

# Herald of Hope

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## Let the Children Play!!!



**Children Play at Hope Christian Academy in Newly Constructed Playground**

**H**earbeat for Hope has gifted Hope Christian Academy with a new playground for the children of the creche through kindergarten classes (aged from 2 to 5 years old). It is a priceless gift that has brought new life to the nursery school and made school more fun for the children. The playground has been fenced off for the security of the children and also to keep away the older children, many of whom want to play at the playground even though the equipment there are not meant for their age group.

Heartbeat for Hope is a non-profit organization based in Edmond, Oklahoma that supports children at Village of Hope as well as education and rural development in Ghana. Since 2008, Heartbeat for Hope has been sponsoring the education, medical care, housing and day-to-day cost of 16+ children in the orphanage. Beginning in January 2013, Heartbeat for Hope expanded its mission to include training programs for women: Hope Creations – with two schools in Fetteh and Ayikai Dobo. The women gain information and skills to allow them to become self-supporting and provide for their families. The third mission of the organization is Rural Development. Relationships have been established in several rural villages outside Accra where Heartbeat for Hope helps these communities by improving the school structures and providing educational supplies to be able to teach their children.

This summer, two teams from Heartbeat for Hope were in Ghana. The first team of six people arrived on June 22 and most of them departed on June 29. They interacted with the children in the orphanage and participated in their home devotionals. Four of them travelled to Nkwatia to hold seminars for the



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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

teachers of the Church of Christ School while the remaining two built various games and seats for the playground at the nursery school.

The second team of thirteen people arrived on June 29. They were in Ghana until July 6. Members of this team were engaged in different activities. Some organized professional dispositions seminar, curriculum integration seminar and mathematics integration seminar for teachers of Hope College and Hope Christian Academy, respectively. Some of them spoke at the Hope College chapel, while others taught Sunday Bible classes and also preached at worship services. A preachers' seminar was held at the Chisholm Chapel that brought together preachers from the Kasoa-Awutu-Gomoa-Efutu (KAGE) area as well as from farther away. Two other special seminars were held. One was for children from the orphanage

who have completed high school or were in college. The second was for the senior class of Hope College. Both seminars aimed at guiding these adolescents and young adults in preparation for living independently and facing the harsh realities of life outside the safety and comfort of the Village of Hope campus.

Owing to the short duration of their stay, they were very busy as they fully engaged in the various ministries of the Village of Hope. In spite of their busy schedule, they took a day off to visit the Kakum Rain Forest with its world-famous canopy walk hanging over 200 feet above the ground; as well as the Elmina and Cape Coast Slave Castles – two world heritage sites.

Both teams from Heartbeat for Hope made great impact on life and ministry at the Village of Hope for both children and adults alike. 🙏



**Team 1: Heartbeat for Hope Team**  
L to R: Derek Ellwood, Brett Laxson, Kari Laxson, Dana McMichael, Judi Lashley & Aubrie Ross



**Team 2: Lashley, McMichael & Young Families**  
Front Row (L to R): Sarah Young, Kelsy Young, Bode Lashley, Josh McMichael, Summer Lashley, Mia Lashley & Judi Lashley  
Back Row (L to R): Chris Young, Braden Young, Bob Lashley, Andy Lashley, BJ McMichael, Dana McMichael



**Andy Lashley Speaks to Hope College Students at Hackmann Hall**



**Summer Lashley Reads to Elementary School Child at Hope Christian Academy**



**Brett Laxson at Work on Sandpit for Nursery School**



**Kari Laxson Works with a Child at Church of Christ School**



**Excited Children at the Hope Christian Academy Nursery School Try Out the Newly Installed Playground Sets**



**Judi Lashley & Dana McMichael Lead Seminar for Teachers at Church of Christ School**



**Judi Lashley with Children at Church of Christ School**



**Dana McMichael Interacts with Students of Church of Christ School**



**Seminar for Ministers and Preachers Facilitated by Andy Lashley at Chisholm Chapel**



**Mia Lashley Plays the Ukelele for a Class at Hope Christian Academy**



**BJ McMichael & Summer Lashley with High School Graduates and College Students during Seminar on Transitioning into Adulthood**



**Aubrie Ross Poses with Child at Church of Christ School**



**Special Needs Diagnostics at Church of Christ School**



**Teachers of Church of Christ School Receive Supplies for their Various Classes from Heartbeat for Hope**



**Heartbeat for Hope Team Helps Elementary School Children at Hope Christian Academy Use New Playground for the First Time**



**Rides, Slides, Sandpit and Benches Installed by and with the Help of Heartbeat for Hope**

# 35 Years of Ministering to the Deaf

In 1984, Byron Lee Dial responded to an invitation to join a team of World Bible School (WBS) teachers on a WBS follow-up campaign to Ghana. The team, led by J. P. "Jake" Coppinger of Visalia, California, followed up on WBS students throughout Ghana but they did more than that. They engaged in personal Bible studies with people in villages, towns and cities; and held open-air nightly public preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Working in partnership with Ghanaian Christians, the campaign reached tens of thousands of people and thousands were baptized into Christ.

During the campaign, Lee Dial (who was a minister to the deaf at the Hanford church of Christ in California) learnt that deaf people in Ghana used the same sign language as those in the United States, that is, American Sign Language (ASL). [Sign language was introduced to Ghana by an American by name Andrew Foster.] Lee Dial therefore diverted his attention from WBS students to focus on deaf people in Ghana. That was the beginning of deaf ministries of churches of Christ in Ghana. Since then, Lee Dial has made many mission trips to Ghana to work among the deaf. The Lord has blessed his labors and has grown deaf ministries greatly among churches of Christ throughout Ghana. There are at least two hundred (200) deaf ministries of churches of Christ throughout Ghana which means that perhaps there are more deaf members of the churches of Christ in Ghana than probably any other nation in the world. One of the things that the churches of Christ in Ghana are nationally recognized for is ministry to the deaf.

During the last week of June 2019 and the first week of July 2019, Lee Dial visited Ghana and was hosted by Village of Hope. This year's visit marked the 35th anniversary of his mission and ministry work in Ghana. He traveled with his two sons – Byron and James Dial. Byron Dial is an elder of the Springtown church of Christ in Texas, USA and James Dial is an elder of the Hanford church of Christ in California, USA. This means that all the three Dials are elders of the Lord's church.

While in Ghana, they worshipped with the deaf at the Nsawam Road church of Christ in Accra on June 30 where they taught Bible class, preached and led the Lord's supper. They also met with deaf Christians in Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city, at the Bomso church of Christ for an evening of prayers, encouragement and a meal fellowship on July 3. They visited all the ministries of Village of Hope at the Fetteh campus as well as the Ayawaso campus (Hope Training Institute) and the Nkwatia campus (Church of Christ School). 📍



**James, Lee & Byron Dial**



**Lee Dial Preaches at Deaf Worship Service at Nsawam Road Church of Christ**



**Lee Dial Preaches at Deaf Worship Service at Nsawam Road Church of Christ**



**Lee Dial Flanked by Sam Williams (left) & Eric Sapey (right), Ministers of Nsawam Road Church of Christ Deaf Ministry**



**Dials Visit Hope Training Institute**



**Dials with Richmond Twum at Church of Christ School**



**Lee Dial Encourages Deaf Christians at Bomso Church of Christ**



**Lee Dial Reunites with Robert Sarfo (one of his first two deaf converts) Baptized in October 1984**



**Dials Meet with Leaders of Nsawam Road Church of Christ Deaf Ministry**



**Dials Tour Campus of Church of Christ School at Nkwatia**

# Making the Summer Count

## Visit and Work by Team from Church of Christ at White Station

Each summer, a team from the youth group of the church of Christ at White Station, Memphis, Tennessee visits Village of Hope to serve the children in the children's home and in the communities around the Village of Hope. This year was no exception. The team spent a week serving at the Pearl House in Winneba and another week holding VBS and other ministry activities in some of the villages near Village of Hope. During their third week, they planted tree seedlings

along the boundaries and streets of the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope, fellowshiped with the children and parents of the children's home as well as the students and faculty of Hope College. They were a great blessing and encouragement to us and we hope that they were also blessed by their visit. They chose to make the summer count for serving God and humanity; and what a difference they made!!! 🙏



Left to Right: Josh Tacker, Carol Michael, Becca Smith, Gabriella Massey, Julia Law, Grace Jackson, Abby Hensley & Brandon Daugherty



# From Brentwood with Love

On July 9, 2019, eight members of the Concord Road church of Christ in Brentwood, Tennessee, visited Village of Hope in the company of Augustine Tawiah (immediate past principal of Ghana Bible College in Kumasi) and William Ayisi (a minister of Bomso church of Christ and a teacher at Ghana Bible College). They visited the various ministries on the Fetteh campus and attended chapel at Hope College where Hutson Staggs, a recent high school graduate, spoke to the students of the college. Dan Chambers, minister of the Concord Road congregation, also gave some words of encouragement at the assembly. They also donated some gifts to Hope Christian Academy, Hope College and Hope Children's Village. 📷



**Left to Right: Hutson Staggs, Christian Staggs, Sofie Staggs, Ali Staggs, Christy Staggs, Ryan Staggs, Augustine Tawiah, Dan Chambers, William Ayisi & Leola Chambers**

**Top: Hutson Staggs Speaks to Hope College Students  
Bottom: Brentwood Team Presents Gifts to Hope College Students**

# Ohio Valley University Visits the Children

On August 1, 2019, a group of students, faculty and friends from Ohio Valley University in West Virginia, led by faculty member Steve Opoku-Duah who was born and raised in Ghana, visited the Village of Hope as part of a mission trip to Ghana. The team toured the Village of Hope campus in Fetteh to learn more about the work and the children, with whom they interacted. The team did not come empty-handed, but presented a variety of gifts including a cash donation and school supplies to the children. 📷



**Ohio Valley University Group & Ghanaian Guides**  
**Left to Right: Selom Wilson, Roy Shafer, Sydnee Shipley, Jared Shipley, Steve Opoku-Duah (holding Christian Asare), Mark Sherrod, Darlene Sherrod, Abby Auxier, Bryn Magnusson, Richard Abankwah, Kyrin Baklund & Francis Ackah**

**Top: Steve Opoku-Duah Speaks to Staff & Children of Village of Hope  
Bottom: Children & House Parents of Village of Hope Receive Gifts Presented by Ohio Valley Team**



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# Online Presence Update

With your support, the different areas of the work of Village of Hope continue to expand and so we have updated our website to reflect this expansion and make it easier for you to follow the progress of the work and see the positive changes that are caused by God's blessings of your gifts and visits.

Beginning August 1, [thevillageofhope.com](http://thevillageofhope.com), will redirect to **[thevohgroup.org](http://thevohgroup.org)**. It is still the same Village of Hope that you know, love and support to save lives and serve humanity. This new website will continue to metamorphose to reflect our continuous efforts to serve the orphaned, destitute and needy children of the world; to heal the sick; to educate children; and to give hope to the hopeless.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns or questions that you might have by sending an email to **[info@thevillageofhope.com](mailto:info@thevillageofhope.com)**.

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