

Herald of Hope

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Learning and Living to Lead



Staff & Students of Village of Hope with Nana Ansah Kwao IV (front row, 7th from left) after a Leadership Training Session

Leadership is influence, so says world-renowned leadership expert John C. Maxwell. Everyday, the adults at the Village of Hope – as parents, teachers, administrators, medical professionals, cooks, drivers, security guards, etc. – influence the children we serve and lead at Village of Hope. Everyday, these adults impact the lives of over 1,300 children and teenagers in homes, in classrooms, in laboratories, in kitchens, on soccer fields, basketball and volley courts, in workshops, in consulting rooms, on farms and on the streets; at worship, at work and at play, etc. It is therefore imperative that these men and women who play very significant roles in the lives of the children are continually

trained, not only in their areas of specialty but also in leadership. That will enable them have the skills to train the children not just while they are at the Village of Hope but for living meaningful, authentic Christian lives of service far beyond the Village of Hope. Indeed, our goal at the Village of Hope is to nurture the children for eternity. We exist not only to save lives and serve humanity to the glory of God; but we want the lives we save and serve to also do the same. Our work is not done until every child, teenager and adult we serve also goes out to save lives and serve humanity to the glory of God.

As part of this mission, we organize training sessions for the staff of



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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

Village of Hope and also sponsor staff to attend seminars, workshops and training sessions to learn and be better equipped to serve and to live lives of influence that impact and lead.

Recently, some staff and students participated in Live2Lead, an international leadership event by the John Maxwell Company, held at Atlanta, Georgia and simulcast at over 300 sites around the world, including Accra, Ghana. The main event was preceded in Ghana on October 10, 2019 by

Training by Prestoncrest Church of Christ Team

A team from Prestoncrest church of Christ in Dallas, Texas visited Ghana and held training sessions for the staff of Village of Hope. The team was led by Bob Chisholm, minister for spiritual formation of the church, who has been involved in mission work in Ghana, especially in the area of training of ministers, evangelists and church leaders for more than 30 years. Bob has trained the staff of Village of Hope for many years. Known as "Uncle Bob" from the beginning days of Village of Hope, he has been part of the growth and development of Village of Hope from the very beginning to the present time.

Robert Stolte, minister of adult education and pastoral care of the church, was also part of the team. Robert is a certified teacher and trainer of the DISC personality profile system. He uses the DISC system in ministry involvement,



Bob Chisholm Teaching Management Team Members of Village of Hope about the DISC System

relationships and community building. He is also a certified trainer of the Prepare/Enrich Program which is an assessment for both couples preparing for marriage and those already married and wanting to enrich their marriages. Bob Chisholm and Robert Stolte held seminars

a leadership session with a nationally recognized leader, Nana Ansah Kwao IV, a traditional ruler, media personality and thought leader. It was hosted by the Center for Transformational Leadership Africa. Some selected staff and students attended this session and an even larger number of staff and students attended the main event which was held on October 11, 2019 at the auditorium of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra. [1](#)

on the DISC system for key leaders from all the ministries that comprise the Village of Hope.



Robert Stolte (Standing Left) and Bob Chisholm (Standing Right) Co-teaching Ministers and Evangelists from the Kasoa-Awutu-Gomoa-Efutu (KAGE) Area

The team also included **Lance and Debra Atchison**. Debra is an educational technology consultant who travels all over the United States and internationally training teachers and students to use technology. At Hope Christian Academy, she worked in the computer lab and trained teachers on augmented reality and virtual reality (ARVR). The teachers then taught the students. At Hope College, she taught three science classes ARVR at a higher level. She also taught all the teachers about doing assessments through Google Forms, a tool the teachers found very helpful. Lance is a Senior Account Executive of a non-profit education company that specializes in test assessment. Lance works with international schools throughout the world. At the Village of Hope, he supported Debra in teaching vital reality and offering training in Google that exposed students to technology and information that is available for their learning and arouse their curiosity to learn and research, especially

using the tools of ICT.

Another member of the team needs no introduction at the Village of Hope. **Becky Holloway** is a dearly beloved member of the Village of Hope community who only happens to live in Texas. Everybody loves “Mama Becky” and the children just flock to her everywhere she finds herself on the Village of Hope campus.

We just let her loose on campus spreading the love of God and touching the lives of children and adults alike. Becky also taught women’s Bible classes on this trip.

Also, on the team was **Mary Ellen Stolte** who accompanied her father to Ghana and left Ghana with a passion for missions sparked in her soul.



Debra Atchison in a Virtual Reality Demonstration with some Students of Hope College



Students of Hope College Enjoying Practical Training in Virtual Reality during a Science Class



Members of Prestoncrest Church of Christ Team
left to right: Lance Atchison, Robert Stolte, Becky Holloway, Mary Ellen Stolte, Bob Chisholm and Debra Atchison



Richard Awuku, Head Teacher of Church of Christ School, Nkwatia, Contributing to the Discussion during a Training Session



Kwaku Sarkodie, Managing Director of Hope Children's Village, Makes an Observation during a Training Session.



Management Team Members at a Training Session



Quilts for All the Children

Before traveling to Ghana, Lance and Debra Atchison contacted Quilt Beyond Borders (www.quiltbeyondborders.com) for quilts for the children at Village of Hope. Quilt Beyond Borders collects quilts made by people all over the United States and sends them all over the world to people in need of them. The organization donated 99 quilts to the children at Village of Hope. As a result of their generosity, every child at Village of Hope, up to the 9th grade, received a quilt. Some quilts were also donated to the children in the nursery school (two-to-five-year-olds) of Hope Christian Academy on the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope.

We say **"A VERY BIG THANK YOU!!!"** to Quilts Beyond Borders for the very beautiful quilts they donated; and to the Atchisons for requesting and carrying so many quilts across the ocean to the children in Ghana. 🙏

The pictures on pages 4 & 5 show children of Village of Hope receiving quilts donated by Quilts Beyond Borders.





From Plano to Fetteh: Mary Ellen Just Loves Schooling

Mary Ellen Stolte recently traveled with her father to Ghana as part of a group from the Prestoncrest church of Christ (Dallas, Texas) that worked at the Village of Hope. She is a 10th grade student of Clark High School in Plano, Texas. While in Ghana, Mary Ellen spent half her time attending classes at Hope College. She used the other half of her time to care for little children at the Nursery Department of Hope Christian Academy by assisting the teachers of the 2-to-5-year-olds.

Whether at home in Texas or in a far-away mission field in Ghana, Mary Ellen just loves schooling. ☺



Mary Ellen Stolte, a "Student" of Hope College



Mary Ellen Stolte and Her Hope College Friends Lorreta Annan and Esther Gyampoh



Lorreta Annan, Mary Ellen Stolte and Jennifer Owiredu

Mary Tackie and David Gbevi Graduate from Knutsford University College



Mary Tackie

Two of our children graduated from Knutsford University College (which is affiliated to the University of Ghana) on November 30, 2019. Mary Tackie graduated with a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management while David Gbevi graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. Join us in thanking God for how far He has brought them. ☺



A Grateful Mother and Her Children
- Leticia Amoah Tackie, Columbus Tackie and Mary Tackie



David Gbevi

Emmanuel & Caroline Tie the Knot

On November 1, 2019, Emmanuel Akrong and Caroline Gallagher were joined together as husband and wife at the Ghana Registrar-General's Department in Accra. It was a beautiful ceremony witnessed by family and friends. Please remember Emmanuel and Caroline in your prayers as they begin their journey together. 🙏

A Caroline Gallagher and Emmanuel Akrong

B Mr. & Mrs Akrong after signing the Marriage Certificate

C Some Members of the Village of Hope Family Join the Newly-Wedded Couple



Celebrating the 2nd Anniversary of Campus Church of Christ at Ayawaso with After-Service Fellowship

The Campus church of Christ that meets on the campus of Hope Training Institute at Ayawaso is a unique church. It is perhaps one of the exceptionally few churches in the world where ninety-eight (98%) of the members are former street children and the remaining two percent (2%) are administrators, social workers and care-givers who take care of their needs and prepare them for meaningful productive lives off the streets. The church focuses on providing spiritual nurturing for the former street children and shaping their lives to conform to that of Jesus, the Christ.

Until two years ago, they met together with the Ayawaso church of Christ that meets on the same campus. However, the special needs of the former street children (many of whom have lived very rough

and tough lives on the streets before coming to Hope Training Institute) necessitated separate meetings for them so as to really focus on their spiritual, psychological, emotional and other needs. This has yielded fruitful results in the lives of the former street children who are now all teenagers. The church recently celebrated its second anniversary with a fellowship meal after worship services on November 10, 2019. 🙏



Fellowship Selfie



After-worship Fellowship Meal



A Big Fat Bull Donated to Village of Hope by Mrs. Akosua Asamoah on Her Birthday

“Happy Birthday, Mrs. Akosua Asamoah”

The norm in Ghana (and perhaps in most places all over the world) is that on a person's birthday, he or she receives birthday gifts from family, friends and loved ones. However, every now and then, there are those who break the norm and instead of receiving gifts on their birthday, they rather give gifts to others. The children of Village of Hope have been recipients of many such “reverse birthday gifts.” Recently it happened again. Mrs. Akosua Asamoah is a member of the Nsawam Road church of Christ in Accra. She is an accomplished human resource practitioner and serves on the boards of both Heritage Christian College and Hope College in Ghana. On her birthday, she donated a bull and some money to the children of Village of Hope. Needless to say, all the children (and adults too!) were excited about these birthday gifts and enjoyed many meals as a result of that. 🙏



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