

Herald of Hope

Volume 8 | Number 8 | August 2020

OCONEE HENDRIX HONORED

Teachers Apartment Building Named in Her Honor



Oconee Hendrix

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:10). We are happy to announce that we have found such a virtuous woman in the person of Vera Oconee Hendrix.

Oconee Hendrix was honored posthumously at the Village of Hope on July 18, 2020 on a day that would have been her 88th birthday. A building comprising four apartments was named in her honor. Each apartment has a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen, a bathroom with toilet, and a small dining area. The building will provide accommodation for four teachers of Hope College thus instantly doubling our capacity to serve these young souls God has placed under our stewardship. Hope College is a high school with over 450 boarding students. These teenage boys and girls spend a total of nine months in school each academic year.

The school currently has only four teachers living on campus which is inadequate for the effective supervision of the students. All other teachers of the school depart from the campus after classes end at 2:30p.m. each day, leaving only four teachers to supervise the students.

Since the inception of the school, Hope College has been in dire need of having additional teachers to live on campus to support our four current teachers-in-residence laboring diligently to provide spiritual, relational and supervisory care to over 450 boarding students. However, present capacity constraints prevent us from housing the teachers these young people so desperately need. Therefore, in faithful obedience to God's call to minister more effectively to these young souls, and in honor of the legacy of spiritual instruction left by our beloved sister, we moved boldly forward with a memorial campaign to construct the Oconee Hendrix House. God touched the hearts of people to give to meet the great need.

Vera Oconee Hendrix was born in Tishomingo County, Mississippi on July 18, 1932 and passed away on Friday, October 12, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents, Thelma and Olen Henry, and three brothers, Billy Harold, Mathis and Lee. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Lyle B. Hendrix; two children Terri (Jim) Hambrick and Stan (Tracy) Hendrix; four grandchildren, Michael (Leslie) Hambrick, Andrew (Kayla) Hendrix, Lindsey (Matthew) Wilson, Rachel (Nick) Dressman; two great grandchildren, Jimbo and Charlie Hambrick; and two siblings, Geraldine West and Claude Henry.



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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

Oconee graduated high school from Mars Hill Bible School in Florence, Alabama where she was voted most athletic. She also attended Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson, Tennessee.

Lovingly called Mamaw by her family, she was known to all for her 40-plus years of teaching second grade Bible class at White Station church of Christ, Memphis, Tennessee; her many years of involvement in Global Missions, her work in the Clothes Closet, and her talents on the tennis court.

Oconee Hendrix was a Christian lady of missions who loved, nurtured, encouraged and promoted missions around the world. Oconee was involved weekly on the Missions Committee at the White Station church for 30 years. During her time on the missions committee, the White Station church sponsored missionaries in Kenya and Ghana in Africa, Brazil in South America, France and Italy in Europe as well as the Philippines in Asia and Papua New Guinea in Oceania; and several locations within the United States. Long before the days of the Internet, Oconee made sure that every month, each and every missionary White Station supported received a letter of communication. She made sure that each of the missionaries stayed connected and communicated with

so they would know that the church appreciated their sacrifices, their ministry and their mission. When the missionaries would send back letters to the church about their work, struggles and joys on the mission field, Oconee would receive those letters and make sure the church would be aware of and pray for the missionaries. She did all this work regularly in addition to her own full-time job. She sacrificed to make sure that the missionaries were connected and encouraged. She made personal travels to mission fields as well. She travelled to 3 times to Kenya, 3 times to Ghana, 2 times to Brazil and 5 times to Europe to visit and support missionaries. This is the virtuous Christian woman who was honored with the dedication of the Oconee Hendrix House during the first ever Zoom virtual dedication ceremony of a building at the Village of Hope.

We are grateful to the family, church members, friends and loved ones of Oconee Hendrix whose sacrifices and financial contributions made it possible to construct this memorial edifice to honor the life and legacy of our mother-in-the-faith Oconee Hendrix. We are not only excited about the new building but by what it represents – empowering the next generation of Christian workers, educators and missionaries, just as Miss Oconee did throughout her life.🙏



Oconee & Lyle Hendrix



Commissioning Day: Oconee Hendrix House



This plaque in front of Oconee Hendrix House honors her memory.



Yaw Abotsi says a prayer of dedication for Oconee Hendrix House.



Students of Hope College sing during the commissioning ceremony.



Samuel Owusu Afriyie and Faustina Asare cut the tape to open Oconee Hendrix House.



CURT & SHANNON ZONDERVAN BUILDING DEDICATED

On Saturday, July 25, 2020, many people on two continents (Africa and North America) gathered in front of a building and their computers and phones to witness the dedication of a dormitory building for male boarding students of Hope Christian Academy on the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope. The building – with four very large dormitory rooms that can each accommodate 40 students; and a two-bedroom apartment for a dormitory supervisor and his family – was constructed over a period of 19 months.

The building was named for Curt and Shannon Zondervan of the Grandville church of Christ in Grandville, Michigan where Curt serves as one of the Elders. The Zondervans are kind-hearted Christians who have distinguished themselves by their exceptional hospitality to all and

sundry. Their loving disposition has been a blessing to many. Curt Zondervan's enthusiasm is infectious so it is little wonder that it permeates through the family. If there is a modern-day Barnabas who is a passionate encourager who truly uplifts people, it must be Curt Zondervan. Shannon is a lover of people who is so warm and affectionate that everyone feels welcomed and at peace in her presence. The plaque placed on the wall of the Curt and Shannon Zondervan Building summarizes the character of the couple: "faithful Christian servants whose lives epitomize Christlikeness, inspire hope and glorify God."

The Zondervans have supported the work of Village of Hope in diverse ways for many years. [@](#)



Children and staff of Village of Hope attend commissioning of the Zondervan Building.



The Zondervan Family



Francis Adenyo says a prayer of dedication for the Zondervan Building.



Faustina Asare, Francis Adenyo and Araba Adjei cut the tape.



Plaque in front of Curt & Shannon Zondervan Building



Staff of Village of Hope inspect the rooms in the Zondervan Building.

Wedding Bells Ring for Daughters of Village of Hope

Two of our daughters married recently. Beatrice Wiredu married her sweetheart Stephen Donkor at the Bob and Pam Chisholm Chapel on the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope on June 27, 2020.

Joy Bulley and the love of her life, Cyril Dzah, were joined together in holy matrimony on August 8, 2020 at Hohoe in the Volta Region of Ghana.

Both ceremonies were well attended by the staff and many of the former children of Village of Hope who are now independent. Please join us in praying for these young couples for happy and fulfilling marriages filled with the bountiful blessings of God. [@](#)

Marriage of Beatrice Wiredu



The newly wedded couple with Fred and Faustina Asare.



Beatrice Wiredu & Stephen Donkor exchange rings.



A Prayer for newly wedded couple



Some members of the Village of Hope family with the newly wedded couple.

Marriage of Joy Bulley



Joy Bulley & Cyril Dzah exchange vows.



Cyril's parents sign the marriage certificate.



Mothers of Village of Hope share a moment with Joy & Cyril.



Cyril Dzah & Joy Bulley



Some members of the Village of Hope family at Cyril Dzah and Joy Bulley's wedding.

Public Worship Resumes on Village of Hope Campuses

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Ghana banned all public religious services as part of measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The ban has now been lifted but there are strict protocols to be followed by all religious bodies, if they are to hold public meetings/gatherings. During the ban, worship services on the various campuses of Village of Hope were held in the various homes/dormitories. However, now that the ban has been lifted, public worship services have resumed on all campuses of Village of Hope. 📞



Social distancing during worship service of the church of Christ at Village of Hope at Gaylon & Deanna Smith Hall



Hope College 12th grade male students at worship



Hope College 12th grade female students at worship

Thank You for Throwing in the Lifeline

Appreciation to Traverse City Church of Christ, Church of Christ at White Station, Self Family & Elvamae Coxsey

Life has been tough across the globe owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Life in Ghana has been no exception and neither has life at the Village of Hope. As a result of the pandemic, visitors and donations to Village of Hope have reduced significantly. Caring for so many children and providing for their numerous needs amidst a reduction in support have been a source of worry but our God, who is ever so faithful, has calmed our worries, soothed our anxieties and banished our fears.

Just when we needed help the most, God sent help through special donations from:

- Traverse City Church of Christ, Traverse City, Michigan.
- Church of Christ at White Station, Memphis, Tennessee.
- The Self Family of Jackson, Tennessee.
- Mrs. Elvamae Coxsey of Hanford, California.

For their special gifts that helped see us through the previous months, we say, **"THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THROWING IN THE LIFELINE."**

For all the support we have and continue to receive that make it possible for us to feed, cloth, educate, provide healthcare and nurture the children for eternity, we say to each one of you, **"THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU."** 📞

Benjamin Arhin Called to Glory

A beloved gospel preacher and hardworking evangelist in the Kasoa-Awutu-Gomoa-Efutu (KAGE) area has gone to be with the Lord. Benjamin Kwesi Botchwey Arhin was born on May 14, 1967 at Awutu-Bereku. He, however, grew up in Akotsi where he lived with his parents and attended elementary school. After completing elementary school, he trained for three years to become a blacksmith and then served a one-year internship to become a fully-fledged blacksmith. He set up a blacksmith shop at Akotsi and worked as a blacksmith for several years. It was while living and working at Akotsi that he heard the gospel preached by an itinerant preacher and was baptized into Christ on February 5, 1989. At that time, there was no congregation of the church of Christ at Akotsi so he attended meetings at the next town – Awutu-Bereku. He was very active in the work of the church, especially in evangelism. He privately studied and researched a lot on the Bible. He also loved to teach the Scriptures. These led to the leaders of the Awutu-Bereku church appointing him as the preacher for the congregation in 2001 even though he had no formal training in ministry. From 2001 to 2005, he preached for the Awutu-Bereku church and was instrumental in the planting of the church of Christ at Akotsi. His zeal for the work of God led some church leaders and members to advise him to consider attending a school of preaching, an advice he took seriously.

In 2006, Benjamin Arhin enrolled in the Swedru International Bible Institute and later transferred to the Ateiku School of Evangelism, graduating from the latter in 2009. For a number of years, he preached for both the Awutu-Bereku and the Akotsi churches of Christ.

He later handed over his responsibilities at the Awutu-Bereku church of Christ to matured leaders and assumed the responsibility of preaching for the Panfokrom church of Christ, a small young church within the KAGE area that he helped to sustain and grow. At any point in time, since graduating from the Ateiku School of Evangelism, he preached for at least two congregations and was actively involved in evangelism.

He was also a respected community leader at Akotsi where he served in several voluntary and advisory roles including health service delivery, birth and death registry, early childhood education and family development.

He passed on to glory on June 11, 2020 after being sick for some weeks. He left behind his wife, Mercy (with whom he was married for 29 years), and six children.

The love and respect Benjamin Arhin commanded within the churches of Christ in Ghana and within the Akotsi and surrounding communities was demonstrated by the fact that hundreds of people defied COVID-19 restrictions and attended his funeral service in their numbers to bid him farewell. He was a hardworking evangelist, a courageous preacher and a faithful servant of God. [📖](#)



Benjamin Arhin's coffin was in the shape of a Bible in honor of his work as a Minister of the Gospel.



**Above:
Scenes from the funeral service to say goodbye to Evangelist Benjamin Arhin**

Dedication of The Rhone Family Computer Lab



Samuel Addo Osei announces the name of The Rhone Family Computer Lab after unveiling the plaque.

Village of Hope is grateful to Eric and Angela Rhone of Saint Louis, Missouri; and to their family and friends for providing the funds to furnish and equip a computer lab at Hope College. To celebrate the golden jubilee birthday of Angela Rhone, Eric and Angela gave a generous gift towards the computer lab and asked their family members and friends to give towards the lab in lieu of birthday gifts to Angela. The lab, which was named

for the Rhone Family, was dedicated through a virtual ceremony using Zoom Meeting on July 31, 2020. Many people from across the United States joined the staff and students of Hope College at Fetteh in Ghana for the ceremony. Our prayer is that The Rhone Family Computer Lab will help to educate many students now and into the long-term future. We pray for God's continuous blessings on The Rhone Family and all their friends and loved ones. [@](#)



The Rhone Family



Ebenezer Sackey prays at The Rhone Family Computer Lab dedication ceremony.



Hope College students inside The Rhone Family Computer Lab.



Technology allows dedication ceremony to be shared live on zoom



Videos for online classes are recorded at the studio in The Rhone Family Computer Lab



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VISION OF HOPE - 2020: TOWARDS OPERATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY



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	



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	



IV. HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL		\$
1. Completion of Remodeling of 3 Barnett Houses	20,000	
Sub-Total	20,000	



GRAND TOTAL: \$140,000.00