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From Slaves to Students



24 (out of 25) children proudly adorn their school uniforms. They are so thrilled to be finally able to attend school as regular students. The 25th child (nicknamed "Mike") will be attending Hope Training Institute to learn sewing.

n several occasions, we have told the heartbreaking story of children robbed of their childhood and plunged into the abyss of the hopelessness of human trafficking and slavery.

All that came to an end for 25 boys in March 2017 when they were rescued from slavery as a result of the work of International Justice Mission (IJM) working with the Ghana Police Service, the Department of Social Welfare and others. These 25 were part of a larger number of children who were rescued. However, they were brought to live at the Village of Hope owing to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Village of Hope and IJM for the care of such rescued children. Village of Hope has been caring for these boys since their rescue. We provide them with shelter, food, clothing, healthcare, education, nurturing and much more. To be able to do this, we renovated an existing dormitory for their place of abode and built a new bathroom and toilet facility for them. We hired a social worker to be their house master while the mothers of the children's home prepared meals for them.

They were to stay at the Village of Hope for between four and six months while the police

and social welfare department identified and reunited them with their families. Owing to this understanding, the newly-hired social worker acted as their teacher and taught them basic literacy and numeracy. While the children in the orphanage went to school each day, the 25 were engaged in special classes at the Bob and Pam Chisholm Chapel. Since they were going to be at the Village of Hope for only a short time, we organized activities for them to prepare them for their departure and reunification with their families. Unfortunately, they have now stayed with us for one year and we have no idea as to when they will be reunited with their families. We have therefore decided to integrate them into the mainstream school system until IJM, the police and the department of social welfare are ready to reunite them with their families. As such, they have now become students of Hope Christian Academy.

Owing to the temporary nature of their stay at the Village of Hope, they were not factored into our budget. It therefore became tougher and tougher to care for them as their stay become longer and longer. We are grateful to all who have given money to support their upkeep at the Village of Hope. God bless you.



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LOCAL OVERSIGHT

The Elders of Vertical Centre Church of Christ, Community Six, Tema, Ghana.

<u>SUPPORT</u>

VOH-Ghana, A 501(c)(3) Non-profit.

MINISTRIES

Hope Children's Village
Hope Training Institute
Hope Christian Academy
Hope Christian Hospital
Church of Christ School
Hope College
Agriculture
Church of Christ at Village of Hope
Campus Church of Christ - Ayawaso
Evangelism
Church Planting and Strengthening

Please Pray for Our College Students



Monica Bijah University of Ghana Political Science



Kezia Bansah University of Ghana Political Science

Village of Hope is currently caring for 34 students in colleges throughout Ghana. They live either on the campuses of their various colleges or in rented apartments close to campus. We are thankful to God that the little children and pre-teens who were entrusted into our care some years ago have now grown up into young men and women and are studying in college - a feat that only a very small percentage of Ghanaians are able to accomplish. As young men and women living away from home, they face many challenges and temptations, so please join us in praying for them daily. Thank you for lifting them before the throne of the Father every day.



Adriana Aidoo Nursing & Midwifery Training College, Dunkwa-on-Offin Registered General Midwifery



Ellen Cofie University of Cape Coast Science Education



Matilda Hope Kumasi Technical University Secretaryship & Management



Mabel Nyator
Presbyterian College of Education
Science Education



Mary Tackie Knutsford University College Business Administration



Nora Opoku Agyeman Ghana Institute of Languages Bilingual Secretaryship



Stella Kyei Obeng Cape Coast Technical University Tourism



Vera Sah Accra Technical University Secretaryship



Belinda Owusu University of Ghana Political Science



Agatha Agyemang University of Cape Coast Management



Diana Owusu Accra Technical University Purchasing & Supply



Stella Otis Accra Technical University Fashion & Design

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PRAISE THE LORD!!!

We are Thankful for Your Generosity

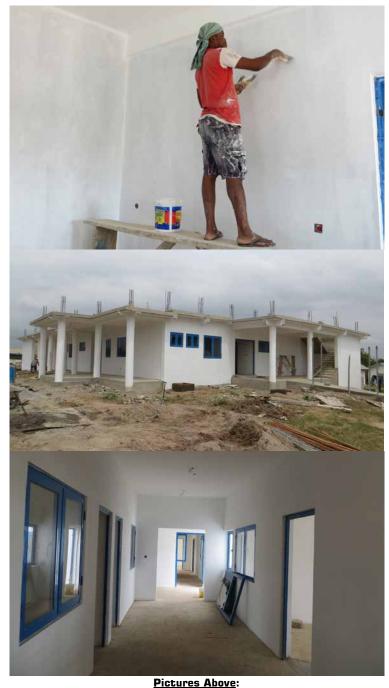
s we reported last month, the goals of the matching gift challenge were more than exceeded!!! As at the time of going to press last month, donations were still coming in and so we waited in announcing the total. We are excited to announce that a total of \$46,750 was generously given by you all towards the matching gift appeal. This means that we more than doubled the matching gift goal of \$20,000!!! PRAISE THE LORD!!!

With these gifts, we will be able to complete construction works on the pediatric unit for Hope Christian Hospital that will help save the lives of thousands of babies. We will also be able to build a new nursery building (classrooms) for the Church of Christ School. This much-needed facility would enable the school become financially self-supporting. Hope Christian Academy will also have a new dormitory which would enable the school to increase enrolment and provide quality Christian education to more students which would also help the school to be self-sufficient.

We are now busily working hard to ensure that these dreams come true within the next few months. May God bless all of you for your unflinching love and generous stewardship of the blessings of the Lord. Once again, join us to say, "PRAISE THE LORD!!!" (1)



Blocks (top picture) for the Construction of the Nursery Classroom Building for the Church of Christ School on Cleared Land (bottom picture)



Painters at work on Pediatric Building

<u>Pictures Below</u>:

Heaps of Sand for the Construction of the Dormitory Building for

Hope Christian Academy



Team from Heartbeat for Hope **Visits Village of Hope**

team from Heartbeat for Hope in Oklahoma visited Village of Hope from January 20 to 27. They developed existing relationships and formed new ones with the children and staff of Village of Hope. Some visited and worked with the teenagers at the vocational training institute on the Ayawaso campus; some engaged the children at the academy at the Fetteh campus both inside and outside the classroom; and some travelled all the way to our campus at Nkwatia to be with the children at the Church of Christ School. They also encouraged students of the high school. They met with the congregations that meet on the Fetteh campus during Bible studies and worship services. Various seminars were also held for the parents of the children's home, the teachers of the high school and the evangelists working with the congregations in the villages and towns around the Village of Hope. We are grateful to heartbeat for Hope for sending such a strong team of hardworking and dedicated followers of Jesus and we are thankful for every blessing we received from their visit.



Renai McClanahan Addresses Students and Faculty of Hope College before Ceremony to Unveil Plaque



pictured here unveiling a plaque naming a classroom for her and her husband.



Renai McClanahan is joined by some members of the Heartbeat for Hope team in front of one of two classrooms named for Rich and Renai McClahanan.



Seminar for House Parents



Seminar for faculty of Hope College



Tutoring Child with Learning Difficulties at Hope Christian Academy



Tutoring Child with Learning Difficulties at Hope Christian Academy



Teaching a Class at Hope Christian Academy



Dr. B. J. McMichael Preaches during Worship Service of Village of Hope Campus Church



Aubrie Ross Teaches Chhildren's Bible Class



Dr. Judi Lashley Teaches Children's Bible Class



Dr. B. J. McMichael Preaches at Hope College Worship Service



Leaders of Hope College Student Body Shake Hands to Show Appreciation to Heartbeat for Hope Team



Israel Agbovi Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology Business Administration



Charles Hodinya
University of Ghana
Political Science



Samuel Cofie University of Cape Coast Nursing



Alexander Bukari University of Ghana Finance



Daliel Yaare Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology Agriculture



Bismark Kyei Obeng Cape Coast Technical University Purchasing & Supply



Emmanuel Mensah University of Cape Coast Management



Ernest Bukari Koforidua Technical University Post Harvest Technology



Ezekiel Amevor Heritage Christian College Accounting



Michael Tetteh Accra Technical University Marketing



Ishmael Gyesi University of Ghana Psychology



Joseph Earles Nyarko University of Education, Winneba Music



Clifford Boateng Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology Economics



Simpson Kumbe Komenda College of Education Education



Andy Kemevor
Ghana Institute of Journalism
Communication Studies



Samuel Gyesi Heritage Christian College Accounting



David Gbevi Knutsford University College Business Administration



Michael Osei Baah Nurses' Training College, Ho Registered Community Nursing



Francis Guo University of Ghana Information Technology



Louretta Adofo Sunyani Nursing & Midwifery Training College Registered Nurse Assistant

Village of Hope's Management Team

We would like to introduce to you the leaders that God is using in the day-to-day running of the Village of Hope. They all need your prayers for God's wisdom and spirit of servanthood and selflessness as they serve in God's work at the Village of Hope. A note of encouragement from you would also be very much appreciated. You may write to them at P. O. Box GP 18169, Accra, Ghana or email or call them as indicated below:



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