

Herald of Hope

Volume 9 | Number 4 | April 2021

THREE NEW BABIES WELCOMED HOME



Adults of Village of Hope campus church celebrate all our babies.

Three more babies have been admitted into the Babies' Home of Village of Hope. For one of these three, life on earth began, on Christmas day, in the yard of an elementary school. According to witnesses, a seemingly mentally challenged mother had delivered her baby and left without even wrapping the child in any protective clothing. Members of the community, including the owner of the school, took the baby to the nearest hospital for immediate medical care. The matter was then reported to the Department of Social Welfare and the police. Investigators could not trace the birth mother or her family and so, for the protection of the child, the Babies' Home at Village of Hope was chosen by the Department of Social Welfare.

Our next baby is with us because the birth mother ran away from a hospital in the Central Region (where Village of Hope is located) after her child had been placed in the neonatal intensive care unit as a case of late preterm with low birth weight and respiratory distress. Some mothers are known to flee the hospital and abandon their babies when hospital charges are high but it did not make sense

in this case because the bill was only 80 cedis (about \$14) and she had health insurance. After a month of unsuccessful searches, the child was brought to us at Village of Hope.

The story of the third of our three new babies began when two teenage sisters showed up at a hospital, with one experiencing severe abdominal pains which turned out to be birth pangs. She delivered, at 28 weeks, and the baby was immediately put into an incubator. By the time the nurses came back to the maternity ward to attend to the birth mother, she and her sister had both disappeared. A search around the hospital yielded no results. After a week, when no one had still showed up, the matter was taken up with social services and the police. While investigations were still ongoing, a safe place was chosen for the child – the Babies' Home at Village of Hope.

To officially welcome our babies, the Village of Hope family gathered together after worship services at the Gaylon and Deanna Smith Hall to name these three new babies – two boys and a girl. Their names are Emmanuel Adu-Sarkodee, Jr.,



VILLAGE OF HOPE

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

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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

Larry Awuku, Jr. and Theresa Sam, Jr. Emmanuel was named after Emmanuel Adu-Sarkodee, a generous friend of Village of Hope whose kindness led to the construction of CDH Home – one of our children’s homes. Larry was named after Larry Awuku who is a retired Commander of the Ghana Navy and a friend of Village of Hope who cares deeply about babies. Theresa Sam came already named by the social workers who handled her case. According to hospital records, that was the name of her birth mother.

As we continue to receive these precious babies, your prayers and financial support are needed more and more. Please join us to care for them by making a donation designated for the Babies’ Home. [📞](#)



Three new babies are officially presented to the Village of Hope family by their caregivers.



Emmanuel Adu-Sarkodee, Jr.



Daniel Adu-Poku names and blesses Emmanuel Adu-Sarkodee, Jr.



Matilda and Daniel Adu-Poku, retired house parents, with Baby Emmanuel.



Larry Awuku, Jr.



Victor Agbeko names and blesses Larry Awuku, Jr.



Victoria and Victor Agbeko, house parents, with Baby Larry.



Theresa Sam, Jr.



Samuel Osei prays for Theresa Sam, Jr. as she is surrounded by women of the Village of Hope church.



Samuel Osei, Managing Director of Hope Children’s Village, and his wife Dorcas with Baby Theresa.

TEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST



Time Cooper gets baptized by Joseph Aboagye.



Loretta Nyarko Annan gets baptized by Fred Asare.

As we continue to provide for the physical needs of our children, we continue to share the importance of spiritual growth and eternal life. Recently, ten of our teenagers from Hope Christian Academy, Hope College and Hope Training Institute decided to be baptized to begin a new life in Jesus.



Belinda Nyarko Annan, Loretta Nyarko Annan, Benedicta Arthur, Netteley Nettey and Kevin MacArthur, students of Hope College.

From Hope Christian Academy, three boys were baptized – John Annan, Noble-Vincent Teye, and Time Cooper. From Hope College, there were four girls – Belinda Nyarko Annan, Loretta Nyarko Annan, Benedicta Arthur and Netteley Nettey; and a boy – Kevin MacArthur. Those from Hope Training Institute, both girls, were Vida Sewornu and Millicent Obenewaa (Read more about Millicent on Page 5).[📖](#)



Francis Adenyo prays for baptized students of Hope Christian Academy - John Annan, Noble-Vincent Teye and Time Cooper.



Vida Sewornu gets baptized by Richard Mensah.
Insert: Vida Sewornu



Kevin MacArthur gets baptized by Fred Asare.



Millicent Obenewaa gets baptized by Richard Mensah.
Insert: Millicent Obenewaa

STORIES OF HOPE

There are many children in this world who are suffering. There are many who have been born into situations that they have no control over. There are many who are being treated in unspeakable ways by adults from whom they need protection and love. Through the grace of God, the Village of Hope exists to bring hope to such children. The following are the stories of some of the children for whom we continue to labor.



Raphael

Raphael currently lives at the Village of Hope in Gomoa-Fetteh. He joined the Village of Hope family initially as a trainee at Hope Training Institute. Given his age, this arrangement was not ideal for Raphael but he had been living on the streets of Accra for a while and needed immediate shelter. How Raphael arrived on the streets shows how intelligent this boy is in spite of his age. Like most children who end up on the streets, things at home are difficult. Raphael comes from a very large family and he has eight other siblings. According to his story, his family moved around a bit when he was quite young and eventually, he started school as other children do. Unfortunately, by the third grade, he had dropped out of school to engage in farming activities to help the family survive economic hardships. His mother was self-employed, making gari, a local food made from cassava. Her income from making gari is what the entire family, apart from one of his older sisters, depended on for all their needs.

According to Raphael things were really difficult at home and so he was sent to Kumasi to live with his older sister who was an assistant to the owner of a small bakery. Life with his sister turned out to be a disappointment for Raphael because he still was not able to go to school as he dreamed. Within a short while, Raphael took off from his sister's place with a plan to travel to Accra. Apparently, he had heard, at that young age, that the big city was the place to make it. As soon as he arrived in Accra he got stranded and realized he was not equipped to handle life on his own. He joined a group of street boys who brought him to a nearby day-shelter where they all visited daily to get a meal and have a bath during the day.

This shelter for street children is one of the places that looks for permanent shelter for as many of their beneficiaries as possible and through this arrangement, Raphael, at 12 years old, was brought to Hope Training Institute as an immediate intervention plan. At Hope Training Institute, Raphael was among the youngest and was not quite ready for intense skill training although he made the effort. More importantly, after a year at Hope Training Institute, Raphael continued to dream and speak about going back to formal school to continue where he left off. His wishes intensified after spending a few holidays at the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope.

Raphael's dream eventually came true this year when he was transferred from Hope Training Institute to Hope Children's Village to be enrolled at the third grade at Hope Christian Academy. The transition has been good for Raphael and we hope that he will continue to thrive in the Village of Hope family.



Raphael plays with Mathias and Wisdom.

Before Mathias and Wisdom joined the Village of Hope family, they were living on the streets of Accra, the capital city of Ghana. The boys are second-generation street children, born to parents who have been living on the streets of Accra for years. The boys' parents have learnt to survive by whatever means possible. None of them is gainfully employed and they often rely on charity from individuals. Unfortunately, as life on the street often goes, the parents often resort to drug use as a means of coping with their situation.

The boys were exposed daily to various vices – drugs, alcohol and violence. While their mother was pregnant, she used drugs so much that it affected Wisdom's physical development. As expected, the boys had not been to school much.

After an assessment by social workers, there was no question that the boys needed immediate shelter and protection from the harshness of street life and from the bad habits that they would inevitably form over

time. The parents consented to their children being moved to a safe place while they figure their lives out.

We are thankful for the lives of these boys and welcome them warmly into the Village of Hope family where they have house parents who look out for their best interests and have access to formal education at Hope Christian Academy.



Mathias



Wisdom

Blessing and Theresa are two of four siblings who lost both parents. As is tradition in most Ghanaian families, in such situations, the extended family decides to whom the responsibility of caring for the children falls. In the case of Blessing and Theresa, their aunt became mother to them. Ideally, this should have been a perfect arrangement for the children; however, this aunt already had four children of her own and so taking care of eight children was not an easy task. In spite of the challenges, the aunt took the children in.

Unfortunately, within a short while, the girls' aunt developed a swollen leg that greatly limited her movement. For someone who makes a

living as a street hawker, her illness meant a drastic fall in household income. The changes immediately led to the girls dropping out of school. When the case was presented to Village of Hope, the children had been out of school for over a year and it was obvious they went to bed hungry more often than not, eating less than three meals a day every day. We were able to give them a new home and help change the path of their lives.



Blessing



Theresa

It is a blessing for us to welcome Theresa and Blessing into the Village of Hope family.

Millicent Obenewaa is now in the residential care program of Village of Hope at Hope Children's Village in Fetteh. Prior to this, Millicent was with other street-connected teenagers at Hope Training Institute learning a vocational skill. At the age of 11, Millicent was brought to a shelter run by the Department of Social Welfare as a missing child in need of care and protection. The details

that Millicent provided to the officials of the Department of Social Welfare suggested that her mother had consented to her travelling with someone from the Eastern Region to the Greater Accra Region. She was made to understand that this person, a woman, was going to take care of her and enroll her in school. After a period of maltreatment and no signs of enrolling in school, Millicent took matters into her own hands and ran away from her new home.

At the social welfare shelter, due to the scanty information provided by Millicent, a missing persons ad was placed on TV several times but no one came up to claim the missing child. After a year at the shelter, the Department of Social Welfare made arrangements for the little girl to be brought to Hope Training Institute. During breaks at Hope Training Institute, Millicent would spend time at the Fetteh campus with other girls her age and it was obvious she felt more at home in that environment. Eventually, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare, the plan for Millicent was adjusted so that she would join the children at Prestoncrest Church of Christ House and continue as a student of Hope Christian Academy.

Millicent has now settled into life as one of the girls at Prestoncrest House and as a student of Hope Christian Academy. We hope to find her family and eventually reconnect her with her roots.



Millicent

Bright joined the Village of Hope family when the Department of Social Welfare (social services) in Accra brought him to Hope Training Institute. He had been handed over to the Department of Social Welfare in 2018 as a missing child with a bizarre story. Prior to being found in Accra, he was living with his family in the Western Region. On the day he was found, his uncle had asked him to travel with him to the city. When they arrived, his uncle took him someplace to take a bath and eat. A while after this, Bright realized that his uncle was making plans to leave. As Bright attempted to leave with him, his uncle refused. It was then that Bright noticed his uncle pointing at him and giving some individuals signs that Bright interpreted as “this is the boy.”

As soon as Bright made his conclusions he escaped and found a hiding place. As he wept, some passers by noticed him and asked

what was wrong. He narrated his story to them and they took him to a police station. The police then handed Bright over to officials of the Department of Social Welfare for further action. With the information that Bright provided, social workers were able to trace his relatives. After some months, family members still had not made the trip to come for Bright, claiming that he was a recalcitrant child.

The Department of Social Welfare recommended that, as further tracing of Bright’s relatives continued, Bright be brought to Hope Training Institute, the Village of Hope’s trade school, to receive care and skill training. When Bright came to Hope Training Institute, it was immediately apparent that he was a bright boy – a deep thinker. Perhaps this was the reason why his relatives could not stand him. Bright is not afraid to share his opinion on any matter and speak wisdom to “authority.” He picked up basic leatherworks skills very quickly and was quite the artist. In spite of this, Bright kept on pleading with social workers at Hope Training Institute that he wanted to go to formal school. After a while, in agreement with the Department of Social Welfare, the plan for Bright was updated to include a transfer to residence on the Fetteh campus in order to attend Hope Christian Academy. The changes were initially difficult for Bright but he has adjusted well and shows a lot of promise.



Bright



Bright’s self-portrait

Reggie (not her real name) is only 12 years old but has endured things that no one, child or adult, deserves to experience. The cruel adults of this world continue to take advantage of poor and helpless children like Reggie. The child was living with her mother in poverty and, with hindsight, it would have been better for Reggie to go hungry while living with her mother. It was decided that, in order for Reggie to have a better life, she would move in with her uncle who had a better home and better living conditions. From the moment Reggie set foot in her uncle's house this man began to abuse her sexually every single day. As if the abuse was not enough, he threatened to kill her if she told anyone and so for a long time, Reggie endured her uncle's abuse in silence.

One day Reggie became sick and needed to go to hospital. The silver

lining of her illness was that medical practitioners at the hospital detected that Reggie was a victim of sexual abuse. Steps were immediately taken to rescue Reggie from this terrible situation and find a safe place for her. That is how Reggie became part of the Village of Hope family to start a new life of hope, protected from the evil uncles of this world.

There are many more like Raphael, Mathias, Wisdom, Blessing, Theresa, Millicent, Bright, and Reggie, who need daily care and protection. Our collective effort will keep bringing them hope for the future. Kindly make a donation online at thevohgroup.org/donate or mail a check to: **Village of Hope, P. O. Box 670394, Dallas, TX 75367**. It is your gifts that sustain the children and provide all their needs. 🙏



Reggie assists her house mother to serve dinner.



Mathias and Wisdom run free and play like children should.



Theresa (right) is at home with her sisters at Linary House.



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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 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

