

# Herald of Hope

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## Transformed by the Power of Love

The Stories of Vera Saah, Stella Otis and Michael Tetteh



Vera Saah, Stella Otis & Michael Tetteh Graduate from Accra Technical University

When the phone rang, I answered like I always do but the introduction by the voice on the other end of the line surprised me. It was the District Chief Executive, the highest Government official, of one of the counties in the Eastern Region (State) of Ghana. That was the first time such a high Government official had ever called me. He expressed concern about the plight of a little four-year old girl who had been neglected by her family and needed urgent help to save her from impending death. After speaking with him, he got me in touch with the District Director of Social Welfare in the county. He reiterated the plight of the little girl and the need to help her. We

wanted to help so the next day, Gladys Bulley (the first house parent of Village of Hope) and I drove to the town of Begoro on a rescue mission.

We had never been to this town before and had anticipated a two-hour journey. We were wrong! It took us four hours to get there. We were met at the outskirts of the town by the District Director of Social Welfare who took us to the family house of the girl. We learnt of the extreme poverty and struggles of the family which had left the poor little girl often famished and uncared for. The girl really needed help and we were willing to take her to live at the Village of Hope to give her hope for the future. That was



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Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

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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



when we were hit with another shocking revelation. For 45 minutes, the girl did not show up. Apparently, she was naked and the family was struggling to find a dress to clothe her. After 45 minutes, a concerned neighbor donated the shirt and a pair of shorts belonging to her son to be given to the little girl. When she finally came forward, she was dressed in a boy's clothing. Thinking we were being tricked into returning with a boy instead of the girl we had come to rescue, we protested. "We have agreed to help a girl so why are you replacing her with a boy?" The family insisted that the little child in front of us was the girl who needed help. Upon a closer examination, we discovered that she was the girl who had been dressed in a neighbor's son's donated clothing. We returned to the Village of Hope that same day saddened that such a little girl could go through so much misery but thankful that we had been given the opportunity to transform her life and give her hope for a bright future.

The next day, when Gladys Bulley bathed her and dressed her in new clothing, this four-year old asked her a very piercing question, "Mama, mama, the clothing I wore yesterday belonged to Nana Kofi. Whose clothing have you put on me today?" Her new mother assured her that the dress she was wearing was hers and the little girl beamed with such a big smile and a happy face that could light up the whole world! She couldn't believe that she now owned a dress. We soon discovered that she could not chew meat because she had always been fed without any meat. Whenever we served her food with meat, she would roll a piece of the meat in her mouth and then spew it out. However, she loved eggs and so we substituted meat with eggs until she got used to eating meat.

When we took her to the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (Ghana's largest hospital) for medical examination – which is what we do for all children when they first come to the Village of Hope – the head of the Pediatric Unit of the hospital, Prof. J. O. Oliver-Commey, examined the girl himself. After several tests and examinations, he ordered that she be

immediately admitted at the children's ward for further examination and treatment. She was so malnourished and had many medical issues that required her to be at the hospital for two weeks before being discharged to return to the Village of Hope.

Back home (at the Village of Hope), she bonded well with her new family, started attending school and growing up well. All these things happened some 21 years ago. This month, that little girl graduated from the Accra Technical University with a higher national diploma in Secretaryship and Management Studies. She is now working at Ghana's Parliament House, the seat of the legislative branch of the Ghanaian Government.

That girl is Vera Otiwa Saah. She has been completely transformed by the power of love!

Also graduating on December 8, 2018 from the Accra Technical University was Michael Kwame Tetteh. Michael joined the Village of Hope family together with his sister, Beatrice, in January 2001 at the age of six. The siblings never knew their father who abandoned his family when they were little children and later died in another town far away from where the children and their mother lived. Unfortunately, their mother also died in March of the year 2000 which necessitated their move to live at the Village of Hope. Michael attended the Church of Christ Primary School in Fetteh before the establishment of Hope Christian Academy. He then transferred to Hope Christian Academy after the academy was established. After completing his elementary education (9th grade), he attended senior high school at Adisadel College and then attended Accra Technical University where he just graduated with a higher national diploma in marketing. For his mandatory one-year national service, he is working at the New Ningo Primary School in the Prampram District of the Greater Accra Region.

Our third child to graduate from the Accra Technical University this month is Stella Obenewaa Otis. She graduated

**Pictures (Top to Bottom):**

- 1. Vera at Four Years Old**
- 2. Vera in Elementary School**
- 3. Vera in High School**
- 4. Vera in College**

**5, Vera During a Visit to Village of Hope in December 2018**



with a higher national diploma in fashion design and textiles. She is currently serving as a national service person at the Youth Employment Department of the Adenta Municipal Assembly in Accra, Ghana's capital city. Before enrolling at the Accra Technical University, she attended Hope Christian Academy (for her primary education) and Breman Asikuma Senior High School for her secondary education.

She came to live at the Village of Hope in January 2004 when she was seven years old. Stella never saw her father. He died two months after she was born. Her mother also died in 2002 when she was only five years old. She was taken care of by her grandfather who appealed to the Village of Hope for the care of Stella owing to his old age. During the application process, the grandfather expressed "fears for the little girl's future, especially her education in the event of his death." Her grandfather would have been very proud of her. Through the loving care of house parents, preachers, social workers, teachers, donors, sponsors and a host of people who invested in her life, Stella has graduated from the university, is a faithful young Christian woman and has a bright future ahead of her. That is the power of love.

Vera, Michael, Stella and many more lives have been transformed for the better because people cared enough to show love. These children, now adults, have gone out into the world and are making the world a better place by transforming other lives. To God be the glory!!! 🙏



**Michael Tetteh**



**Stella Otis**



**Cynthia Arthur (House Mother) Celebrates with Michael on Graduation Day**



**Main Entrance of Accra Technical University Attended by Vera, Michael & Stella**



# How Can You Support Village of Hope?

## FEEDING AND TRAINING OF STREET CHILDREN

Since 1999, Village of Hope has been ministering to children and teenagers who live on the streets of Accra, Ghana's capital city. We provide them with food and clothing, teach them the Bible and provide counseling to them on the streets. Through this effort, we are able to help some of the children to move off the streets and learn valuable employable skills. Since 2005, Village of Hope has operated a trade school (vocational training school) that teaches auto-mechanics, sewing, weaving, hair dressing, catering, cloth tie and dye, and other skills to teenagers who have been moved off the streets. Each month, we need about \$4,000 to run the trade school. This amount provides food, shelter, training materials for the street teens as well as pays the salaries of the instructors/teachers and social workers and administrators who work with the street children.

As we continue to feed the children on the streets, we need support to provide the meals. Your financial support will help provide meals for hungry children on the streets.



**Monthly operations are \$4000**



## HOPE HAVEN FOR CHILDREN

In the early part of 2018, one of the largest estate-developing firms in Ghana, offered Village of Hope a one-acre property with three houses in a gated community on the east side of Accra (Ghana's capital city) as part of its corporate social responsibility. This property will enable Village of Hope to care for some of the most vulnerable children in Ghana – children under five years of age who are abandoned, destitute and in dying need of care. The new property would be known as Hope Haven for Children.

We are in need of a one-time assistance for \$40,000 to furnish these three houses that would house two married couples as house parents and be home for 20 vulnerable children. It would also house a nursery/kindergarten for the education of the children.

Monthly operations of Hope Haven for Children will pay for the accommodation, feeding, clothing, medical care and education of the children as well as the running of the nursery/kindergarten.

**Monthly operations of Hope Haven will be \$3,000**

## COMPUTER LAB FOR HOPE COLLEGE

Hope College is the high school of Village of Hope. The school, which broke-even in five years of its establishment, is now a self-sustaining operation. It provides Christian high school education to children from the orphanage as well as children from the neighboring communities and from other parts of Ghana.

Even though Hope College teaches I.T. and computer studies, it does not have a single computer for teaching the subject. To make lessons practical and give students hands-on training, we are seeking \$21,000 to furnish a computer lab for the school.



**We are seeking \$21,000 to furnish a computer lab**

# Current Needs of Village of Hope

## MISSIONS & EVANGELISM BUS

Village of Hope has been engaging in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, planting churches and strengthening rural congregations since its inception. Over the years, staff of Village of Hope have planted 15 churches and are currently working with 35 congregations in four counties in the Central Region of Ghana.

Each year, Village of Hope welcomes hundreds of American Christians, especially the youth and young adults, to Ghana and partners with them in serving the people of Ghana. Students from Lipscomb University, Rochester College, Abilene Christian University, Harding University, etc. and members of many congregations from New York to California have embarked on mission trips to Ghana and worked with the staff and children of Village of Hope.

A current need is for a bus or van that would transport mission teams on mission efforts in Ghana. This bus will ensure the safety of mission teams as they travel and would eliminate the need for spending thousands of dollars each year in renting vehicles for mission work. The bus would also be used by local staff in evangelistic efforts as well as in following up on congregations that have been planted in rural communities.



**The cost of a bus is \$37,500**



## EQUIPMENT FOR HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

Hope Christian Hospital began as a small health facility to provide healthcare for the orphans at the Village of Hope. As there was no health facility nearby for the villages around the Village of Hope, the services of the small health facility were extended to help the tens of thousands of people in the neighboring communities. Over the years, this health facility has grown into a full hospital with 3 full-time doctors, midwives and nurses. It has a pharmacy, a laboratory, an eye clinic and a dental clinic. Each month, about 40 babies are born at the hospital and it has helped to reduce maternal mortality significantly. More than 2,000 patients are seen at the hospital each month and nearly 30,000 sick people receive treatment each year. Over a thousand surgeries are performed in this hospital each year. The hospital's chaplaincy works hard to preach the good news of Jesus, and to offer counseling, comfort and hope to patients and their families. The hospital is self-financing but it is in need of equipment to be able to help more people and improve the services it offers.

**We need \$50,000 to buy much-needed equipment**



# Visits in December



**Kari Laxson & Aubrie Ross**

**D**ear friends from the United States visited the Village of Hope this December.

Aubrie Ross, President of Heartbeat for Hope – a charity organization based in Edmond, Oklahoma that is blessing many in Ghana, especially destitute and needy children, and underprivileged and struggling women – and her friend Kari Laxson – a speech language pathologist – visited from December 1 to 5. During an earlier visit, they had conducted a needs assessment for some of the children living at the Village of Hope and some students of Hope Christian Academy. The assessment revealed that some children needed specialist medical treatment and others needed hearing aids. When they returned to the United States, they worked hard together with their friends at Heartbeat for Hope and were able to help the children with their needs. They also secured some hearing aids from the US. On their latest trip, they worked with a Ghanaian audiologist to fit hearing aids for the children who needed them. As always, they have been a blessing.



**Kari Laxson Waits with Children to See Audiologist**



**Checks at the Audiologist's Office**



**Children with their Hearing Aid Kits**

Renai McClanahan and Emilie McClanahan from Edmond, Oklahoma also visited the Village of Hope from December 8 to 13. They spent time with the children teaching and helping them in various ways. Renai who is a neo-natal intensive care nurse spent a lot of time with the staff of Hope Christian Academy, sharing her knowledge, experience and expertise in that field with the hospital staff as they prepare to fully operate the newly constructed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the hospital. Since this is new to most of the staff, Renai's seminars on running a NICU were really beneficial to the hospital staff. 🙏



**Renai McClanahan Shares Her NICU Knowledge with Hospital Staff**



# Fellowship at Church

The church of Christ that meets on the main campus of Village of Hope at Fetteh is unique in the sense that it is one of the very few churches that has an overwhelming majority of its members made up of children and the rest being adults. All the children living at the Village of Hope's children's homes attend the church of Christ at Village of Hope. Furthermore, close to 200 boarding students of Hope Christian Academy at Fetteh also attend this church. Every now and then, the church organizes a fellowship meal where every member brings food to be shared by all. The house parents of the orphanage and their children prepare their food in the various children's homes and bring it to the fellowship.

The Academy's kitchen staff also prepare the students' lunch and bring it to the fellowship. Other church members prepare and bring their food from their homes to the fellowship. Such fellowship times are real fun times and a great delight to all. There is always so much to eat but with over 300 children and teenagers around, no food goes to waste.

Just before schools went on recess for the Christmas and New Year holidays, the church organized its last fellowship meal for 2018 and it was a great success. Here are some pictures from the event. [📷](#)







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**#BrightFuture**  
**Yaa:** *Future Lawyer*  
**Samuel:** *Future Policeman*

