

# Herald of Hope

Volume 6 | Number 6 | June 2018

## Dreams for Orphans Pediatric Building of Hope Christian Hospital Dedicated!!!



**Prayer of Dedication of the Pediatric Building Led by Fred Asare, Managing Director of Village of Hope**

**T**here was great rejoicing at Fetteh on Saturday, May 5, 2018 as hundreds of people from both near and far gathered to witness the dedication of the pediatric building of Hope Christian Hospital.

Exactly four years ago (in the June 2014 edition of Herald of Hope), we reported that Dreams for Orphans, a Seattle-based non-profit, has partnered with Village of Hope and Hope Christian Hospital to build a pediatric care facility. After four long years of sacrifices and generous gifts by many individuals, families, small groups, churches, organizations and businesses; and the toils and sweat of construction, the building was finally completed and dedicated. Another good news is that the building was constructed with the future in mind such that its foundation has been constructed to hold three floors. This means that in future, when the need arises, two additional floors can be added on top of the current building without affecting the structural integrity of the foundation; and construction can

proceed while work goes on uninterrupted at the pediatric unit.

The ceremony itself was very well attended with over 800 people showing up. They included the entire Village of Hope population of high school and elementary school boarding students, children from the children's home and staff of Village of Hope. Hundreds also attended from the Fetteh community and the many towns and villages served by the hospital. The Chief, Queen Mother, Elders and leading women of Fetteh were present and so were the Member of Parliament of the area (Gomoa East Constituency), the Regional Director of Health Services for the Central Region of Ghana, the Executive Director of the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG), the District Commander of the Ghana Police Service (and a number of police officers); and the President of Dreams for Orphans and some representatives of the organization who traveled all the way from the United States to be part of the historic occasion.



**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

The first part of the ceremony, which comprised mainly of speeches, was held at the Gaylon and Deanna Smith Hall on the Village of Hope campus. The hall was filled to capacity and overflowing. After that part, all trooped to the newly-constructed building for its dedication which was the second part of the day's activities. There was a prayer of dedication by the Managing/Executive Director of Village of Hope, the cutting of a ribbon and the unveiling of plaques. Everyone present was then given the opportunity to walk through and inspect the inside of the building. After the dedication ceremony, the inside rooms will be sterilized and access will be restricted.

We want to sincerely thank all and sundry who through the years have remained faithful and have made it possible for the construction of this building to be completed. Your love for God's creation, especially children, your sacrifices and your support in varied ways are deeply appreciated. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!**

The building, though completed, is now empty. Now comes the equally challenging part of equipping it for use. Without the necessary equipment and furniture, it cannot be put to use. The hospital staff are excited and anxious to get to work to save the lives of children but cannot do so until the facility is fully equipped. It has taken years of sacrifices to come this far in completing the construction of the pediatric building. Please join us to make the building functional. With all of us helping a little, we can equip and furnish the building and put it to use within a short time. Please see Pages 4 & 5 for a list of equipment, furniture and items needed to enable us put the building to use. This facility will be only the second pediatric facility with a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the entire Central Region of Ghana with a population of about three million people. Just imagine how many children's lives can be saved and how much good can be accomplished to the praise and glory of God. [📄](#)



**Traditional Authorities of Fetteh at Dedication Ceremony**



**Audience: Smith Hall was filled to capacity. Seated in the front row were two guests who were part of the team from Dreams for Orphans; the medical director and the matron (head nurse) of the hospital.**



**Dignitaries who attended the dedication ceremony included (from left to right): the Executive Director of the Christian Health Association of Ghana, the President of Dreams for Orphans, the Central Regional Director of Health Services, the Chief of Fetteh, and the Member of Parliament for Gomoa East Constituency.**





**Hon. Kojo Asemanyi, Member of Parliament, Gomoa East Constituency of Ghana, Gives Speech**



**Dr. Alexis Nang-Beifubah, Regional Director of Health Services, Central Region of Ghana, Delivers Speech during Dedication Ceremony**



**Mr. Peter Yeboah, Executive Director of Christian Health Association of Ghana, Speaks to Audience**



**Kary Doerfler, President of Dreams for Orphans, Speaks during Dedication Ceremony**



**Chief of Fetteh (6th from right), Queen Mother of Fetteh (5th from right) & Other Guests in front of Pediatric Building Shortly before Dedication to the Service and Glory of God**



**Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah, Medical Director of Hope Christian Hospital, Shows Guests Inside of Building**



**Chief of Fetteh, Member of Parliament for Fetteh Area (Gomoa East Constituency), Queen Mother of Fetteh & Executive Director of Christian Health Association of Ghana Inspect the Building after its Dedication**



**Kary Doerfler (President of Dreams for Orphans) and Friends Inspect the Building after its Dedication**

# Needs of Pediatric Unit

## NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

- Incubator
- Phototherapy unit
  - Cots
- Infusion Pumps
- CPAP Machines
- Respirator/Mechanical Ventilator
- Cardio-respiratory Monitors for babies
  - Ultrasound Scan Machine
    - Pulse Oximeter
  - Portable X'ray Machine
    - Laptop computers
  - 2HP Air conditioners
    - Oxygen supply
    - Furniture
    - Drip stand
  - Suction Machine
- General Medical Consumables

## MATRON'S OFFICE

- Furniture
- Air Conditioner
- Computer
- Printer

## NURSES' ROOM

- Desk and Chair
  - Bunk Bed
- Air Conditioner
  - Phone
  - Computer
  - Microwave
- Refrigerator

## SICK CHILD WARD

- Children's Beds/Cots (4)
  - Patient Monitors (4)
- Suction Machines (2)
  - Oxygen Supply

## DOMESTIC KITCHEN

- Gas Stove
- Cooking Utensils
- Refrigerator
  - Freezer
- Microwave

## DOMESTIC CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

- Cots
- Wardrobes

## MOTHERS' HOSTEL

- Bunk Beds (4)
- Air Conditioner

# of Hope Christian Hospital

## **PEDIATRICIAN'S OFFICE**

- Furniture
- Air Conditioner
- Computer

## **HOSPITAL KITCHEN**

- Gas Stove
- Cooking Utensils
- Refrigerator
- Freezer
- Microwave

## **LAUNDRY**

- Washing Machines
- Dryers
- Shelves
- Industrial Irons

## **VISITORS' LOUNGE**

- Seats (2 sets of 3)
- Television Set
- Water Dispenser

## **OPERATING ROOM**

- Operating Table with lamps
  - Suction Machine
  - Anaesthetic Machine
- Desktop or laptop computers
  - Diathermy Machine
  - Patient Monitors
  - Surgical Instruments
- Operating room sandals and boots
  - Drapes
  - Surgical Sutures
- General Medical Consumables

## **DOMESTIC CHILDREN'S LIVING ROOM**

- Set of Furniture
- Dining Table and Chairs
  - Television Set
  - Radio Set





# Speech (Condensed) Delivered by Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah at Dedication of Pediatric Building



**Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah, Medical Director, Hope Christian Hospital**

I am greatly honoured to stand before you, on behalf of the Board of Directors and indeed, on my own behalf, to earnestly express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to God who has granted us this great opportunity and allowed us to gather here to witness the effort and achievement, which can only be described as a 'dream come true.'

This dream has come about to its fullest culmination after four and half years of sacrifice, hard work, determination, perseverance and focus on achieving this noble goal. It has taken the toll of a substantial investment and unquantifiable sacrifices from magnanimous donors and affiliates of Dreams for Orphans (DFO) and Village of Hope (VOH), local and abroad, whose shared objective has been to care for children who are abused, abandoned or orphaned, providing comfortable environments for their nurturing into a hopeful future.

We have gathered here this morning to witness a vibrant and historical inauguration of an ultra-modern Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) birthed from a collaboration between the VOH and DFO which was established on October 3, 2013 when an MOU was signed. Over the years, these two groups have played their roles well and have ensured that we have a NICU in Gomoa East, in the Central Region. As we commission this beautiful edifice, it is important we show appreciation to DFO and VOH for their unprecedented support to, and partnership with, Hope Christian Hospital (HCH) in fighting one of the major public health problems in the country – child mortality, especially, neonatal mortality.

Permit me to share some statistics that I consider very horrendous and disheartening, and for which DFO/VOH/HCH made this remarkable move to remedy the situation. Over 15 million babies are born preterm each year with varying survival rates depending on where they occur. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for almost two-thirds of the world's preterm babies and over three-quarters of the world's new-born deaths due to preterm birth complications. Ghana is a contributor to these statistics. The increasing complexity of neonatal intensive care, beginning from the last quarter of the 20th century, has changed the chances of survival at lower gestational ages for the 1.2 million babies born in high income countries. Over 95% of extreme premature babies survive in these settings, even for those born below 28 weeks.

The period of viability is 28 weeks in Ghana. In other words, if a baby comes out before 28 weeks, it would be considered a mis-

carriage and survival rate is almost zero. Most of the premature babies (>80%) seen at our hospitals are born between 32 and 37 weeks of gestation (moderate/late preterm). In contrast with the picture in the high income countries where 95% of the extremely premature (below 28 weeks) survive, over half of all babies born in Ghana between 28 and 32 weeks die for lack of simple, essential care such as warmth and feeding support.

In Ghana, 29 babies out of every 1000 live births die before the first 28 days. Most of them die within the first seven days from varying causes like infections, prematurity and jaundice. Most hospitals lack essential basic equipment and units to deal with problems of the neonatal period. While less than 5 children under five years of age out of every 1000 die in the United States, in Ghana, 43 out of every 1000 do not live to celebrate their 5th birthday.

The number of NICUs in Ghana are inadequate. Apart from the Teaching Hospitals and a few other Regional Hospitals, most babies do not have access to the needed care during early neonatal life when they are most vulnerable and most deaths occur.

Between Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH) and Cape Coast Teaching Hospital (CCTH), a distance of about of about 143km, there is no NICU to take care of the numerous babies who need special care at birth. At best, there may be some special baby units serving as a NICU. There is so much congestion and pressure on the resources at these big facilities such that they are unable to take all babies in as they should. Services can only be accessed when the sick baby is referred – a way to keep the gatekeeper system and control the numbers that can be seen. Referrals to the KBTH and CCTH take about two to two-and-half hours in a traffic-free situation. Decentralization of neonatal care is a sure way to bring the mortality rate low.

It is for these reasons that the construction of a NICU here at Fetteh is of great importance. When fully operationalized, the NICU will reduce new born deaths and improve birth outcomes in mothers and babies in the region and the country at large.

It is worth mentioning the major components of this building:

- 1. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit** – this is to house 50 to 60 neonatal cots for both babies delivered at Hope Christian Hospital and those referred from other health facilities.
- 2. Operating Room** – this is to serve as an emergency theatre for the performance of life-saving procedures on newly born babies who may need them to survive.
- 3. Hostel for Mothers** – this will contain about eight (8) beds for mothers whose babies may need them close by. This is to make breastfeeding more efficient and encourage baby-mother bonding.
- 4. Phototherapy Unit** – to reduce deaths from jaundice which happens to be among the killer conditions in neonates, the unit will have a place to administer blue light to babies who may need it.
- 5. Children's Home** – the love Village of Hope and its subsidiaries have for children is very intense and genuine. We could not have forgotten about abandoned babies who may be found and may need a place for health care and stay. This is the first of its kind in the country. There will be house parents employed to take care of them while they are prepared for adoption or take over by the Department of Social

Welfare.

6. **Intensive Care Unit for Toddlers** – often, toddlers are not paid attention to as far as acute care and/or intensive care are concerned. Meanwhile, under-five child mortality is rising with infections and malaria being the major contributors. In this building, babies with severe infections and severe malaria (cerebral malaria) would be taken care of in a specialized intensive care unit of three (3) beds.
7. **Laundry** – this will serve the NICU and other units and departments of the Hospital.
8. **Kitchen** – this is to feed the mothers of the admitted babies and all in-patients of the Hospital, as well as staff.

Children are a source of joy and hope. They are our greatest treasure, our future. There is no greater insight into our future than realising that when we save our children, we save ourselves, the human race. But the statistics mentioned previously paint a gloomy picture. It is every parent's wish to see their children grow into adulthood. But the joy that comes with childbirth can quickly turn into mourning and make families breakdown when a child dies.


Hope Christian Hospital appeals to all stakeholders here gathered and elsewhere to come and support us, as we fight this important public health menace. Though commissioned, the building is empty; without any equipment to work with or staff to handle these delicate cases as they come in.

I would like to directly appeal to the Regional Director of Health

Services, the Executive Director of CHAG, and the MPs of Gomoa East and Awutu-Senya to help equip this building and provide the needed staffing that would save thousands and hundreds of thousands of babies in the country.

This project is a stepping stone to a forthcoming greater project of child health and medical services in Hope Christian Hospital of Gomoa-East District and for that matter the Central Region. It would be one of the few standard NICUs in the Region, if not the only one, which will also provide for neighbouring districts and regions.

On behalf of the Board, management and Staff of Hope Christian Hospital, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Village of Hope Group for the sacrifices it made towards this development; and to the other subsidiaries of VOH. Of course, you understood and showed support when much attention was given to the Hospital in raising funds for this project. We thank Dreams for Orphans for choosing us in this partnership and we appreciate all efforts and sacrifices from you and your donors. Indeed, it is worth mentioning that, between the VOH and DFO, the total cost of the building stands at 926,000 Ghanaian cedis (\$ 264,571); and I must quickly add that a very strong foundation has been laid on which about three storeys could be built. And already, we are looking for partners to build a rehabilitation center (nutritional, physical and mental).

Thank you for coming and may God bless you all. 

## Barnett Houses Now Part of Hope Christian Hospital




The Carolyn, Joy and Marita Barnett Houses are now part of Hope Christian Hospital. Originally children's homes situated right behind the hospital's facilities, these additions would enable the hospital provide more services and care for many more sick people.



Major renovation works are in progress on the three Barnett Houses to enable them to be used as medical facilities.



Also, covered walkways need to be constructed at various points between all structures designated for hospital use in order to connect the buildings for the unimpeded movement of patients and staff between facilities, especially patients who are unable to walk and need to be wheeled around.

It is our prayer that the addition of new buildings to the facilities of Hope Christian Hospital - DFO Pediatric Building and Barnett Houses - will improve the quality of care received by the children in our community and beyond. 

**Pictures Above Show Renovation Works on Barnett Houses and Construction of Walkways between All Buildings Now Designated for Hospital Use**



**VILLAGE OF HOPE**

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

P. O. Box 670394  
Dallas, TX 75367

**#BrightFuture**

**Judith:** *Nurse*

**Martin:** *Doctor*

