

Herald of Hope

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Hope for a Desperate Mother



Ako at the Village of Hope campus in Fetteh

What compels a young woman in her twenties to look for a children's home for her biological children? How desperate must a mother be to come to the conclusion that being away from her children is better than living with them at home? To understand this you would have to meet her and know her story.

If you met Ako (not her real name) in person, you would immediately conclude that she was very unhappy, troubled, and unwell; however, this was not always so. She had a relatively normal childhood living with relatives in Ghana while her mother worked in Côte d'Ivoire. When Ako was ten years old, she went to join her mother in Côte d'Ivoire. There, her lifestyle gradually changed and in her teenage years, she got pregnant twice and had two sons. Each time, she was unable to say who the father of her son was; nevertheless, she and her sons were accepted by her mother and they lived together as a family.

A few years after Ako's second son was born, her mother passed away. By this time, she had started to feel unwell and she made the decision to move back to Ghana, knowing that she had family who would receive her and help her take care of her sons. Ako and the boys, therefore, relocated to a village near Mankessim in the Central Region of Ghana, where her extended family lived. That is when Ako's hopes were dashed.



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

Unfortunately, in many parts of Ghana, there is a stereotype about people who have lived in Côte d'Ivoire and come back home feeling and/or looking ill. It is often concluded, without any proof, that such people have contracted HIV and have AIDS. For this reason, Ako and the boys, expecting to be received back home, rather faced extreme stigmatization from family members and neighbors. As Ako continued to get weaker and paler, her extended family became convinced that she had HIV and could infect them if she was allowed to live in the family home with her sons. Ultimately, Ako's family neglected her and the children, and then finally evicted them from the family house.

Ako, therefore, lived with her two sons in uncompleted buildings. Being ill, she could not work to feed and educate the boys. After so much stigmatization and neglect from her family and neighbors, Ako found her way to Village of Hope and literally begged for the boys to be admitted into the residential children's home so she could go and die, knowing she had left them in a safe place. She explained that she could not provide for the boys and needed for them to receive better care and protection.

Ako's case was promptly referred to the Mfantseman District Social Welfare (social services) office and, after

investigations, it was highly recommended that we immediately take custody of the children and provide them with adequate care and protection at Hope Children's Village.

Ako's situation was truly jeopardizing the futures of her sons and now we have been given an opportunity to help change their story. The boys are now part of the Village of Hope family and are already enrolled at Hope Christian Academy, not having to worry about where their next meal is going to come from, and living as children should.

Perhaps if you were in Ako's shoes, you would have handled the situation differently and not ran to an institution to hand over your children; however, we firmly believe that it is God's will that Ako's sons, now eight and ten, have come to be part of the Village of Hope family. This opportunity is only the beginning of what these young lives could become in the years ahead.

Every gift that you give to the work of Village of Hope goes into providing a supportive family, healthcare, and education for young lives such as these. We have not saved everyone but we will certainly not stop trying and we hope that you will be our partners on this mission. [@](#)



Ako brings her two sons to the Village of Hope.



Ako's sons in their Hope Christian Academy Uniforms

Chief of Fetteh “Goes to the Village”



**Nana Abor Yamoah II
(Chief of Gomaa-Fetteh and
Twafohen of Gomaa Akyempim)**

Phrases such as, “the chief is gone to the village,” “the king has turned his face to the wall,” “the mighty warrior has gone across the mighty river,” and the like are used.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce that the Chief of Fetteh, Nana Abor Yamoah II, has “gone to the village.” His reign on the royal throne of Fetteh lasted over 20 years. He was the ruler who gave the 25 acres of land on which the main campus of Village of Hope is located to the Churches of Christ to establish an orphanage, a hospital and an elementary school. With the concurrence of the Elders of Fetteh, he also granted 67 acres of land, free of charge, to Village of Hope. It is on this additional land that Hope College was established.

He was a beloved ruler of his people, a kind-hearted man and a generous benefactor of the Village of Hope. On his birthdays, he usually donated a big bull to the children in the orphanage and organized a party for them. He attended groundbreaking ceremonies for facilities

to be constructed and was present at dedication or commissioning ceremonies for many of the buildings on the Fetteh campus. In spite of his very busy schedule, each year, he graced graduation ceremonies of either Hope Christian Academy or Hope College with his presence. He will be sorely missed.



Nana Abor Yamoah II operates an excavator to break ground for the construction of a building at Village of Hope.

In line with the culture and traditions of the Gomaa people, a grand 40th Day Celebration of his departure on February 8, 2020. It was attended by thousands of people from all walks of life from across the country. Village of Hope was represented by members of the executive leadership. Students of Hope College played a significant role as ushers during the occasion.

The traditional funeral to bid him a final farewell will be held during the first week of August 2020 with pomp and pageantry. [📰](#)



Nana Abor Yamoah II (2nd right) flanked by Jason and Jennifer Hackmann soon after he decorated them with traditional kente cloths to honor them for their support for the establishment of Hope College.



Chief of Fetteh speaks at Ghana's Independence Day Ceremony held at Fetteh (left) and congratulates a student of Hope College during graduation ceremony (right).



Chief of Fetteh (in traditional cloth in the middle) joins elders of churches of Christ for a groundbreaking ceremony for the commencement of the construction of Hope College on March 6, 2012.



Mr. Morgan Aseidu (Executive Director of Ecobank Ghana Limited) and Nana Abor Yamoah II cut tape to commission the Ecobank Administration Building at Village of Hope on July 29, 2016.

When the Heart...

For over a decade, **Heartbeat for Hope** – a not-for-profit organization based in Edmond, Oklahoma, USA has been sponsoring children and supporting the various ministries of Village of Hope. Each of the ministries – the orphanage, the hospital, the elementary schools, the vocational school, the high school, evangelism, church planning and nurturing, etc. – have all been supported by Heartbeat for Hope. Heartbeat for Hope also sends teams to Ghana to engage in God's Kingdom work. From February 1 through 8, 2020, a team of 13 people from Heartbeat for Hope were in Ghana for mission work. It was a very busy and tiring week for them as they served in many different roles both within and outside the Village of Hope campus.📍



Lucas and Aubrie Ross entertain and educate children in the Pre-Kindergarten class.



Solomon Murillo spends time with children in the Nursery School at their morning assembly.



Members of the Heartbeat for Hope Team and House Parents of Village of Hope



Heart to Heart: Sarah Young and Elizabeth Ohenewaa



Amy Hubble seems to be saying, "Let the party begin!" before sharing these snacks to the children.



Heartbeat for Hope team wraps gifts for the children.



Heartbeat for Hope Team

Front row (from left): Solomon Murillo, Amy Hubble, Judi Lashley, Sarah Young, Kari Laxson, Aubrie Ross and Carie Linder.
Back row (from left): Lucas Ross, Brent Scott, Chris McKeever, Brett Laxson, Dena Lovett and Shawn Jones.

...Beats for Hope



Dena Lovett tutors a child.



Lucas Ross, "Mr. Banjo," teaches the fundamentals of banjo playing at Hope Christian Academy.



Selfie time with Kari Laxson



Shawn Jones, Brett Laxson and Solomon Murillo built cupboards for Hope Christian Academy.



Carie Linda teaches nurses at the newly-opened NICU of Hope Christian Hospital.



Brent Scott examines a student of Hope Christian Academy.



Shawn Jones has sponsored Diana Owusu and Belinda Owusu from their childhood and they are now young adults.



Standing in front of the Heartbeat for Hope Literacy Center at Hope Training Institute (from left): Chris McKeever, Amy Hubble, Araba Hammond, Judi Lashley, Aubrie Ross and Sarah Young.

Why Village of Hope Still Needs Your Support

Village of Hope is currently caring for 44 students in college. We do not see these “children” on a daily basis because they now live and study away from home in universities and tertiary institutions scattered throughout Ghana. However, Village of Hope is responsible for their education and living expenses. College education is expensive and supporting 44 college students is very expensive. We cannot do so without your help. That is why we are grateful for every support we receive that enables us to help care for and educate these young men and women.

Here are the 44 Village of Hope children who are now in college. Please remember them in your prayers and help them as they continue their education and transition into independent living. You may earmark your support for an individual or for the general college education fund. Either way, your support helps a young man or woman to complete a crucial final phase of dependence to become a productive and responsible independent Godfearing adult.

Thank you for helping to prepare the next generation of Christian servants for the Kingdom of God and ethical leaders for the African continent. God bless you. 🙏

	Name	School	Program of Study	Class
1	Alex Bukari	University of Ghana	BSc. Information Technology	College (Freshman)
2	Benedicta Adubea	University of Ghana	BA Sociology, Social Work, Philosophy & Classics	College (Freshman)
3	Deborah Nyator	University of Health & Allied Sciences	Certificate in Environmental Health	College (Freshman)
4	Ethel Sarfoa Gyan	Accra Technical University	HND Fashion Design & Textiles	College (Freshman)
5	George Tetteh	University of Ghana	BA Sport & Physical Culture Studies	College (Freshman)
6	Hannah Nsiah	University of Ghana	BA Political Science, Theatre Arts & English	College (Freshman)
7	Joyce Oppong	Kumasi Technical University	Diploma in Purchasing & Supply	College (Freshman)
8	Linda Mensah	University of Cape Coast	BCom. Marketing	College (Freshman)
9	Lydia Mensah	University of Cape Coast	BSc. Engineering Physics	College (Freshman)
10	Mavis Teye	University of Ghana	BA Geography, Sociology & Linguistics	College (Freshman)
11	Njanyan Yajana	University of Ghana	BA Psychology, Kiswahili & English	College (Freshman)
12	Rebekah Puenu	University of Education, Winneba	BEd. Early Childhood Education	College (Freshman)
13	Sandra Agyapong	Accra Technical University	HND Purchasing & Supply	College (Freshman)
14	Sarah Esi Kow Takyi	Accra Technical University	HND Secretaryship & Management Studies	College (Freshman)
15	Stephanie Cofie	Accra Technical University	HND Accountancy	College (Freshman)
16	Daniel Ayisi	University of Ghana	BA Political Science, Philosophy & Classical History, and Archaeology	College (Sophomore)
17	Francis Yajabah Bijah	University of Ghana	BSc. Biological Science	College (Sophomore)
18	John Nyarko Arthur	Webster University	BSc. Business Administration	College (Sophomore)
19	Kenneth Gbevi	Accra Technical University	HND Purchasing & Supply	College (Sophomore)
20	Matilda Nti Baah	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	BSc. Mathematics	College (Sophomore)
21	Michael Kafui Senanu	University of Ghana	BSc. Biological Science	College (Sophomore)
22	Richard Akrong	Accra Technical University	HND Fashion Design & Textiles	College (Sophomore)
23	Salamatu Alhassan	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	BSc. Business Administration (Human Resource Management/Management)	College (Sophomore)
24	Andy Kemevor	Ghana Institute of Journalism	B. A. Communication Studies (Public Relations)	College (Junior)
25	Belinda Owusu	University of Ghana	BA Education, English & Linguistics	College (Junior)
26	Charles Hodinya	University of Ghana	B. A. Political Science, Sociology & Information Studies	College (Junior)
27	Ezekiel Aमेvor	Heritage Christian University College	BBA Business Administration	College (Junior)
28	Monica Bijah	University of Ghana	B. A. Political Science, Classics, Philosophy & Archaeology	College (Junior)
29	Adriana Aidoo	Nursing & Midwifery Training College (Dunkwa-	Diploma in General Midwifery	College (Senior)
30	Agartha Agyemang	University of Cape Coast	BCom. Management	College (Senior)
31	Barbara Blaychie	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	BSc. Natural Resources	College (Senior)
32	Charles Bukari	Kwadaso Agricultural College	Diploma in General Agriculture	College (Senior)
33	Clifford Hanson Boateng	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	B. A. Economics	College (Senior)
34	Dalziel Yaare	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	BSc. Agriculture	College (Senior)
35	Daniel Atta -Yao Bediako	Ghana Institute of Journalism	Diploma in Communication Studies	College (Senior)
36	Diana Owusu	Accra Technical University	HND Purchasing & Supply	College (Senior)
37	Ellen Cofie	University of Cape Coast	BEd. Science	College (Senior)
38	Emmanuel Mensah	University of Cape Coast	BCom. Management	College (Senior)
39	Ishmael Gyesei	University of Ghana	BSc. Psychology	College (Senior)
40	Keziah Bansah	University of Ghana	B. A. Political Science, Information Studies & Russian	College (Senior)
41	Mabel Nyator	Presbyterian College of Education	Diploma in Science Education	College (Senior)
42	Matilda Hope	Kumasi Technical University	HND Secretaryship & Management Studies	College (Senior)
43	Samuel Gyesei	Heritage Christian University College	BSc. Administration	College (Senior)
44	Simpson Kumbe	Komenda College of Education	Diploma in Education	College (Senior)

Vision for Hope 2020 Campaign

Renovation and Painting of Tilton Education Building

With the support of **Heartbeat for Hope**, the external walls of the Tilton Education Building (which houses classrooms for first to ninth grades, a library, a computer lab, a resource room and offices for Hope Christian Academy) have been painted. Several repair works have also been completed. These include the changing of rusted metal safety bars, the replacement of rotten wooden window frames and the installation of new ceiling panels and fascia boards.



Before



After

Work is now ongoing on the interior of the building. This involves the replacement of ceiling panels on the third floor and the painting of all the classrooms, computer lab, resource room, library and offices.

THANK YOU, HEARTBEAT FOR HOPE!!!



NEEDED: Furniture for Classrooms

Our great need now is for furniture, specifically desks and chairs, for the students. Many of the desks and chairs have been broken down – after ten years of constant use by the elementary school children – and need to be replaced. We want to buy new furniture with strong metal frames and brightly-colored hard wood tops. These will last for many years. One set of a desk and a chair costs \$40. We need to buy 200 sets to replace the broken ones at a total cost of \$8,000.

Please, will you consider buying us one set of a desk and a chair?

With \$40 you can provide furniture for a child – furniture that will last for many years.



These are the broken chairs and tables that need to be replaced.



These are the chairs and tables we need to buy. Each set costs \$40.



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VISION OF HOPE - 2020: TOWARDS OPERATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY



I. HOPE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE (ORPHANAGE)

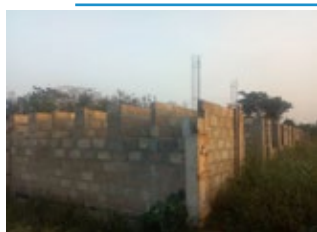
Renovation of first 5 Children's Homes/ Cottages

	\$
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
Sub-Total	50,000



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