

# Herald of Hope

Volume 8 | Number 1 | January 2020

## OUR GOD IS GOD!!!



**Michael and his mother share a moment of love on the hospital grounds.**

**M**ichael was only four months old when his parents detected that his head was becoming bigger than the normal size for a four-month old. His parents took him to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Ghana's largest hospital, for medical attention. Doctors at the hospital confirmed that Michael was suffering from a cognitive abnormality called hydrocephalus. The doctors said he needed immediate surgery to correct the abnormality at the cost of five thousand and seven hundred Ghanaian cedis (GHS5,700) which was equivalent to about one thousand, one hundred and forty American dollars (US\$1,140). This became a stumbling block as the parents could not afford the cost of the surgery. They returned

home sorrowful and attempted to raise the money among family members and friends but were unsuccessful.

Day after day, Michael's head became bigger and bigger. Finally, his father convinced his mother for them to take their son to see a spiritualist – "a prophet" – to seek a solution to their son's problem. After examining the boy, the prophet told the parents that their son was not really their son but rather was the son of a certain river god. Even though they saw him as a boy, in the spiritual realm he was a snake and was not supposed to live among humans. Therefore, the parents had to abandon him by the side of the river or in a thick forest so that the river god would take him back to the river. The prophet further



**VILLAGE OF HOPE**

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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

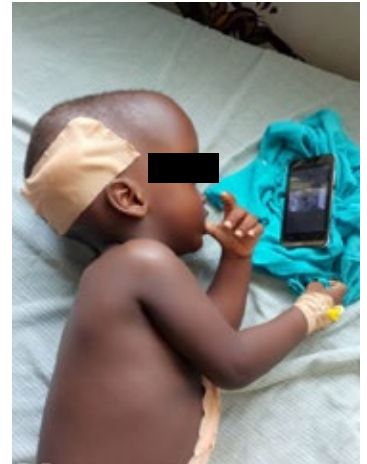
said that the boy was cursed and was not meant to live.

The father impressed upon the mother to listen to the advice of the prophet and abandon their son in a forest but the mother refused to do so. The father then got the extended family involved. Many family members put pressure on the mother to abandon the boy so as to remove the curse from the family. Michael is the fourth child of his parents. The family members told the mother that it was because Michael was the son of the river god that is why he had the abnormality whereas her first three children were all normal. [Traditional African worldview perceives most – if not all – diseases and sicknesses as caused by evil spirits. It is believed that such sicknesses could only be cured through spiritual means and not by modern medicine. Many therefore seek treatment to their illnesses from traditional medicine men, spiritualists or prophets and prophetesses. It is also believed that refusing the instructions or advice of such spiritualists could result in severe repercussions. That is why extreme pressure was piled on Michael's mother to heed the advice of the prophet.] In spite of all the pressure of her husband and family members, Michael's mother refused to abandon him in the forest. After two months of refusing to heed to the advice of the prophet, Michael's father abandoned his wife and children. He wanted to have nothing to do with "a cursed child and an obstinate mother." That was over a year ago.

Meanwhile, Michael's mother continued to seek help to raise the money for Michael's surgery. Members of both her family and her husband's family refused to help her as they believed that helping her could transfer the curse on the boy to the person who offered help. Over this period of time, Michael's head had become so big that he could neither stand nor walk. In fact, he couldn't even sit owing to the size and weight of his head compared to his body size and weight. He could only lie down or be carried by his mother. The desperate mother carried her sick child from place to place seeking help. Eventually, someone showed compassion and donated 2,000 cedis – the equivalent of 400 dollars. Unfortunately, the hospital did not accept part payment for surgery. The full amount had to be paid before the surgery could be done so the hurting helpless mother continued her search for money to pay for her son to have the surgery done. Finally, someone told the mother about Village of Hope and encouraged her to tell the Christians there about her plight and her son's need. She came weeping and pleading for help. That was one of the easiest and quickest decisions we ever made concerning a needy child. In fact, it was a forgone conclusion that we wouldn't let Michael and her mother continue to suffer.

Village of Hope came up with the remainder of the cost of the surgery, paid the money to the hospital and helped with all arrangements for Michael to have the surgery done. However, there were two issues to contend with. One was physical and the other was spiritual. The physical issue was that there was no available bed at Korle-Bu Hospital for after-surgery care. Arrangements were therefore made for the surgery to be done at the Eastern Regional Hospital, the Koforidua General Hospital. That required additional cost and transportation but that was quickly taken care off by Village of Hope. The spiritual

issue was that Michael's mother's family and "friends" (if you can call them friends), threatened that he will die during the surgery as the prophet had said that he was not destined to live. The surgery had therefore become a spiritual battle of the deities. It was a battle between the God of the Christians and the god of the river; between the God of life and the god of death. If the surgery was successful and Michael survived afterwards, the God of the Christians had given life and therefore had won the battle. On the other hand, if Michael died during or soon after the surgery, then the god of death, the river god, had won. With so much at stake, we set our hearts to pray and the doctors went ahead with the surgery.



**Michael watches cartoons soon after surgery.**

You already know who won this battle, don't you? Of course, the God of the Christians won!!! The surgery was successful. It has been exactly three months since Michael was discharged from hospital. He is doing very well and so is his mother. So, join us in continuous prayers for Michael, his siblings and his mother. They need your constant prayers. We would also like you to join us to say, like Elijah and the Israelites did after the battle on Mount Carmel with the 450 prophets of Baal, "The LORD – He is God! The LORD – He is God!" 🙏



**Michael goes home after being discharged from the hospital.**





**Members of the medical outreach team from the Church of Christ at White Station (from left): Jimmy Luttrell, Hayley Woodal, Jim Wheless, Catherine Wheless, Jesse Gresham, Carolyn Gresham, Annette Wheless and Margaret Wheless.**

## Medical Outreach by Team from Church of Christ at White Station

For the past many years, every January, a team of medical professionals and others who assist them travel to Ghana to provide free medical care with free medication to the people of Fetteh and nearby communities. For many in these rural communities, this is one of the very few times in their lifetime that they get to see a real doctor and receive compassionate medical care. This is because many villages lack medical facilities. The nearest healthcare facility may be far from the people and they may not have the means to pay for the services they need. These mobile outreach clinics are therefore life savers and a tremendous blessing to many. Some come to these clinics with ailments that should have been reported to a health professional a long time ago but they did not and have therefore endured weeks and months of suffering. For some, after attending the mobile clinic, the relief is immediate. For others, relief comes gradually over time. For all, the relief is truly appreciated. Additional good news is that the people hear the gospel preached during these clinics and get to experience the love of God first hand.

We join the tens of thousands of people who have over the years received loving Christian medical care from the medical missions' teams from the Church of Christ at White Station in Memphis, Tennessee to say, "Thank you and God bless you all!!!!" 🙏



**Carolyn Gresham and Ellen Obimpeh (interpreter) take the medical records of a patient.**



**Margaret Wheless consults with a patient.**



**Dr. Jim Wheless consults with a patient.**



**Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah consults with a patient.**



**Jimmy Luttrell consults with a patient.**



# Homecoming and Holidays

Some of the happiest days at the Village of Hope are towards the end of each year and the beginning of a new year when our children return home for the holidays. Here are some pictures of the 2019 end-of-year and 2020 New Year homecoming activities and celebrations. [1](#)



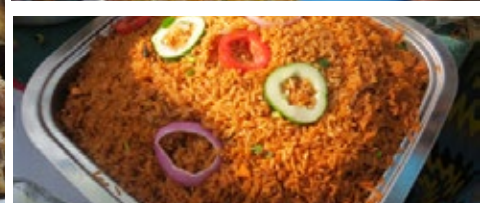
**Prayer service to usher in the New Year 2020**



**Traditional bonfire at Village of Hope on December 31 to welcome the New Year**



**Independent children came home to welcome the New Year with family.**



**At the New Year party at Village of Hope, there was an abundance of food for everyone.**





**For the person who came on an empty stomach, there was more than enough to satisfy their hunger.**



**Communal eating from one big bowl**



**Serving and eating went on simultaneously.**



**Awards were presented to children who excelled in spirituality, character and academic work in 2019.**

**Drinks, cookies, candies and ice cream were in abundance as desserts after the main meals.**



## Medical Outreach by Team from Church of Christ at White Station (Continued from Page 3)



**Evangelist Wilson Prah preaches the Gospel to patients as they wait their turn to see a doctor.**



**Physiotherapy session with Catherine Wheless**



**Patient waits for drugs at mobile clinic pharmacy**



**Jesse Gresham checks a patient's eyes with a portable auto refractometer**



**Hayley Woodall checks the eyes of a patient with an ophthalmoscope**

## Atsina Family Visits Village of Hope and Donates to Hope Christian Hospital

**D**r. Komli-Kofi Atsina was a founding physician for Hope Christian Hospital who volunteered his professional services at the hospital for many years. In fact, long before Village of Hope established a clinic, which eventually became a hospital, Dr. Atsina travelled to the Village of Hope campus to treat the children and staff for free. Even though he is now with the Lord, his good deeds continue to bless many as his legacy continues in his wife and children. Last year, Mrs. Atsina donated some drugs and medical supplies to Hope Christian Hospital; and recently, the children of Dr. Atsina – a daughter and three sons, all of whom are medical doctors, and their spouses who, except for one, are

also all medical doctors, visited the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope and made a donation to Hope Christian Hospital. They also donated money for the hospital to purchase a new delivery bed to replace the old one which was not actually a delivery bed but rather an examination bed. This will be a big relief to expecting mothers when they are in labor as well as to doctors and midwives in the delivery room.

On behalf of the staff and especially the patients of the hospital and the babies both newly-born and the unborn, we join Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah (the Medical Director of Hope Christian Hospital) to say, "Thank you to the Atsina family. May the tribe of Dr. Komli-Kofi Atsina increase!" 🙏



**Donation by Atsina Family**



**(From left): Dr. Kofi-Buaku Atsina, Dr. Nana Akonda Atsina, Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah, Nana Yaa Ashie-Winns, Dr. Simone Atsina and Dr. Kwame Atsina**

**Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah (Medical Director) shows the Atsina family members around Hope Christian Hospital.**



# Vision of Hope 2020 Campaign

## FOCUS: Renovation of First Five Children's Homes/Cottages

**T**he children's homes/cottages have been inhabited and used every single day from the very first day children moved into them up to today. The first five children's homes are between 18 and 12 years old.



**George & Mary Chisholm House is 18 years old.**



**Douglas & Margaret Boateng House is 18 years old.**



**Traverse City Church of Christ House is 18 years old.**



**Prestoncrest Church of Christ House (housing 2 separate homes) is 12 years old.**

After many years of daily use by children, the facilities inside these buildings have been worn out. Window frames and wooden facial boards are rotten and need to be replaced. The cottages need to be painted as some homes have not been painted over the past 10 years.

The children's homes really need major repair and renovation works to make them fit for the children to live in.

Please help us so we can completely rehabilitate these five homes.

**TOTAL COST OF REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES = \$50,000. @**





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## VISION OF HOPE - 2020: TOWARDS OPERATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY



### I. HOPE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE (ORPHANAGE)

#### Renovation of first 5 Children's Homes/ Cottages

	\$
1. George & Mary Chisholm House	10,000
2. Douglas & Margaret Boateng House	10,000
3. Traverse City Church of Christ House	10,000
4. Prestoncrest Church of Christ House A	10,000
5. Prestoncrest Church of Christ House B	10,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>



### II. HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (PRE-K THROUGH 9TH GRADE)

	\$
1. Completion of Construction of New Boys' Dormitory	32,000
2. Renovation of Josiah & Bonita Tilton Education Building	20,000
3. Furniture for Classrooms	8,000

**Sub-Total 60,000**



### III. CHURCH OF CHRIST SCHOOL (PRE-K THROUGH 9TH GRADE)

	\$
1. Completion of Construction of Nursery Building	50,000
2. Renovation of Primary and Junior High School Buildings	12,000
3. Furniture for Classrooms	8,000

**Sub-Total 70,000**



### IV. HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

	\$
1. Oxygen for Wards	14,000
2. Lead Door for X-Ray Room	4,000
3. Roofing & Terrazzo Floor of Walkways	20,000
4. Completion of Remodeling of 3 Barnett Houses	20,000
5. Fencing-off of Hospital Facilities	12,000

**Sub-Total 70,000**

**GRAND TOTAL: \$250,000.00**

