

Herald of Hope

Volume 9 | Number 1 | January 2021

HOMECOMING 2020-2021



Independent children of Village of Hope throw a party for their younger siblings on Fetteh Campus.

As is the tradition of Village of Hope, many of the children in high school, college (university) and those who are independent returned to the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope for last year's end-of-year homecoming. The 2020 homecoming witnessed one of the highest number of children returning home. We think the reason for this was because until December, no one was permitted to visit the Village of Hope campus as a means of protecting the children and residents of the campus from COVID-19. All the children living outside the campus had therefore not been able to enter the campus since March 2020. Many, therefore, took advantage of the homecoming to visit their "parents" and "siblings" on campus.

As usual, there were many festivities to celebrate the season. The children played and had fun as they enjoyed each other's company. This year, some of the independent children came together to organize a party for their younger siblings living on campus. There was an abundance of food, meat, pastries and soft

drinks of all kinds and the children enjoyed the occasion to the full.

On the night of December 31, 2020, there was a watchnight thanksgiving and prayer session to bid farewell to 2020 and to welcome the new year – from 10:00 p.m. to about 1:00 a.m. on New Year's Day. Everyone on the Fetteh campus (except a few patients on admission at the hospital and the hospital staff who were taking care of them), gathered at the Gaylon and Deanna Smith Hall to sing praises to God and to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for seeing us through 2020 in spite of the many challenges and difficulties we encountered in the course of the year. We also rededicated ourselves to God for the coming year. At about 11:45 p.m., we all went to stand on the soccer field on campus to witness the burning of a big bonfire amidst joyous singing and prayers.

After the burning of the bonfire, many children and adults stayed up to sing and jubilate till dawn. The campus was therefore very quiet in the morning of New Year's Day



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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

as that was when most people were sleeping. By mid-morning though, most people were awake and the campus was once again bustling with activity as is very characteristic of family reunions.

Each year, the children and House Parents visit the homes of many elders, preachers and church leaders of churches of Christ in the Accra – Tema area of Ghana as well as the homes of some of our major local donors to wish them a “Happy New Year!” This has gone on for the past 20 or so years. However, this year, the visits were cancelled owing to COVID-19. Everyone therefore stayed on campus and enjoyed great fellowship.

The next day, January 2, 2021, the entire Village of Hope family – children and staff of all the subsidiaries at Fetteh and Ayawaso (children’s home, hospital, schools and vocational training institute) – came together for a New Year party. The parents and children in each of the homes prepared lots of food to be shared

by all and so there was so much for everyone to eat and drink and be merry.

On Sunday, January 3, we gathered for worship. After the worship service, some of the independent children and older children in college began to say goodbye and depart for their various places of residence as they had to go to work the following day. The next day, many more bid us farewell and departed. Others stayed for a few more days before leaving campus. Even though we knew they would be leaving, seeing them go was difficult. A few years ago, they were little children in our homes but now, they are all grown up and living independently. The cords of love that have bound us together as one family are so strong that it made saying goodbye to them so difficult. We are, however, grateful to God that we get the opportunity each year to enjoy a reunion with them during homecoming. We are happy that they are doing well on their own and making a real difference in the world. [📍](#)



Bonfire on the Eve of The New Year 2021



Independent children of Village of Hope throw a party for their younger siblings on Fetteh Campus.

VISITS AND DONATIONS GRADUALLY ON THE RISE

Many people visited Village of Hope and made donations during the Christmas and New Year festive season. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors were met and received by the House Parents and had either no interaction or very limited interaction (from a distance) with the children. Safety protocols were maintained to keep everyone on campus safe.

We received lots of gifts, especially foodstuffs, face masks, hand sanitizers and detergents from the visitors. As a result of

the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, between March and November 2020, visits to the Village of Hope campuses were reduced to the barest minimum and so were donations. Those were tough days but our God saw us through. We are glad that visits and donations have begun to rise again. We look forward to the day when the pandemic will be over and life returns to normalcy. [3](#)



Bismark Sablah (2nd from right) and family donate to children of Village of Hope.



Madam Doreen Owusu-Fianko donates to Children.





Pictures from
End-of-Year
and New Year
Activities

SCHOOLS REOPEN AFTER TEN-MONTH BREAK

The President of Ghana announced on January 3, 2021 that schools were to re-open on January 9 (for colleges), January 15 (for elementary schools) and January 18 (for high schools) throughout the country. Schools in the country had been closed down by the Government since March 16, 2020 because of COVID-19.

Hope Christian Academy, Hope Christian School (formerly Church of Christ School) and Hope College put in all the safety requirements stipulated by the state and received students back in school. The previous academic year which ended abruptly was discontinued and schools begun a new academic year. In the course of this academic

year, schools will be doing extra hours to make up for what was lost last academic year. Both Hope Christian Academy and Hope Christian School increased enrolment as new students who enrolled were more than students who did not return to our schools. Enrolment into high schools will begin towards the end of February and we are hopeful that Hope College will welcome the anticipated number of 140 tenth grade students into the school.

The children of Village of Hope in college have also begun preparations to return to their various colleges and some have already left home to go back to school. 16 freshmen will be entering college this year. [@](#)



Hope Christian School, Hope Christian Academy and Hope College students in the classroom after the Covid-19 break from school



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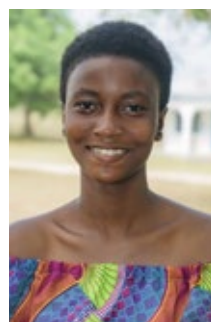
Samuel Mawuko
Danquah



Jacqueline
Wetey



Michel Mensah
Luro



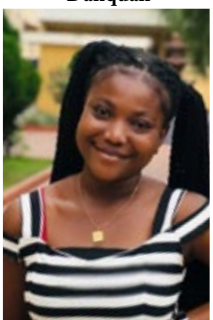
Maureen Afia Asare
Afriyie



Seth
Dwumah



Eric Yaw
Mensah



Abigail Ama
Arthur



Emmanuel Selasi
Agbeko



Esther Agbenu
Worlanyo



George Arthur
Junior



Deborah Atta-Yao
Bediako



Comfort
Tadime



Sarah
Acquah



Gideon Attah
Senior



Portia
Kpabitey

ANNOUNCEMENT

Church of Christ School is now Hope Christian School. The school was renamed and rebranded to be consistent with all Village of Hope ministries. You may recall that Village of Hope took over the management of Church of Christ School in 2009.

BATHED IN PRAYER; LAVISHED WITH LOVE

The babies in our new babies' home are so very special to all of us and as parents it is important to continue to share our love with them. We have the firm belief that it is our duty as adults to work on the spiritual needs of our children in the same way that we work at their physical needs. For this reason, parents of Village of Hope periodically visit the babies to

bathe them in prayer and shield them from the evil of this world. Wherever you are, please remember these names and pray for them as well: Akosua Akosua Nhyira Hope, Emmanuel Kojo Boadu, Akua Asantewa Nyantakyi, Kwabena Nyamekye Amuasi and Yaw Adom Sackey. [@](#)



Leaders of the Church of Christ at Village of Hope visit and pray for babies in the Babies' Home.

EBENEZER AYISI CELEBRATES 60TH BIRTHDAY

Every relationship between a good father and his children is special. Evidence of this fact was beautifully demonstrated on January 24, 2021 when the children (foster and biological) of Ebenezer Ayisi, house parent, came together to celebrate their father in a special way for his 60th birthday. It was an intimate and joyous celebration at Prestoncrest House with house parents and other staff on campus also present. Prayers of

gratitude and blessing were said for Ebenezer, his wife Irene, and his children. The children presented gifts to their father amidst funny nostalgic anecdotes of times with their father. This was no surprise because since November 2007, Ebenezer and Irene Ayisi have been parenting children at Village of Hope. Please join us to pray for blessings and long life for Ebenezer Ayisi. [@](#)



Pictures from Ebenezer Ayisi's 60th birthday celebration



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

1. Renovation of Primary and Junior High School Buildings	12,000
2. Furniture for Classrooms	8,000

Sub-Total **20,000**

GRAND TOTAL: \$70,000.00

