

# Herald of Hope

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## Back to School

*New Academic Year Begins for Hope College, Hope Christian Academy & Church of Christ School*



**Hope Christian Academy First Grade Class**

After being at home for about six weeks for the summer vacation from school, our students began reporting back to school from September 8, 2018. During the vacation, our campuses were very quiet without the usual hustle and bustle associated with students' presence and activities all over the campuses. After about a month of vacation, we began to miss our students and we were happy to see them return to school refreshed and reenergized for a new academic year. The students reported that they also missed school – perhaps not the teachers and academic work but their friends and the fun times they spend with them in school.

The beginning of every academic year witnesses the admission of new students and this year was no exception. For the elementary schools, there were new students in every class

except the 8th and 9th grade classes where, as a policy of both schools, no new students are admitted. Hope College recorded an enrolment of 177 students into its high school freshman class (10th grade) made up of 88 boys and 89 girls. This brings the current total number of students of Hope College to 440.

We are delighted by the high enrolment figure for the 10th grade class because it represents a huge vote of confidence in the school and the Christian education we are offering. Last year, the Government of Ghana made all public high schools free. Students attending public high schools receive free tuition, free room and board, free text books and stationery as well as free uniforms. This has resulted in record high enrolment into public high schools which has led to almost all fee-paying private high schools experiencing record low enrolment



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### 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

figures. Some private high schools have even collapsed as they could not enroll any new students both last year and this year. However, Hope College enrolled 175 new students last year and 177 new students this year setting record high enrolment figures two years in a roll. This is a testimony to the quality education being provided by the school. Parents have opted to pay for high quality Christian education for their children than to enroll their children in public high schools for free.

Teaching and learning have begun in earnest in all our three schools. Co-curricula activities are also ongoing as we educate the students entrusted into out care for eternity. We ask for your prayers for a successful academic year. Please remember our administrators, teachers, staff and students in your prayers. [@](#)



**8th Grade Class at Church of Christ School**



**Hope College Boys Arrive**



**Hope College Girls Arrive**



**Hope Christian Academy Pre KG Class**



**Christian Religious Studies Class in Session at Hope College**



# Math Camp Held at Hope College



**Math Training Class in Session During Math Camp**



**Math Training Class in Session During Math Camp**




**Math Games in Session During Math Camp**

To qualify for university admission, every student must pass high school mathematics. However, each year only about 20% of all high school graduates in Ghana pass mathematics and are therefore legible to enter university. There is a huge mathematics phobia among students in Ghana and this has persisted for years. Students of Hope College also have this mathematics phobia. Each year, even though our students pass the final year high school exam at a rate higher than the national average, mathematics is still the worse performing subject among Hope College graduates. To address this problem, we invited the Center for Excellence in Mathematics (CEMATHS) to conduct an in-service training workshop on the teaching of mathematics for mathematics teachers of our three schools – Hope College, Hope Christian Academy and Church of Christ School. The training session took place on Hope College's campus from August 22 to 25, 2018 – during the school's summer vacation period. Even though school was on vacation, we worked with parents to bring over 30 eleventh grade students back to school for this workshop. They were carefully selected. A third were the best students in mathematics – the high achievers. Another third were average students. The last third were the weakest students in mathematics.

Part of the mandate of CEMATHS is to alleviate the fear of mathematics among students in Ghana and to help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in the country. The facilitators from CEMATHS assessed the standard of the teachers, identified their strengths and weaknesses in teaching the subject and worked with them to improve the teaching of mathematics by introducing them to specific teaching practices to address students' misconceptions and errors in mathematics.

There were practical sessions where teachers and facilitators taught the selected group of students in a classroom setting, observed each other and learned best teaching practices aimed at improving the proficiency and effectiveness of teaching the subject. Teachers were re-oriented from a teacher-focused to a student-focused method of teaching.

It was not "all work and no play." Fun mathematics games were introduced and this enabled students to have fun and learn at the same time. It is hoped that this workshop and future ones will help to positively impact student outcomes in mathematics. 



# Our Students Excel

In May 2018, the 12th grade students of Hope College wrote their end-of-high school exam known as the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). This examination is taken by all final year high school students across English-speaking West Africa – Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia and The Gambia. This is the exam that determines whether one qualifies to enter university or not. The results of the exam were released in August 2018. As in previous years, students of Hope College performed very well in the examination with many qualifying for university. In fact, as at the time of writing this report, many of the graduating class have gained admission into various universities and have already begun their university education. Although this year none of the graduating students had a perfect score, as one student accomplished in last year's exam, the overall performance of this year's class was higher than last year's class.

Ninth grade students of Hope Christian Academy and Church of Christ School wrote their end-of-elementary school exam in June 2018 and the results were released in September 2018. In Ghana, a student does not automatically move from the 9th grade to the 10th grade. All 9th grade students write a national exam called the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). This exam determines who qualifies to enter high school (10th grade). Since our students started writing the BECE in 2006, each year, every graduating 9th grade student has qualified to enter high school and THANKS BE TO GOD!!! this year was no exception. All 61 students from Hope Christian Academy and all 16 students from Church of Christ School qualified to enter high school.

We congratulate all our graduating students for doing so well and our teachers for working so hard with these students that enabled them to excel in their exams. [@](#)



**Hope Christian Academy Class of 2018**



**Church of Christ School Class of 2018**



**\*Petra Mensah Abosi**



**Hope College Arts I Class of 2018**

\*Petra Mensah Abosi is the valedictorian of the Hope College Class of 2018. She received a scholarship to study at Ashesi University, one of the best universities in Africa.



**Hope College Arts II Class of 2018**





**Hope College General Arts III Class of 2018**



**Hope College General Science Class of 2018**



**Hope College Business Class of 2018**



**Hope College Home Economics Class of 2018**

# Getting Into University in Ghana

In Ghana, all high school students must pass an examination written at the end of the 12th grade to qualify to enter university. This examination is known as the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

Students write exams in 8 subjects. These are made up of 4 core subjects (English Language, Mathematics, Integrated Science and Social Studies) and 4 elective subjects. To qualify for college/university, a student must pass any 3 of the 4 elective subjects in addition to passing in English Language, Mathematics and Integrated Science. If a student fails in either one of these subjects, he or she cannot enter college/university. A few colleges/universities substitute Social Studies for Integrated Science.

The grading system for the exam (WASSCE) is as follows:

- Grade A1 – Excellent
- Grade B2 – Very Good
- Grade B3 – Good
- Grade C4 – Credit
- Grade C5 – Credit
- Grade C6 – Credit
- Grade D7 – Pass
- Grade E8 – Pass
- Grade F9 – Fail

To qualify for college/university admission, a student should obtain from Grade A1 to Grade C6. Even though Grade D7 is termed a “Pass” and Grade E8 is also termed a “Pass” by the West African Examination Council (WAEC), the body that conducts the examination, in reality, these grades are not considered as passes in the Ghanaian educational system. For example, a student who obtains Grade D7 in Mathematics cannot be admitted into a college or university in Ghana. Likewise, a student who obtains Grade E8 in English Language does not qualify for college/university. [🔗](#)



# Debby Hayes Visits from USA

**D**ebby Hayes is a dear friend of Village of Hope. Debby first visited Village of Hope in 2004 and has been visiting almost every year since then. This year, Debby made her 14th trip to the Village of Hope. Debby has also sponsored a child of Village of Hope for many years. Debby is among the few sponsors who have grown alongside her sponsored child, built a strong relationship with him, watched him graduate from university and blossom into a very fine Christian gentleman and a responsible adult. Many of the children Debby first met at the Village of Hope

are now adults and have become her dear friends. As a mother and grandmother, Debby continues to have a strong relationship with them and to mentor them.

This year, apart from visiting with her grown-up Ghanaian children, Debby spent time with some of the newer children who call Village of Hope home. She helped them in their learning and taught them art and craft.

We are so pleased that Ma Debby (as she is affectionately called at the Village of

Hope) continues to invest in the lives of the children and calls the Village of Hope her home away from home. [@](#)



**Debby & Sponsored Child Bernard in 2004**



**Debby & Sponsored Child Bernard in 2018**



**Debby & Older Adult VOH Children**



**Children with Decorations Made During Lessons from Debby**

# Pierre Megeste Visits from Haiti

**P**ierre Megeste is a minister of the church of Christ in Haiti. He is also the son of a minister of the church. Pierre's father was a minister of a congregation of the Lord's church in Port au Prince, the capital city of Haiti. In 2010, there was a terrible earthquake in Haiti that destroyed the building of the church and scattered the congregation. After the earthquake, the minister began gathering the orphans off the streets and providing them with shelter, food and their basic needs. This work has now grown into an orphanage called Goodness of God Orphanage in Haiti. At the time of the earthquake, Pierre was in the United States studying for ministry. He studied at Southwestern

Christian College and Abilene Christian University. After his studies, Pierre returned home to help the orphaned and destitute children of Haiti. He is now directing the Goodness of God Orphanage relieving his aged father who has worked extremely hard in this good work for years.

From August 16 to 24, 2018, Pierre Megeste visited Ghana to see what the Lord is doing among the churches of Christ in the country. Among other places, Pierre visited Heritage Christian College in Accra and Village of Hope in Fetteh. His visit to the Village of Hope enabled him to experience how ministry to orphaned, abandoned, destitute and

needy children is being done in Ghana. Owing to the Village of Hope's long history of working with children, we had a lot to share with him. However, we also learnt a lot from him. His cheerful spirit, humility and Christlikeness left a good and lasting impression on many he came into contact with during his short stay in Ghana. We don't know much about Haiti but we know that God has a man in Haiti in the person of Pierre Megeste. [@](#)

**To learn more about the good work of the Goodness of God Orphanage in Haiti and the work of Pierre Megeste visit [www.tggo.org](http://www.tggo.org).**



**Pierre Megeste**



**Fred Asare (left) & Pierre Megeste Discuss Caring for Needy Children**



**L to R: Fred Asare, Pierre Megeste & \*Frank Essien**

\*Frank Essien is Pierre Megeste's classmate at Abilene Christian University and is currently serving as the minister of the campus ministry/ church of Christ at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana.

# Edu-Fair 2018

One hundred and ninety-eight (198) elementary school (9th grade) graduates from all over Ghana attended this year's Edu-Fair from August 5 to 12, 2018 at Hope College. Edu-Fair is a one week residential camp meeting for students who have completed 9th grade and are about to enter high school (10th through 12th grade). As there are only a few high schools in Ghana to absorb students who have completed elementary school, most students entering the 10th grade leave home to become boarding students in high schools where they are admitted, often far away from home. For most of them, it is the first time they live away from their parents for an extended period of time and they are unprepared for life away from home.

Most high school students spend a total of nine months of the year in boarding school and are home for only three months. The average age of a 10th grader is 15 years. At such a tender age, they are easily influenced by other students they live with in school. Unfortunately, many are led astray by their fellow students and return home with bad character and habits formed while at school. Indeed, many parents have lamented that they "lost" their innocent children when they left home for boarding school. To prevent such from happening and to prepare them to face the realities of boarding school, Hope College organizes Edu-Fair for students before they enter high school. Participants are taught what they are to expect in high school, how to overcome numerous temptations and how to remain focused on God and their academic work so as to successfully graduate from high school and gain admission into college.

Some of the topics treated at this year's camp meeting were:

- How to deal with peer pressure
- How to handle bullying
- How to manage your finances as a student
- Drugs and occultism in high schools
- Choosing the right course of study and their career opportunities in future
- How to study and pass examinations without cheating

Current and past high school students shared their experiences with the participants. High school teachers and counselors also educated the participants. They were made to experience a typical life in a high school – waking up at dawn, completing chores, attending classes, eating food from only the school's dining hall, going to bed at designated times, etc. The camp was not "all work and no play." Participants also had time for fun and made friends. As with all our programs, they were taught the Bible and participated in daily chapel and devotionals.

One of the greatest joys at the camp was when two of the participants were clothed with Christ through baptism.

We thank God for a very successful camp meeting and hope that what the students learnt will be beneficial to them in whichever high school they attend and wherever they find themselves in life. [🙏](#)



**Participants of 2018 Hope College Edu-Fair**



**Two Participants of Edu-Fair Baptized into Christ**



**Edu-Fair Participants at Worship Service  
at the Hackmann Assembly Hall of Hope College**





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*Theophilus: Future Welder*

