

Herald of Hope

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HOPE FOR GIFTY, OPHELIA AND SAMUEL AT HOPE TRAINING INSTITUTE



Gifty, Ophelia and Samuel - newly admitted trainees of Hope Training Institute

Although they were born into different families, 16-year-old Gifty, 16-year-old Ophelia and 15-year-old Samuel are now members of the Village of Hope family, living on the Ayawaso campus. There are common threads of difficulty in their early lives that eventually led to their admission into Hope Training Institute this year.

In order to understand Gifty's story, we have to go back to the story of her mother, Rebecca. In her late teens, Rebecca left her struggling parents and four other siblings in Akatsi, in the Volta Region of Ghana, and travelled to the capital city, Accra, to look

for the proverbial greener pastures. Being an industrious young woman, Rebecca began to work as a food vendor. At the age of 20, she began to live with her boyfriend and within a year, she became pregnant with Gifty. As most young women still do in Ghana, the pregnant Rebecca went back home to Akatsi to be assisted by her mother until her baby was born.

Much to Rebecca's surprise, when the baby was born and Rebecca sent word to her partner, the man denied ever having a child with her. Rebecca left her newborn baby with her mother in Akatsi, returned to Accra,



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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

moved out of her partner's house and continued to work as a food vendor. At some point, Rebecca developed a problem with her eyes, and she was advised to discontinue her food vending business. It was not until Gifty was three years old that Rebecca brought the child to live with her in the city. By this time, she had found a new partner and relocated to Pokuase, a suburb of Accra, the capital city.

Rebecca and her new partner had five children. While she sold oranges by the roadside, her partner worked as a carpenter. Over time, this new partner neglected Rebecca and the children and Rebecca had to resort to all means of survival including working at a stone quarry, manually breaking stones to make a living. Rebecca sent all her children, except Gifty, to live with their grandmother who had moved from Akatsi to Togo, a neighbouring country on the eastern border of Ghana. Rebecca hoped that the children would no longer be exposed to the vices of city life while living in rural Togo with her mother. Meanwhile, in 2020, Rebecca got word that her first partner, Gifty's father, died without having ever met his daughter.

During road expansion works, Rebecca was evicted from the spot where she was selling oranges and she could no longer afford rent for herself and Gifty. Gifty dropped out of school and the mother and daughter found refuge at the premises of a church, where they were allowed to sleep at night. The pastor and other benevolent church members supported Rebecca and Gifty but Rebecca also had to send some of those funds to her mother, in Togo, for the upkeep of the other five children.

It is against this background that Gifty came to live at Hope Training Institute to receive shelter, learn a skill, know more about Jesus, receive better opportunities, and break out of the cycle of poverty that her family is in.

In March this year, the church of Christ at Bonsuoku wrote to Hope Training Institute asking for assistance for one of their newly baptized members called Ophelia. The results of the social investigations resulted in Ophelia being admitted into the training program at Hope Training Institute.

Ophelia is a child from Bonsuoku, a village close to the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope. Ophelia's parents were farmers and that was the means through which the entire family was surviving. When Ophelia was 12 years old, her father passed away and her mother was left with seven children to take care of. Ophelia is the fifth of these children and, with her mother's support, she was able to finish the ninth grade.

Ophelia's widowed mother has struggled over the years to provide for her children. The three eldest children are always between jobs trying to make a living to assist their mother in taking care of the younger ones. The fourth child is in a sewing apprenticeship at Bonsuoku where the family pays for her training. This has left Ophelia with no option but to stay at home

and join the unemployed teenagers of the community who are exposed to all sorts of vices. Most youth loiter about with little or nothing resourceful to do and those eager to work have moved to surrounding towns in search of jobs. We are hopeful that Ophelia will make use of this opportunity at Hope Training Institute and change her life.

Like Gifty, Samuel also had a father who disappeared before he was born. Samuel's uncle (his father's brother) showed up to name the child and, after the naming, he also never showed up again. Meanwhile, Samuel's mother married another man who also had children of his own. Together, the family lived in an old kiosk and made a living from the mother's petty trading activities and the father's masonry work. All their six children were enrolled in school but Samuel's recalcitrant nature would not permit him to concentrate on his education. Samuel found solace on the streets and started spending nights away from home. He could go missing for days, sometimes weeks, at a time. As his mother could not cope with his conduct anymore, she sent Samuel to her own mother in another town, hoping that Samuel would go to school there. Samuel started school again while with his grandmother and he was doing very well until, one day, he stole some money from his grandmother and ran away. Samuel continued to stay on the streets of Accra until the money he stole from his grandmother ran out. Then, he went home to his mother and stepfather where he was warmly received.

Unfortunately, Samuel ruined his relationship with his stepfather when he stole money and left home again to use it all up on the streets. This time, when he returned home, his stepfather threw him out and asked him to never come back. To avoid problems with her husband, Samuel's mother pleaded with a close friend within their community to give Samuel a place to live. This close friend's husband was away at the time that the arrangement was made and once he returned, Samuel was asked to leave.

Samuel was left with no option but to go back to the streets. He would find some place to sleep at night and, when he had ran out of options, he would come to a dilapidated structure close to his parents' kiosk. He would sneak into his parents' place during the day while his stepfather was away, to have a bath and eat some food. As much as Samuel's mother was not happy with the situation, she seemed to have no control over the matter. It was during his life on the streets that Samuel came into contact with Hope Training Institute. He has a place to live, has his own bed, and a chance to learn a skill.

One of the greatest challenge of looking after children like Gifty, Ophelia and Samuel is that they have been through so much and have learned habits of survival that may be unconventional and inappropriate. Our caregivers, instructors and social workers need extra patience to work with these young people. Please have them in your prayers as they rescue, repair, prepare and propel many young lives into a brighter future. 🙏

FIELD TRIP FOR KINDERGARTENERS OF HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Kindergarteners of Hope Christian School and their teachers pose in front of Nkwatia Police Station.

Education is the backbone of the socio-economic growth of every country. Ghana is keen to accelerate the improvement in educational provision with particular emphasis on quality education for all. Every Ghanaian child irrespective of his/her geographical location is expected to get the best form of education to enable him/her fit well as a global citizen.

To achieve this apparently audacious educational goal, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) rolled out a new curriculum for both private and public pre-tertiary educational institutions in September of 2019. The new curriculum seeks to equip learners with competencies such as critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication and collaboration, digital literacy, cultural identity, personal development and leadership skills. Furthermore, the traditional way where learners confine themselves to a classroom to be taught and to receive information has also been modified.

One of the approaches to acquiring knowledge that seems to appeal to learners at all levels is educational trips to important places. For

the first time in the history of Hope Christian School, pupils in the kindergarten classes embarked on a trip to the Nkwatia Police Station and the Yiadom Palace also at Nkwatia. The main purpose of this field trip was to learn about the roles that the police and the traditional rulers play in our communities to ensure peace and harmony. The experience and the hospitality that was accorded these young learners will live with them for good.

A post-trip assessment conducted revealed that deep-centered learning took place during the trip. Children aged four to six were able to state some social vices that can lead to the arrest of people in our communities. Also, the little boys and girls were able to demonstrate the way in which a person is supposed to greet when he or she enters the palace of the chief of the traditional area.

Parents whose children shared their learnings and experiences with them showered a lot of praises on management and staff for a well-organized trip. We are proud of our teachers and pupils for making it happen. [📍](#) -Richmond Twum



Kindergarteners of Hope Christian School pose in front of a statue in the courtyard of the Yiadom Palace at Nkwatia.

MID-2021: VILLAGE OF HOPE AT A GLANCE

MINISTRIES

Church of Christ Children's Home – Bongo

Hope Children's Village – Fetteh

Hope Training Institute – Ayawaso

Hope Christian Hospital – Fetteh

Hope Christian Academy – Fetteh

Hope Christian School – Nkwatia

Hope College – Fetteh

Church of Christ Children's Home – Bongo

- 18 children
 - 15 residential children in preschool and elementary school
 - 3 non-residential children
 - 2 in high school
 - 1 in college
- 9 staff members



Hope Children's Village - Fetteh

- 189 children
 - 4 babies
 - 88 residential children in elementary school
 - 97 non-residential children
 - 40 in high school
 - 14 in vocational training
 - 43 in college
- 23 staff members



Hope Training Institute - Ayawaso

- 31 trainees in residence
- 9 new admissions in progress
- 4 training programs
- 15 members of staff



Hope Christian Hospital - Fetteh

- 60 patients a day
- 164 medical and auxiliary staff
- Laboratory & Pharmacy
- Dental & optometry services
- Pediatric services & NICU



Hope Christian Academy - Fetteh

- 525 students
 - 141 in preschool
 - 384 in elementary school
- 57 teachers and auxiliary staff



Hope Christian School - Nkwatia

- 251 students
 - 95 in preschool
 - 156 in elementary school
- 25 teaching and non-teaching staff



Hope College - Fetteh

- 374 students
 - 173 in 12th grade
 - 127 in 11th grade
 - 74 in 10th grade
- 52 teaching and non-teaching staff



PRAYERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

There are 224 children across our three schools who are just weeks away from taking examinations that will determine the course of their academic lives. For some of those in the 12th grade, the examinations start this month of August and continue till October. For those in the 9th grade, their final national examinations will be in November. At Hope College, 173 students are in active preparation for life after high school. What this life will eventually look like depends heavily on the outcome of the pending examinations. Please pray for these 173 young men and women throughout the months of August to October.

At Hope Christian Academy, there are 45 children who will take the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) in November. We are hopeful that the impact of gaps, created during the breaks from school because of the COVID-19 pandemic, has been minimized after classroom learning returned to normal. Please pray for these 45 boys and girls, that they will have good health and clear minds during the entire period of the examinations in November.

In addition to the 45 at Hope Christian Academy, there are six 9th graders at Hope Christian School in Nkwatia who will also be taking the BECE in November. Your prayers are needed for these six as well. Thank you for your prayers! 🙏



Pray for the examination candidates of Hope Christian School.



Pray for the examination candidates of Hope Christian Academy.



Pray for the examination candidates of Hope College.

HUMAN RESOURCE CHANGES

There is a security man working at the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope who has been around for as long as most people remember. Currently, there is only a handful of other workers who were already here when he began serving at the Village of Hope. His name is Benjamin Ayetse and he became a member of staff of Village of Hope 16 years ago, in May 2005. Benjamin has served as a supervisor, role model, advisor and friend to many other security men and women who have come and gone over the years. Anyone who has stayed on the Village of Hope campus knows him and his ready smile. He has helped many a mission team offload trunks and suitcases from buses, trucks and vans upon arrival at the Village of Hope campus at night. This year, Benjamin retires from active work at the Village of Hope.



Benjamin Ayetse - Retiring Security Man



Isaac Manu - Retiring Security Man

As Benjamin Ayetse retires, so does Isaac Manu, his fellow security man, who has been working at the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope since September 2008. As part of the security team of Village of Hope for almost 13 years, Isaac Manu has made his contributions to the protection and care of the children of Village of Hope, many of whom are now adults living their independent lives. We are grateful for the lives of Benjamin and Isaac and their contributions to the safety and comfort of the children of Village of Hope.

As the two security men prepare to leave, the hospital has received a new team member - a medical doctor called Ransford Asante. Dr. Asante transferred from King of Kings Health Services (St. Martin's Hospital) in Accra and has joined the medical team of Hope Christian Hospital to improve the quality of care given to the children and staff of Village of Hope and the community members that come to our facility. We are grateful for the new addition to the team. 🕒



Dr. Ransford Asante - New Medical Officer at Hope Christian Hospital



PTA DONATES BUS TO HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Hope Christian Academy has had three school buses for the past 11 years. Each of the school buses was generously donated by friends of Village of Hope in the United States and shipped to us in Ghana. Each bus is now over 20 years old. There has been a daily struggle with faults and breakdowns on two of the three buses while one has been off the road for over three years because of numerous faults that are beyond the expertise of our local mechanics.

For this reason, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) of Hope Christian Academy made the decision to donate a 30-seater bus to support the transportation of their children to and from school. The arrival of the bus has reduced the numerous transportation challenges previously faced by the school on a daily basis. 🕒

Pictures: Side views of bus donated to Hope Christian Academy by PTA



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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

