

# Herald of Hope

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## RESCUED FROM DEATH By A Good Samaritan



**Kwadwo Fosu arrives at the Village of Hope.**

When Jesus Christ told the story of the Good Samaritan, he was not just talking about a remote possibility. He was talking about real life issues; and over the past two millennia, the story has played out in different scenarios in real life situations – someone is battered and bruised in life and left to die; people look on and move on... until a Good Samaritan stops to offer help, snatching the person from death; helping the person back to life and handing the person over to others who are better suited to provide continuous care until the dying person is restored to full life, human dignity and a hope-filled future.

That is the story of Kwadwo Fosu.

Kwadwo was just three months old when his mother abandoned him and, to this day, has not been seen again. Little Kwadwo was left in the care of his father and paternal grandmother – who was sick. The man was very poor but did his best to take care of his son and mother. Unfortunately, Kwadwo's father died a few months after his mother left, leaving him in the care of his grandmother. The grandmother's sickness got worse after the death of her only caregiver – her son. As a result, she became bedridden, making it impossible for her to provide any care for Kwadwo. According to neighbors, the grandmother could lie on one side of her body for many hours until someone went to turn her over. Left in the charge of his grandmother who could not even care for herself, care for Kwadwo was nonexistent and life became extremely difficult for the little boy. He roamed about aimlessly in the community and if he got lucky, someone would give him some food. When night fell, he slept wherever he found himself – in the dirt, on the bare ground, and under the open skies.

His daily activities were to move about in the community without food, water and shelter. Sometimes, in his loneliness, he would sit in a corner of an abandoned facility hungry and all alone, and that would be his fate for a day or two. On such occasions, when he would attempt to get up and resume his wandering, he would be so weak that he would collapse on the ground until someone found him and helped him.



**VILLAGE OF HOPE**

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

### **USA**

P. O. Box 670394  
Dallas, TX 75367  
Tel: 682-302-1939

### **GHANA**

P. O. Box GP 18169  
Accra, Ghana  
Tel: 233-24-431-3404  
Tel: 233-20-201-2229

**Email:** [info@thevillageofhope.com](mailto:info@thevillageofhope.com)

**Website:** [thevohgroup.org](http://thevohgroup.org)

**Facebook:** [villageofhope](https://www.facebook.com/villageofhope)

**Twitter:** [villageofhopegh](https://twitter.com/villageofhopegh)

**Instagram:** [villageofhopegh](https://www.instagram.com/villageofhopegh)

### **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

Life has been so cruel to Kwadwo but people have been crueler. Members of his own extended family have completely neglected him, saying that if his own mother has abandoned him, it is not their responsibility to care for him. Most people in the community have just looked on or looked away as he continually roams through the community hungry, thirsty, dirty and sickly looking; going on for weeks without bathing or changing his clothes. Just consider the following:

Kwadwo is eight years old but has never felt the love of a mother since he was three months old. He has not felt the love of a father since he was one year old. He has never felt the love of a family in his life. Since birth, he has not been immunized against the infant-killer diseases. He has never attended a hospital or any medical facility in eight years even though he is malnourished and sickly. He has never brushed his teeth with a toothbrush before. Happiness is not even a distant dream; it is completely non-existent for him because he doesn't know what it is. Life indeed can be cruel but people can be crueler.



One day, Kwadwo was lying on the ground dirty and almost at the point of death. It so happened that

a Good "Swedruian" (a man from the city of Swedru in the Central Region of Ghana) was passing by, saw him lying there and had pity on him. He lifted him from the ground and offered him help. He reported the boy's plight to the Department of Social Welfare District Office in Swedru and, after assessing the boy's situation, the Social Welfare officials recommended that he be brought to Village of Hope for care. So, the Good Swedruian/Samaritan brought Kwadwo Fosu to Village of Hope and his life has since experienced a transformation.

After receiving him into Village of Hope, he was taken to Hope Christian Hospital (the Village of Hope's hospital). The doctors immediately admitted him for a number of days, conducted thorough medical investigations and offered the immediate medical care he needed. Even though he has been discharged, he is under the constant watch of the medical personnel of the hospital as he goes for regular reviews.

He now lives in one of the residential children's homes of Village of Hope where he is under the loving care of

**The image above is of Kwadwo Fosu on the very first day that the VOH social worker went to investigate the case.**



a married couple who are his house parents. He is surrounded by other children who are his newly-found brothers and sisters. It brings a tear to the eyes each time we see him running, jumping and laughing as he plays soccer with other children at the Village of Hope. We are looking forward to the day when schools (which have been closed since March

2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic) will be re-opened and Kwadwo will go to school for the first time in his life. Will he start in the crèche, nursery or KG class? Well, Kwadwo has a long way to go in life and we at the Village of Hope are committed to him for life! He can be sure of one thing: as the LORD lives, never again will he be abandoned, neglected or uncared for. Going forward, he will see the love, compassion and goodness of God towards him every day of his life because, as the children of God, we are to care for our neighbors.

There are many Kwadwo Fosus in this world in dire need of love, compassion and care. Village of Hope is caring for about 200 of such children. We need your help to continue to help them and to help even more children. As long as the LORD gives us the opportunity, we will never refuse to care for any child who comes our way that needs our care. We need you to help us care for these children.

At the end of his story, Jesus Christ asked who was a neighbor to the one who had been battered, bruised and left to die. So, I ask you, will you be a neighbor to the abandoned, orphaned and needy children of this world? [📞](#)



**Top: Kwadwo Fosu receives a meal at the Village of Hope. Above: Kwadwo Fosu and Kwame Bannor (the Good Samaritan)**

# FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND OF VILLAGE OF HOPE – ISAAC KPAKPO ADOTEY



**Isaac Kpakpo Adotey**

Isaac Kpakpo Adotey was born on January 6, 1955 and went to be with the Lord on August 13, 2020. He had his elementary and middle school education in Accra. From 1979 to 1981, he attended Ghana Bible College, the premier school of preaching of churches of Christ in Ghana. After graduating, he served as the first minister to the Somanya church of Christ in the

Eastern Region of Ghana before relocating to northern Ghana to engage in cross-cultural mission work. He worked as a full-time missionary in northern Ghana for 17 years baptizing thousands of people into Christ and planting hundreds of churches of Christ in the region. Isaac then served as a missionary in South Sudan. Even in the midst of that country's civil war, Isaac and his wife continued to live and work there as missionaries until they were compelled by their sponsoring church to return to Ghana because of the ongoing war. Shortly after returning to Ghana, Isaac moved to Guinea Bissau and worked as a missionary until his call home by his maker. He endured many difficulties and hardships as a brave and totally committed soldier of Christ.

Isaac Adotey was a great friend of Village of Hope. He supported the work of Village of Hope wherever he went. He visited the Village of Hope to hold prayer meetings with the children and staff. He was a man of great faith in God and a great man of God – fervent in prayer, committed to fasting, zealous in evangelism; a lover of God, a lover of people, and a compassionate friend of the needy. He will be very dearly and sorely missed. [📺](#)



**John Tamakloe, evangelist & minister at the Community Two church of Christ in Tema preaches at the funeral service.**



**Isaac Adotey's wife and children pay their last respects before the coffin is covered.**



**Mourners at Isaac Adotey's funeral service at the Nsawam Road church of Christ building**



**Pall bearers carry Isaac Adotey's coffin out of the hearse and into the cemetery for burial.**

# HOPE TRAINING INSTITUTE – COPING WITH COVID-19

In the early months of 2020 when news began spreading around the world about the new coronavirus, the staff and trainees at Hope Training Institute (HTI) were following the news keenly and wondering what it would mean for vulnerable groups in Ghana.

As schools began to close in March, we made the firm decision to handle the case of HTI based on what we are at the core, which is a shelter for street-connected youth. The trainees would stay on campus while we closed our gates to the outside world. Staff continued to come to work under strict COVID-19 protocols until March, when the president declared a partial lockdown that affected all of the Greater Accra Region where the Ayawaso campus is located. Sadly, this meant that all non-resident staff of HTI had to stop coming to work for as long as the lockdown continued; so, with only the housemasters, housemistress, cooks and security staff on campus, the trainees were under unprecedented restrictions.

Thankfully, there were ways to keep them busy. The first project connected directly to COVID-19 was the production of face masks and protective gowns for the New Abirem Government Hospital in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The rush for personal protective equipment and masks during the early days of the virus created difficulties for most medical facilities. With this in mind, alumni of Akosombo International School decided to partner with HTI to make 20 reusable hospital gowns and 1,000 disposable face masks for the hospital. The trainees were excited to be part of the fight against the coronavirus.

During the lockdown, the instructors were all unable to come to work and so our trainees had the opportunity to spend more time working on their own, especially on their art work. This was truly a silver lining on the cloud because it made room for many of our children to hone the skills that they had been taught in the past months. This process ultimately made them able to work on real life projects for various families and individuals.

The trainees at HTI were also focused on a few farming activities. The details of the farming activities are on Page 7.

Now, the beauty of having a small group of people living on one campus is that, unlike elsewhere, in-person church activities did not have to cease completely; however, the 18 girls had their worship services in their dormitory while the 22 boys also had theirs in their dormitory in order to comply with the presidential directives given to the entire nation.


One major challenge we faced during the COVID-19 restrictions at HTI as well as across all of Village of Hope, was that donors and visitors could not come and see the children. This drastically reduced our expected donations because many people in Ghana only give when they actually make a visit and interact with the trainees. Indeed, there were a few occasions when visitors who did not expect

the children to be kept away from them when they came to the Ayawaso campus, felt disappointed and left with their gifts.

Yet another incident that shook the HTI family was the passing away of our hairdressing instructor, Linda Tagaa after a short illness (unrelated to COVID-19). She was out of Accra with her extended family in Kpandai in the Northern Region of Ghana when the news of her passing came. Unfortunately, the restrictions on funerals and movement across regions prevented any of us from making a trip to mourn with her family in person. The only alternative we had was to send a team from the churches of Christ in that area to represent the Village of Hope family and present a donation on our behalf. She left a baby boy behind and he is currently in the care of Linda's sister.

It has been approximately eight months since we went through lockdown followed by a very gradual easing of restrictions during which some groups of students have been allowed to go back to school; and conferences, funerals and weddings are being allowed to proceed with restricted numbers.

In all these eight months, the farthest most of our trainees have gone is to the boundaries of the Village of Hope campus at Ayawaso. Ideally, there would have been two short breaks by now, where the trainees would have had a chance to go and see their relatives, spend some time with them, and plan life after HTI. Unfortunately, this has still not happened and, for many of them, the frustration is palpable. Anyone who works with teenagers understands that freedom is a huge deal. On the other hand, once the trainees have no breaks, neither do the staff, especially our resident staff for whom this means being available 24 hours a day, every day since the beginning of 2020. Regular family meetings and sessions with our consultant clinical psychologist have helped the children and staff to deal with their personal challenges. Hopefully, this December, everyone will get a well-deserved change of pace in preparation for the coming year.

We are so grateful to God for protecting every single one of our staff and young ones. 



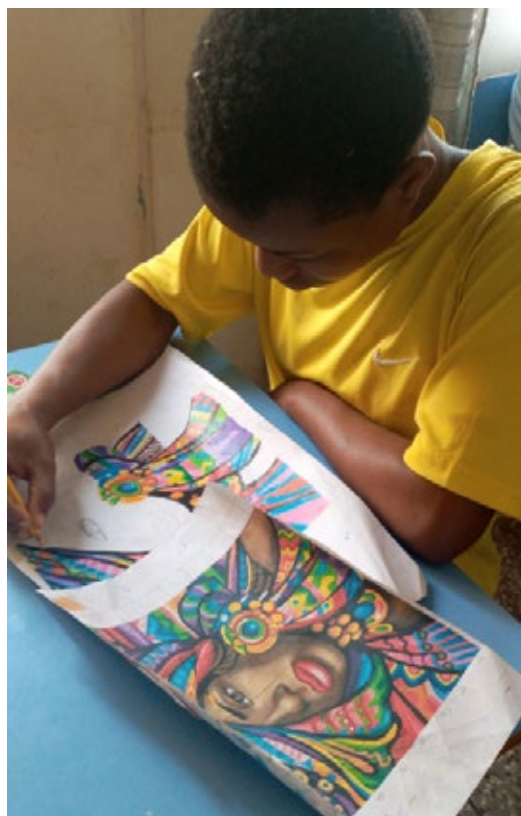
**Result of a collaboration by the “OTS All Stars” (a name the team chose for themselves when working on this project).**



**Making of protective gowns for New Abirem Government Hospital.**



**Trainees of Hope Training Institute make disposable face masks to be given to medical staff at New Abirem Government Hospital.**



**Akosua Sukah practices her fine art lessons.**



**Clinical Director and Matron of New Abirem Government Hospital receive masks and gowns made by the trainees of HTI.**



**Dr. Stephen Quarcoo, Clinical Director of New Abirem Government Hospital models the full set of protective equipment produced by HTI.**



**Patience Addy practices her fine art lessons.**



**Gideon Obiri works on a family portrait project.**



**The two Gideons (Oppong and Obiri) show off their finished pencil art projects.**

# ELIZABETH NUVI'S STORY



**Elizabeth Nuvi**

teenager, unable to stay in school even in the times when her father was able to pay the fees that were required.

"My father was suffering and couldn't always pay my fees and whenever I went to school, I caused trouble," says Elizabeth. Eventually Elizabeth dropped out of school completely at the 8th grade and her family made plans to help her study a vocational skill. She enrolled in a training center for seamstresses but was unable to stay focused. She was accused of being rowdy and disobedient and Elizabeth left that program as well.

Before things went downhill, Elizabeth was part of a cultural dance troupe in her community that would perform in various places. One such trip had brought them to Accra and that was the first time that she saw the seeming prosperity in the capital city of Ghana. After that visit Elizabeth had vowed to come back to Accra to look for work to help her father take care of her siblings. Her plan was to make a living as a cleaner/dishwasher/errand girl at a chop bar (local eatery).

One Monday, some time after her mother's death, Elizabeth, knowing where her father kept his money, "borrowed" some of the money and started her journey from Juapong (in the Eastern Region) to Accra through Kpong. She arrived at the Nkrumah Circle area before nightfall and realized she was not in the "Accra" that she had in mind. She knew she was lost for sure; nevertheless, when she explained her situation to a group of girls, they told her she was not too far away from Accra Central, with which she was remotely familiar. That first night, she stayed with this same group of girls in a wooden kiosk with only a piece of cloth for a door. As Elizabeth recalls, "I had not lived in anything like that before and I could not wait till morning to find a better place."


The next morning, she followed her new-found friends to the public bathroom where she paid to take a shower and freshen up so she could begin her search for a job. She was unsuccessful the first day and what she learned was

that people could tell she was a stranger by the backpack that she carried with her everywhere. That evening she slept outside, having abandoned her new-found friends. Subsequently, every day for three weeks, she would hide her backpack of belongings in a random but safe-looking spot, find a place to pay for a public shower and restroom, and go job-hunting. She figured a daily wage of at least 15 cedis (less than \$3) would leave her some savings; however, she found that most people, if they did not completely dismiss her, were offering between 5 cedis (less than \$1) and 10 cedis (less than \$2). Soon, Elizabeth also discovered that most people did not want to hire a street girl and so she changed her story, saying that she lived with her sister who had traveled. By this time, she had made friends with an older woman who sold water and so she became her "sister" in case someone wanted to check her reference.

As Elizabeth recalls, "Even though my money was running out and I was suffering, I felt I could not return home because I had stolen my father's money." Finally, after about a month, Elizabeth found a job as an assistant in a shop when the owner of that shop decided to believe her story about her traveling sister. Her new employer did find out that Elizabeth was actually living on the streets and, in order to help, placed her in yet another kiosk with an older girl who already worked at the shop. With this new job, Elizabeth would earn approximately \$30 a month. Elizabeth did not keep this job for very long and so, for about a year, she tried many different ways to make money on the streets – selling water in sachets to pedestrians; peddling candy in traffic; selling cigarettes, etc. She was finally settling into the life of a street girl, hanging around the Nkrumah Circle area.

Somehow, in all this, Elizabeth was not involved in drugs or crime. Most young people on the street are not nearly as lucky. Eventually, one of Elizabeth's friends introduced her to a day shelter for street kids and she started going for meals there. It is through this program that Elizabeth was admitted into Hope Training Institute and into the leatherworks class. At first, she did not understand the basic concepts even though she really wanted to learn. "Mr. Zigah noticed that I was struggling and gave me a lot of guidance." Elizabeth is now more confident in her skills and has recently designed her own bag.

Through the information that Elizabeth provided, her relatives were traced and are now aware of her current location and are in full support of the training and rehabilitation that she is receiving. Elizabeth's greatest wish is to become a nurse in honor of her mother's memory. "My mother always told me I would be a good nurse."

She has plans of using the skills she has acquired as a stepping stone to develop herself further and go to nursing school. 

# FARMING AT HOPE TRAINING INSTITUTE

**D**uring the national restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus, one of the activities that kept the trainees busy at Hope Training Institute was farming. At the Village of Hope, farming has always been a part of our activities on various scales and before lockdown, plans had been underway in preparation for the major rainy season.

Although everyone was on board, we found that we had quite a number of trainees with green fingers who made sure that the plants were cared for and nurtured to get results. Michael, Emmanuel, Bright, Raphael, and Kojo, supervised by Gabriel Donyinah (auto mechanic instructor) formed the main team in charge of the different sections of the farm. They planted corn, okra, cucumbers, beets, cassava, tomatoes, and peppers. Different quantities of each crop were planted and we continue to harvest the benefits. The most prosperous of the crops was the okra. The beets, however, were planted too close to each other and so did not do so well. It turns out our farmers had no idea what beets were!

The corn yielded a little over 400 lb of grain, excluding the fresh corn that was roasted or boiled on the cob as snacks for the kids. The 400 lb of dried and stored grain will feed the trainees for 3 months.

The quantity of tomatoes harvested will also feed the trainees for two months. The four harvests of cucumber are enough for four months and we have harvested at least four months' supply of okra. The okra is still flowering and so we will be reaping the harvest for a few more months. Our cassava is still in the ground and the chili peppers are yet to be harvested. The kids also grew a few molokhia (jute leaf) plants which yielded enough to be used for one meal for all of them.

The best part of the farming project is that most of the seeds were given to the children by one of our donors. We only invested \$12 in cash to get food worth so much more! We hope to continue the farming culture among our trainees and give those with skill in this area a chance to shine and be an example to others. 🌱



**March 2020: Before the land was cleared for planting.**



**June 2020: Okra and Corn were growing and cucumbers and tomatoes had just been planted.**



**Bright and Raphael with a tomato harvest.**



**Mavis, Vida and Beatrice prepare cucumbers for freezing.**



**Emmanuel harvests a batch of cucumbers. The okra and corn are behind him.**



**A section of the cassava farm.**



**Can you spot the green chili peppers?**



**Michael harvests some okra.**



# VILLAGE OF HOPE

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P. O. Box 670394  
Dallas, TX 75367

## 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	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>70,000</b>	



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>	



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



**GRAND TOTAL: \$140,000.00**