

Herald of Hope

Volume 6 | Number 3 | March 2018

Well Done! Good and Faithful Servants!

Village of Hope Bids Farewell to Daniel & Matilda Adu-Poku After 17 Years of Service



Representatives of Board & Management of Village of Hope Congratulate Daniel & Matilda Adu-Poku
IL to R: George Coleman (Board Vice Chairman); John Sackey (Board Chairman); Matilda Adu-Poku;
Daniel Adu-Poku; Fred Asare (Group Managing Director); Samuel Ahiavi (Chief Finance Officer)]

Daniel and Matilda Adu-Poku became house parents at the Village of Hope on 5th February, 2001. Over the past 17 years, they have served faithfully, raising many children to become faithful Christians and Godfearing adults. For 17 years, three "generations" of children have passed through their loving and caring hands. For 17 years, they have dedicated their lives and sacrificed a lot in a ministry that has spanned day and night, day after day, over many weeks and months. They have given up their personal comforts so that orphaned, abandoned, destitute and needy children will experience the love of God.

In addition to being a house parent, Dan also served in many roles including being an estate officer (overseeing the construction and maintenance of many buildings on the Village of Hope campus), a security

coordinator and a community affairs officer. In this last role, Dan has been the key person in the Village of Hope's relationship with the chief, elders and people of Fetteh. Indeed, he is now considered a respected leader not only in the Village of Hope but in the Fetteh community.

Mama Matilda (as she is affectionately called) has also served as a senior house parent, mentoring many house parents who have come to serve at the Village of Hope. She has been responsible for public relations, especially among the women within the churches of Christ in Ghana and with the many visitors that visit the Fetteh campus of the Village of Hope. Her favorite role, though, is to be a children's Bible class teacher at church. For many years, she has served as the leader of the children's ministry of the church that meets on the



VILLAGE OF HOPE

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

USA

P. O. Box 670394
Dallas, TX 75367
Tel: 682-302-1939
thevillageofhope.us@gmail.com

GHANA

P. O. Box GP 18169
Accra, Ghana
Tel: 233-24-431-3404
Tel: 233-20-201-2229
info@thevillageofhope.com

LOCAL OVERSIGHT

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

SUPPORT


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

Village of Hope campus. Matilda was a school principal when she resigned and joined the Village of Hope as a house parent. She makes a truism out of the saying that, "once a teacher, always a teacher." She has helped many children who come to the Village of Hope with little or no schooling background by tutoring them to be able to read and write and catch up with their appropriate age-group in school. When the first group of seven children to be rescued from slavery on the Volta Lake arrived on the Village of Hope campus, Matilda gently took them under her wing, educated them and helped them to assimilate into their new home.

Dan and Matilda are now proceeding to retirement because the laws of Ghana sets the compulsory retirement age at sixty years. We are sad to lose them and will miss them a lot but we are comforted by the fact that they will be the first retired couple from the Village of Hope who will be living very close to the Village of Hope campus and so they will be close by enough for us to continually glean from their wisdom and years of experience.

Join us in praying for them and wishing them well. We know they have a lot to offer the Kingdom of God. On behalf of the Elders who oversee the work of the Village of Hope, the Board of Directors, Management, Staff and the many children of Village of Hope – both past and present – we say "Ayekoo!!!" (well done!!!) to Dan and Matilda. Well done! Good and faithful servants of God!!! 



Daniel & Matilda Adu-Poku with their earliest group of children, many of whom are now college graduates, or about to graduate from college.



2006: Matilda with First Seven Rescued Children



2003: Daniel with Baby Judith Bonyeneh

Leon Sanderson & Hope College Students Record Acapella Album

Students of Hope College have produced an album of acapella songs during every academic year since the 2012/2013 academic year. This past January, the students recorded their sixth album. What made this album so special was that, for the first time, the students recorded the songs with a guest song writer and singer Leon Sanderson. Leon is a minister of the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. Leon comes from a musically talented family. His father was L. O. Sanderson, a beloved song writer and teacher in the churches of Christ in the United States. We consider Leon Sanderson a legendary musician on his own merit. He is a great worship leader who loves the Lord dearly, loves to sing passionately, and greatly encourages others to also sing in praise and worship to God. The students were excited to have had the privilege to sing and record an album with Leon Sanderson. [📷](#)



Hope College Students Pose with Ebenezer Sackey & Leon Sanderson (both seated) after Recording Session

Kwaku Takyi Completes Training at Ghana Airforce Training School

Kwaku Takyi was a very little boy when he came to live at the Village of Hope. After graduating 9th grade at Hope Christian Academy, he attended Sunrise Christian High School in Ho where he graduated after the 12th grade. His heart's desire has always been to become a soldier and that desire was granted when he was selected to enter the Ghana Airforce Training School in Takoradi, Ghana. He recently completed his training successfully and can now begin to live his dream! [📷](#)



Pictures

Left: Kwaku Takyi Completes Training; Middle: Houseparents Julliet Asumeng & Vida Boakye Celebrate with Kwaku Takyi; Right: Kwaku Takyi Visits Fetteh Campus in his Official Attire

Appreciation Dinner for Board Members

The Village of Hope's Corporate Governance Charter was put together after many hours of discussions and consultations with many persons with diverse backgrounds in academia, professional life and Christian leadership. The charter seeks to ensure that Village of Hope operates with the highest standards of corporate governance. Under the charter, the Group Board of the Village of Hope is appointed by the Elders of the Vertical Centre church of Christ, who are the oversight elders. In consultation with the oversight elders, the Group Board appoints the Boards of the six subsidiaries of Village of Hope namely, Hope Children's Village (orphanage/ children's home), Hope Training Institute (vocational/trade school), Hope Christian Hospital (healthcare), Hope Christian

Academy (Pre-KG through 9th grade school at Fetteh), Church of Christ School (Pre-KG through 9th grade school at Nkwatia) and Hope College (high school – 10th through 12th grades – at Fetteh).

Under the Village of Hope's Corporate Governance Charter, each subsidiary board is to serve for a period of five years. The current subsidiary boards, having served from February 2013, brought their work to an end this month. To show appreciation for their voluntary and sacrificial work over the past five years, an appreciation dinner was held for all the outgoing board members at the Oceanic Resort at Korle Gonno, a suburb of Accra, on February 4, 2018. [B](#)



Prayer Time During Appreciation Dinner for Board Members

Summary of Report by the Group Managing Director of Village of Hope Delivered at the Appreciation Dinner for Board Members on February 4, 2018

Hope Children's Village is currently caring for a total of 266 children represented by 33 children in tertiary institutions (colleges, universities, polytechnics, etc.), 63 children in high school, 139 children in elementary school and 31 children who have completed high school and are awaiting admission into tertiary institutions. In 2017, 8 children completed university whereas 15 children entered university. Again in 2017, as a result of a partnership between Village of Hope and International Justice Mission, 25 children who were rescued from slavery were admitted into the Village of Hope. That same year, 14 children from the children's home were baptized into Christ. It is worthy of note that in January of 2018 alone, 8 children from the children's home have been baptized into Christ. During the last quarter of 2017, three of the residential homes were released to Hope Christian Hospital as a result of the increasing number of children attending high school and tertiary institutions who no longer live in the residential homes and the increasing number of patients attending the hospital. This reduced the number of residential homes from ten to seven. Hope Children's Village maintained its status as licensed and gazetted by the Department of Social Welfare which has also been referring a number of people seeking to visit a children's home in Ghana to Hope Children's Village.

Hope Training Institute currently has 23 teenagers under training in various programs including sewing, leatherworks, auto-mechanics, and hairdressing. Unlike in previous years when many teenagers were admitted for a two-year training program, in 2017, management decided to admit only half of the intended total number of teenagers and admit the remaining half in 2018. This way, beginning in 2018, a senior class will be graduated while a freshman class will also be admitted each year. In 2017, the former Managing Director of Hope Training Institute ended his service at the Village of Hope and Mrs. Araba Hammond, who hitherto was the Chief Operations Officer of Village of Hope, assumed a new role as the Managing Director of Hope Training Institute. The Institute is now working towards selling the products of its students – both past and present – internationally via the Internet which would eventually lead to the institute becoming self-financing.

Hope Christian Hospital's membership of the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) yielded some positive results with the posting of 25 professional staff to the hospital and the absorption of the salaries of 7 existing staff of the hospital last year. Average daily Out-Patient Department (OPD) patient attendance in 2017 was 75 and an average of 35 births were recorded at the hospital each month. 2017 marked

three years in a row that there was zero maternal death from childbirth, zero child death at birth and zero still births at the hospital. This is very significant as it indicates that hundreds of lives have been saved through the work of the hospital. A total of 325 major surgeries were done at the hospital in 2017. This excludes the many minor surgeries that were done. The hospital is now a center for experiential learning for Nursing Training Colleges and for the district health directorate as more and more nursing students as well as qualified nurses are sent to the hospital to learn to improve upon their knowledge and skills. Hope Christian Hospital is now a major hospital in the Central Region of Ghana with referrals from other health facilities. More than 800,000 cedis have been spent on the pediatric unit under construction. By the time it is completed, more than one million cedis would have been spent on its construction. When completed, it will be the second pediatric facility with a neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) in the entire Central Region which will add to its status as an important life-saving facility in the country.

Hope Christian Academy has a current enrollment of 632 students with 131 boarding students and 501 day students. In last year's Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), the school, once again, recorded 100 percent pass rate for all its graduating students. Teaching and learning continue uninterrupted at the school. The school has started a Special Education Unit to help students with learning difficulties. At the moment, the Unit has 61 students who have been identified and are being helped. By the grace of God through the generosity of supporters in the USA, funds have been received for the construction of a new dormitory for the male students.

Church of Christ School has a current enrollment of 333. 16 of this number are in the final year (9th grade) class. The school also recorded a 100 percent pass rate in the 2017 BECE with 4 students obtaining distinction. Teaching and learning are ongoing. Another good news is that our American donors have made it possible for a new nursery classroom building to be constructed for the school which will ease overcrowding and greatly improve the quality of the educational experience at the school.

Hope College is doing very well. The school has a current student population of 425 made up of 150 in 12th grade, 107 in 11th grade and 168 in 10th grade. The current 10th grade enrollment is the largest in the history of the school. The school has become an international school owing to the

fact that either in the past or at present, apart from Ghana, there have been or there are students from the UK, the USA, Italy, Senegal, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Jamaica. The large student population has compelled us to expand our dining hall facility. The practical education building which is currently under construction is about eighty percent (80%) complete. When completed, it will help provide much-needed space for teaching and learning. In a bid to reduce money spent on water bills, this year, two boreholes have been drilled on the school's campus to provide water for students. In the 2017 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), Hope College was the only mainstream private senior high school in Ghana whose student recorded a perfect score of A1 in all eight subjects tested. The alumni of the school are currently in tertiary institutions all over the country and even outside Ghana. On October 1, 2017, a new headmaster was inducted into office.

The **Village of Hope** group of ministries is deep-rooted, with broad branches and a strong trunk, impacting thousands of lives. Each day, more than 1,500 lives are directly impacted for good to the glory of God through the ministries of the Village of Hope. The major challenge we face is how to become self-sufficient so as to eliminate the uncertainties associated with working from day-to-day without any savings or investments or sureties while caring for so many children and needy people. Our cash flow situation is not ideal and leaves us with a lot of uncertainties with no reserves should any emergencies arise. In spite of this challenge, the future is bright and very promising.

Going forward, we are working towards ensuring that Hope Christian Hospital, Hope Christian Academy, Church of Christ School and Hope College are fully self-sufficient in their operations by the end of 2018. Our goal is to generate enough revenue – over the next two years – from the sale of the products of Hope Training Institute so as to be able to fund the operations of the Institute from its own products from the year 2020 and beyond. That would leave us with only Hope Children's Village which does not generate any revenue beside donations for the care of the children. We continually need your prayers, your support, your counsel and your leadership as we work together to save lives and serve humanity to the praise and glory of God.

Thank you and God bless us all.



Left: Group Managing Director Delivers Report; Right: Ofosu Brako (Hope Training Institute Board Member) Rises During Introductions

Please Pray for Final Year Students of Hope College, Hope Christian Academy and Church of Christ School

We are approaching that time of year when final year students of elementary and high schools in Ghana write national exams that determine whether or not they will be able to continue their education. While 9th graders write the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), 12th graders write the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). Performance in these exams determines whether a student would be able to gain admission into high school (10th grade) or college/university, respectively.

We are busily preparing our students for these national and international examinations. However, we acknowledge that unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. That is why, in addition to all the academic preparations, we also engage in much prayer for our students to perform well in these exams. Would you please join us in fervent prayers for the 9th grade students of Hope Christian Academy and Church of Christ School; as well as the 12th grade students of Hope College? Thank you for remembering these students in your daily prayers. [🙏](#)



These are the 16 students of Church of Christ School (above) and 61 students of Hope Christian Academy (left) who will all be writing their 9th grade exams in June. Their graduation date is June 9. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they prepare for these path-defining examinations.

These are the 150 students in the 12th grade at Hope College who will be writing their final exams soon. Each of them will write multiple practical and/or written exams for eight different subjects over nearly two months. Thank you for remembering them in your daily prayers. They will graduate on May 12.



Village of Hope Group Board of Directors



John Sackey
Chairman
Retired Preacher and
Minister of the Gospel



George Coleman
Vice Chairman
Engineer



Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua
Secretary
Legal Practitioner and
Law Lecturer



Fred Asare
Group Managing Director
Gospel Preacher/Minister and
Administrator



Samuel Ayim
Member
Legal Practitioner and
Leadership Expert



Baffour Kyei-Mensah
Member
Retired Fire Safety Professional



Kwame Aboagye
Member
Chartered Accountant



Stephen Agyapong
Member
Businessman



Kwasi Tweneboa-Kodua
Member
Chartered Accountant



VILLAGE OF HOPE

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

P. O. Box 670394
Dallas, TX 75367

#BrightFuture

Daniel: *Future Landscaper*

