replaced. Boats can be repaired. Money can be earned again. But when a child loses health, freedom, education, family affection or hope, some losses can follow that child for a lifetime. So today I ask us to look beyond the water before us and see the future beyond the shore. What kind of men and women will our children become? What will they say we chose when their future was placed in our hands?



We recognise the skill, courage and hard work involved in fishing, and we know that many choices are made under real economic pressure. But respect does not require silence about harm. True respect gives us the courage to speak honestly and the grace to seek a better path together. We have already seen that change is possible: through a conference at Adidome, two children released from Yeji, a girl of fourteen and a boy of nine, now live with their grandmother and are back in school. At Yeji, a mother resolved to work beside her husband so her children could learn rather than follow him to the lake. One changed mind can redirect an entire family.

Five commitments he calls every community to make

- 1 Protect every child. Refuse to recruit, receive, transport, keep or employ any child in conditions that endanger their life, freedom, health or education.
- 2 Keep children in school. Fishing may provide today's meal, but education builds tomorrow's livelihood. School should not depend on whether the catch was good this week.
- 3 Protect those in danger. Identify children who may already be at risk and connect them with trustworthy leaders and protection services. Silence can leave a child trapped.
- 4 Strengthen households. Plan together, support lawful livelihoods, join savings efforts and use vocational skills, so that poverty never makes exploitation appear necessary.
- 5 Let every leader become a protector. Pastors teach justice and mercy, chiefs set clear expectations, boatmasters make their boats places of lawful work, and mothers speak early when a child's safety is threatened.

“Our Lord Jesus said that whatever we do for one of the least of these, we do for Him. When we protect a child, welcome a child home, or place a child back in school, our service rises beyond social work. It becomes service offered to Christ Himself. God is calling us to that choice today. By His grace, let us make it together.”

Rev. Samuel A.K. Dunya



In pictures

A few moments from the Yeji Justice Conference, training sessions, and the display of practical training products (pomade, liquid soap)





For thirty years, the call to justice has taken us to the hardest places. This year, it also gave us a reason to celebrate.

This August, the whole GlobeServe family came together in Tamale, boatmasters and pastors, chiefs and children, partners near and far, to thank God for thirty years and to be sent out again.



1996 TO 2026 • A MILESTONE YEAR

30

Y E A R S O F T H E G R E A T C O M M I S S I O N

Thirty years of God's faithfulness, celebrated in Tamale

This August, more than 4,600 people filled the Aliu Mahama Sports Stadium in Tamale for four days of worship, culture, and commissioning: thirty years since a single step of obedience in 1996. Under the banner *Taking New Grounds · Making New Disciples · Same Mission*, the whole GlobeServe family gathered to give three decades back to God and to be sent out again.

4,600+

gathered across four
days

13+

tribes & nations
worshipping as one

89

new leaders ordained
& commissioned

4

days streamed live to
the world

27 THU

Opening
Ceremony

28 FRI

Services & the
Float

29 SAT

Graduation &
Impact Night

30 SUN

Sending &
NEXT30



New grounds. New disciples. The same mission.

The anniversary was not a finish line but a launch point. On the final day, Pastor Wayne James led a prayer of impartation into NEXT30, commissioning the whole family into a new beginning. The children of the lake, the boatmasters, the far islands still waiting: they are the ground the next thirty years will take, for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Watch our thirty-year story

Scan the code to watch the GlobeServe documentary. It tells three decades of God's faithfulness, from a single step of obedience in 1996 to a movement across thirteen nations. Premiered on Impact Night in Tamale, it is the whole story your partnership helped write.



WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY



Restoring dignity through skills

Just days before the anniversary, that same vision took another form in the north. At Nyankpala Tuunayili, in the Tolon District, our GlobeServe Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training School held its very first graduation.

Forty-two young people completed nine months of intensive training in wood technology, electrical installation, electronics, building and construction, welding and fabrication, and plumbing. Each graduate walked away with a certificate and a startup toolkit, ready to build a trade, a business, and a future. As Rev. Dunya told them, every trade is a calling and every skill a ministry.

It is the same heart that carries us to the Volta Lake, expressed a different way: rescue for the trafficked child, and opportunity for the young person who might otherwise be lost to poverty. This school now joins our vocational schools at Bunbon and Adidome, and our basic schools across the Volta Region and Zabzugu.

42

youth graduated

9

months of training

6

trades taught

42

startuptoolsgiven



The graduating class of Nyankpala Tuunayili.



A graduate receiving a certificate and toolkit.



Celebration at the maiden ceremony.



In pictures

A few moments from the Graduation, the awards, and the tools given to the graduates



Your partnership is a lifeline

From donors to partners: that is the journey we invite you into. Every gift, every prayer, and every shared story carries us one more mile across the water.

Give

Fund a boatmaster training, a water-purification kit, or nets and medicine for a whole community.

Pray & partner

Stand with a Justice Conference in Mepe or Yeji, and with the families choosing a different future.

Spread the word

Share this edition and our thirty-year documentary so more hearts turn toward the mission.



A thank you, just for you

Scan the code to open a special thank-you from all of us at GlobeServe. It is our way of saying your partnership means everything

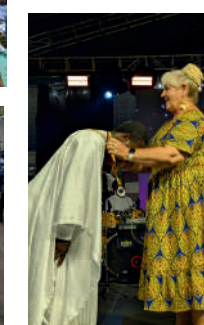
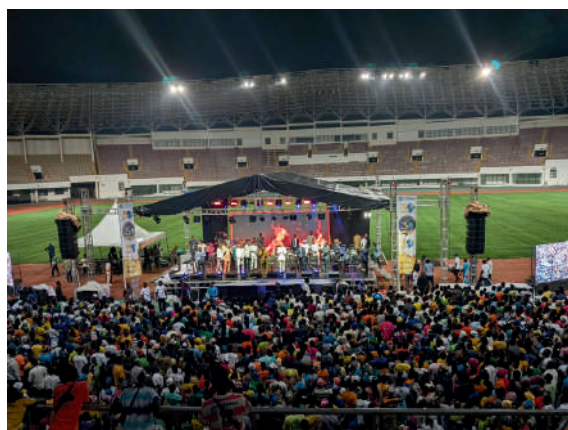
SCAN TO OPEN YOUR THANK-YOU CARD

“Thank you for your continued partnership in sharing the love of Christ, here, near, and far. Together, by standing up for justice and humbly serving the vulnerable, we can keep making a difference. May God bless you richly.”

Rev. Samuel A.K. Dunya

Founder & President, GlobeServe Ministries International

About the figures. Estimates of children in forced labour on Lake Volta (~20,000–21,000+) are drawn from the International Labour Organization and the Global Slavery Index. The finding that 83% of children in lakeside communities are trafficked (37.7%) or in exploitative labour (45.1%) is from the 2024 Lake Volta Prevalence Study commissioned by International Justice Mission (Kantar Ghana, fieldwork 2022–2023). “Children as young as four” is documented by the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report. Lake and geography figures reflect ILO/IOM and public geographic data. Distribution, registration and conference figures are GlobeServes’ own field reporting, July– September 2026. All estimates are best-available and should be read as ranges.



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Serving West Africa, the Sahel & North Africa since 1996