

Herald of Hope

Volume 9 | Number 9 | September 2021

“HOPE HAS FALLEN ON HER”



Little Patricia on the day of her rescue from the street. She is seen here with Jennifer Appiah-Kubi, social worker.

We named her Patricia, after a good Samaritan who brought her plight to our attention, because she had no name. For more than two years, she lived on the streets of Accra with her mother who is mentally ill.

As sad as it is, many mentally ill persons roam the streets of countless cities and towns across Ghana, either naked or in tattered clothing with unkempt hair and a very filthy appearance. They have been rejected and neglected by their families and by society; and the mental health facilities and social welfare system in the country are woefully inadequate to take care of them; so they roam about day and night, scavenging for food and sleeping anywhere their tired bodies can find. Unfortunately for the women, some

unscrupulous men take advantage of their state and rape them. Some become pregnant as a result of such rape. That is exactly what happened to the mother of little Patricia. She became pregnant while roaming the streets of Accra and delivered her baby girl right there on the streets. Passersby quickly “hurled” the mother and her newborn baby into a taxi and took her to a nearby hospital where the hospital staff attended to them. After a few days, when they were out of medical danger, the hospital “discharged” them and so back to the streets the mother and baby returned.

For more than two years, the mother wandered on the streets with her baby, surviving on food she could find from waste bins and garbage dump sites, and on the occasional generosity of passersby. She was



VILLAGE OF HOPE

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

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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

very protective of her baby girl and would not allow anyone to come close to the baby. A man who always saw the mother and child within a certain neighborhood of the city, and was concerned about their plight and lack of care, brought their case to the attention of Village of Hope. The Managing Director and Social Worker of Hope Children's Village immediately set out to investigate the matter and to rescue the child from neglect and harm. Owing to the aggressive nature of the mother in protecting her child by not allowing anyone to come near the child, it took a combined team of officers from the Ghana Police Service, social workers of the Department of Social Welfare, staff of Village of Hope, and some residents in the vicinity where the mother and child were often found, to come up with a rescue plan and implement it with perfect timing to distract the mother's attention and rescue the child. She was brought to the Fetteh campus of Village of Hope on August 13, 2021 and now lives at the Linary Church of Christ House.

Upon her arrival at Village of Hope, she underwent a complete medical examination at Hope Christian Hospital and received the care that she needed. Within just three days of her stay at Village of Hope, there has been a great transformation. We thank God for this ministry that rescues, repairs, prepares and propels children to better lives that bring glory to God. In line with our mission, we pledge to give Patricia the very best of holistic care so she will grow up to become a great Christian woman for humanity and for the Kingdom of God. Join us in prayers and support as we fulfil our God-given mandate to Patricia in the days, months and years ahead. In the words of Samuel Osei, Managing Director of Hope Children's Village, "hope has fallen on her." 🙏

Pictures

1. *Day One:* Social worker Jennifer Appiah-Kubi interacts with Patricia on the day of her rescue from the streets.
2. *Day Three:* Good Samaritan Patrick Sam comes to see Patricia three days after her arrival at Village of Hope.
3. *Day Four:* Patricia poses for the camera in front of Linary House.
4. *Day Four:* Patricia and her house parents, Samuel and Betty Owusu Afriyie.



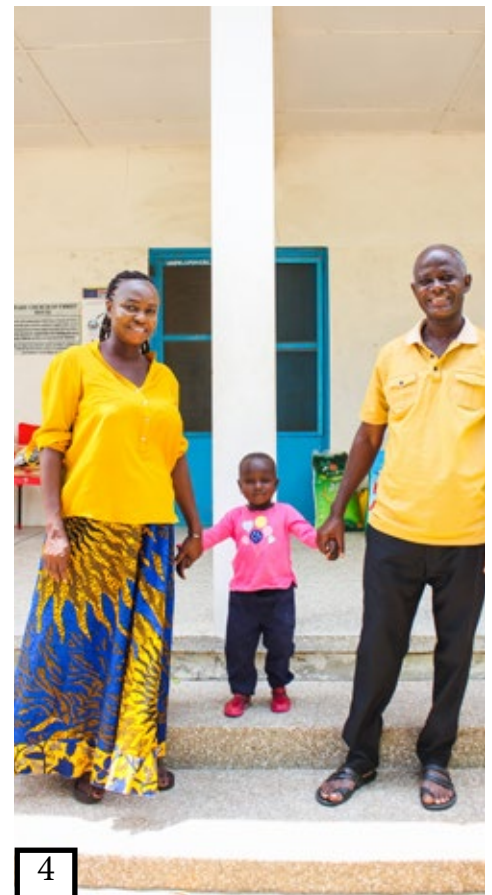
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ALMOST A BRIDE AT 17

When a girl is 17 years old, she has a lot of concerns about life but, usually, these concerns do not include how to run away from home in order not to be given to an older man as a wife - not unless your name is Janet and your father has already taken a dowry from your future husband. As ridiculous as this sounds in 2021, this is the story that accompanied Janet when she arrived at the Village of Hope campus in Ayawaso.

God always works in ways that we do not understand. The day that Janet arrived in the capital, wide-eyed and confused, after running away from home, the random strangers that she met just happened to be sisters of a social worker of Village of Hope, working at Hope Training Institute. With their help, Janet found the Ayawaso campus and was able to spend that first night in a bed at a safe place. For four months, Janet maintained her story, which was that her mother had passed away, her father had remarried, and she was being given to some one as a wife. Our social workers, therefore, had their work cut out for them.



Janet at Hope Training Institute

Janet arrived in November 2020 and was sheltered at Hope Training Institute until March, when it was time for all the trainees to take a break to visit their families. A team of social workers from Hope Training Institute traveled with Janet to her hometown, Akim Wenchi, in the Eastern of Region of Ghana, to follow up on Janet's case. It took three and half hours for them to arrive at Akim Wenchi, where they found Janet's relatives. The family received the social workers warmly and were in such high spirits because their daughter Janet had resurfaced alive and well. The "visitors from Accra" were quickly surrounded by neighbors, all of whom came to express their gratitude for the good work done to bring Janet back home.

The social workers learned that Janet and her three siblings had, indeed, lost their mother, and that Janet lived with her step mother and her father; however, Janet's father had not only remarried one person, but rather, having converted to Islam, he had married two additional wives. For some time, the welfare of the children had not been their father's priority. Of Janet's three siblings, two were nowhere to be found and the one at home, a twenty-year-old, was pregnant. Janet had dropped out of school at the eighth grade and was not actively involved in any vocational training.

The social workers met with all the relatives present but Janet's father was not available at the time because he had gone to work on his farm. They gave a detailed explanation as to why Janet had arrived at the Ayawaso campus of Village of Hope and the family confirmed that she had ran away four months ago. It was also confirmed that her father had, indeed, intended to give her to someone as a wife and her surprise departure had caused a few problems.

After hours of deliberation between social workers and family members, Janet's relatives were made to understand that she was not ready for marriage and that the family would be reported to the police if anyone tried to get her married. They were genuinely happy that she had found a place at Village of Hope and agreed to send her back to us after the short break. True to their word, at the end of the break, Janet was sent back to Hope Training Institute to continue her training in sewing.

It is not an easy road for the children that we work with at the Institute because of the complex situations they face at home but we believe that, with your support, they will continue to make positive strides towards a brighter future. [📞](#)

A 100-YEAR LEGACY FOR HOPE

On October 5, 2003, Don and Carolyn Barnett were on the Village of Hope campus in Fetteh for the commissioning of Hanford Church of Christ House, Andrea Browning Clinic, and Hope Christian Academy. That day, the Barnetts made a donation of \$1,000 for the furnishing of Hanford House. Only God knew that this visit would mark the beginning of a relationship that would outlive Don and Carolyn Barnett for many generations.

Don Barnett was born on June 16, 1930, in San Fernando, California, and passed away peacefully on June 16, 2021, in Edmond, Oklahoma. Over these 91 years, Don became known to family and friends as a strong, loving, and generous man. He was very dedicated to his family and supported and inspired his children to do their best in all their pursuits. He worked as a farmer in Hale Center, Texas; as the manager of the Chamber of Commerce in Neosho, Missouri; as the Kings County Economic Development Director in California; and, finally, as a real estate broker, focusing on industrial and commercial properties.

Don was always an active member of the church of Christ, and was one of the founding members of a church of Christ in Cabool, Missouri; an involved member of the church of Christ in Neosho, Missouri; and a Deacon and then an Elder of the church of Christ in Hanford California.

As a student of Abilene Christian College, Don Barnett met Joy McKnight, whom he married in 1949. Together they had four children. In June 1961, Joy suddenly passed away from a brain aneurysm. Don married Carolyn Sweet in July 1962 and she became the mother to his four young children. In July of 2004, Carolyn passed away after battling with cancer. In 2005, Don married Marita McKnight Wood, his first wife Joy's sister, whose own husband had passed away a few years earlier. Don and Marita moved to Edmond, Oklahoma, where

they lived closer to their children, and were happily married for 16 years before Don's passing.

At church, Don Barnett had always been a great supporter of mission work and this is how he became involved with the work at Village of Hope and eventually visited, in 2003, as one of the elders of the church of Christ in Hanford, California, that was funding projects in Ghana. It was after this first visit that Don and Carolyn shared a commitment to Village of Hope with their family. The message was simple: "for the next one hundred years our descendants will give \$1,000 or more every October 5 to carry on the tradition."

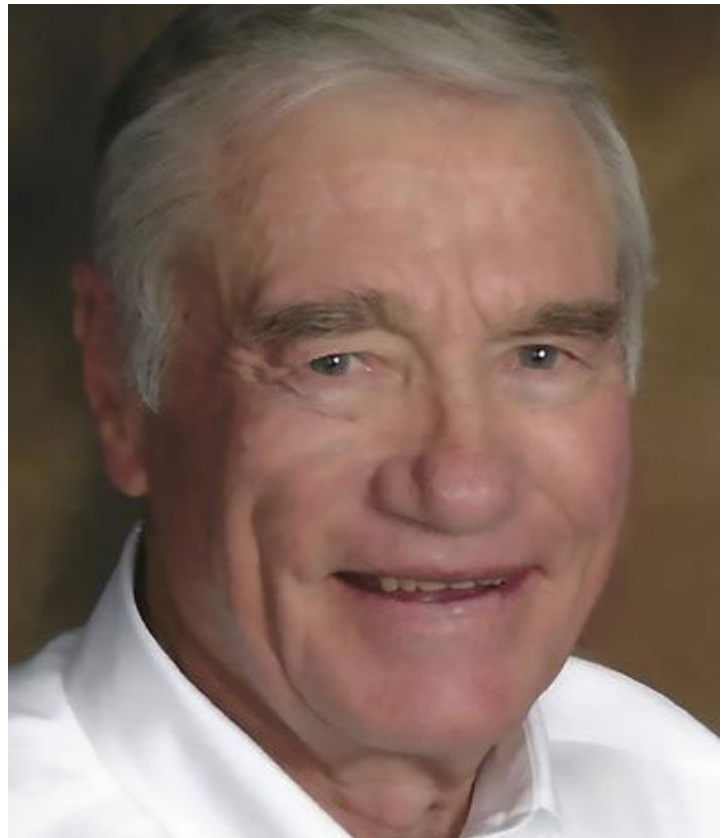
At the time when the Barnetts made the commitment in 2003, Village of Hope was only seven years old. There were about 60 children in the orphanage and Hope Christian Academy had only 187 students. Yet, Don and Carolyn Barnett saw the future, shared the vision, and understood the needs. They described Village of Hope to the rest of the clan as being "like a bright, shining jewel in the midst of extreme poverty." Since then, for 17 years, that commitment has been honored or exceeded each year. Apart from this commitment, the Barnetts funded the construction of three buildings that housed many orphans, and are now serving as wards for patients that come for medical care at Hope Christian Hospital.

Don is survived by his wife Marita; his sister Diana; his four children: Jerry Don, Clay Alan, Donna Jeannine, and David Lee; 10 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews and their descendants, who have committed to carry out the 100-year-legacy for its entire duration.

Don left behind an unforgettable legacy. What will your legacy be? [🔗](#)



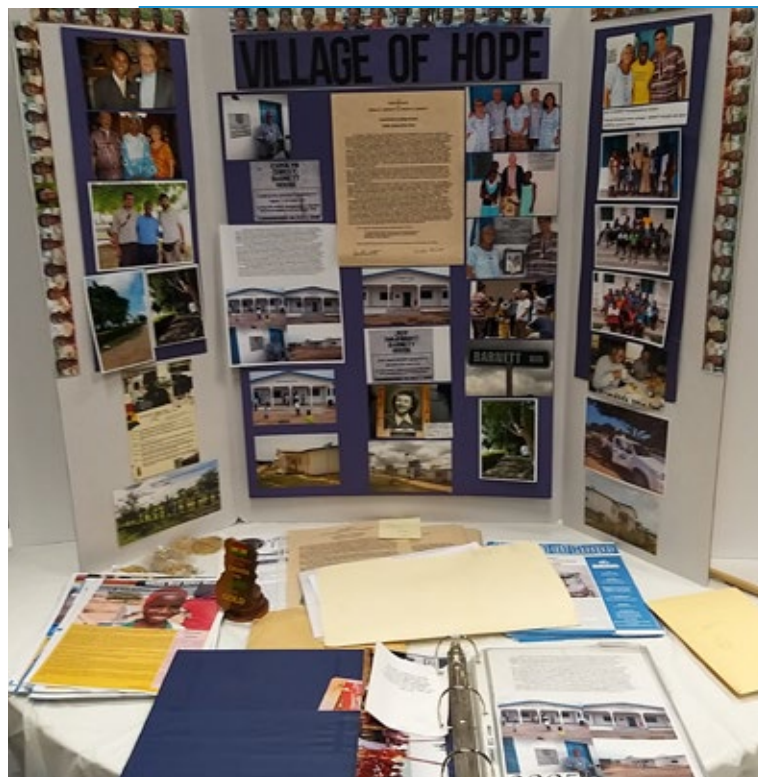
Don Barnett: Early Years



Don Barnett: Later Years



Francis-Xavier Sosu and Fred Asare join Barnett Clan to celebrate the life of their patriarch, Don.



An exhibit about the relationship between Village of Hope and the Barnetts is displayed during the remembrance service for Don Barnett.

REMEMBERING VIVIENNE GARNER



Everyone close to Vivienne Garner knew how much she loved the work at the Village of Hope until she passed away on July 4, 2021 at the age of 96, at her home in Carlsbad, New Mexico. She was born on January 21, 1925 in Wheeling, Arkansas.

After graduating from high school, Vivienne moved to Dallas, Texas to attend music school but because of World War II, she became a Rosie

the Riveter. (“Rosie the Riveter” was the term for women who took on factory jobs as riveters, assemblers, and machinists from 1942 to 1947). Vivienne’s Rosie the Riveter job was in assembling airplanes.

In 1949, Vivienne married Sherman Lee Garner in Calico Rock, Arkansas, and taught music for several years before they moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico. Vivienne, her husband and their three daughters, were all very involved at Fox and Lake Church of Christ. They were all good Bible students. Vivienne eventually earned a bachelor’s degree and then a master’s degree as well. For 28 years, Vivienne worked as a teacher and librarian with the Carlsbad Schools before retiring in 1985. She read her bible from cover to cover every year and traveled to every continent except Australia and Antarctica.

Vivienne Garner is survived by her daughters: Beth Brown and husband, Eldon, Teri Hooper and husband, Terry Dan; son-in-law, Michael Joiner and wife, Dr. Patti Patterson Joiner; grandchildren: Lynn Anne Lowrie and husband, Doug, Lauren Rea and husband, Taylor, Lindsey Joy and husband, Kolbyn, Amy Nicole Reinicke and husband, Joshua, Barbara Elaine Moore and husband, Evan; great-grandchildren: Athen, Kendrick, Laynie, Lottie, Aiden, Haley, Coley, Kaira, J.J. and Evie and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Vivienne began her relationship with Village of Hope as a supporter of Ghana West Africa Missions, the organization through which the activities of several ministries of the church of Christ in Ghana were funded. Although Vivienne never visited the Village of Hope campus in Ghana and never met any of the children or staff personally, at the time of her passing, she had donated thousands of dollars for the care of orphaned and needy children.

Vivienne left behind a lasting legacy in the lives of many children. What will your legacy be? [🔗](#)

UPDATE ON THE PLEA FOR A WALL

Two months ago, in the July 2020 edition of Herald of Hope, we made a special plea for a wall around the Ayawaso campus of Village of Hope in order to protect the street children that we care for. Encroachment had become rampant on the exposed borders of the 8.14-acre parcel of land and, given the circumstances, the only long-term solution was to build a wall.

By the grace of God, our plea did not fall on deaf ears, and we have received the full amount needed to complete the construction of a concrete wall around the campus! The staff of Hope Training Institute, the children who live there, and the masons that have been hired to do the construction, have worked hand-in-hand these past few weeks to build the wall. We have made significant progress and we are sincerely grateful. Thank you for answering this urgent need. [📷](#)



Left to Right: Construction progress as of August 2021
This is further north of the main entrance, getting closer to the Pokuase-Ablekuma Highway.



Left to Right: Construction progress as of August 2021
This is further south-west along the Pokuase-Ablekuma Highway. If you look closely you will see flower pots belonging to an encroaching horticulturist.



Left to Right: Construction progress as of August 2021
The rest of the south-west boundary on the Pokuase-Ablekuma Highway ends just before the telecoms mast in the background.
That is where the girls' dormitory is located.

LET US COMPLETE “VISION OF HOPE 2020”

Do you remember that, in December 2019, we launched a special appeal that covered multiple needs of various ministries of Village of Hope? This appeal was called “Vision of Hope 2020” and it covered the following areas:

I. HOPE CHILDREN’S VILLAGE (ORPHANAGE)

1. Renovation of George & Mary Chisholm House - \$10,000
2. Renovation of Douglas & Margaret Boateng House - \$10,000
3. Renovation of Traverse City Church of Christ House - \$10,000
4. Renovation of Prestoncrest Church of Christ House A - \$10,000
5. Renovation of Prestoncrest Church of Christ House B - \$10,000

II. HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1. Completion of Construction of New Boys’ Dormitory - \$32,000
2. Renovation of Josiah & Bonita Tilton Education Building - \$20,000
3. Furniture for Classrooms - \$8,000

III. CHURCH OF CHRIST SCHOOL


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

IV. HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

1. Oxygen for Wards - \$14,000
2. Lead Door for X-Ray Room - \$4,000
3. Roofing & Terrazzo Floor of Walkways - \$20,000
4. Completion of Remodeling of 3 Barnett Houses - \$20,000
5. Fencing-off of Hospital Facilities - \$12,000

It is now September 2021, 21 months after “Vision of Hope 2020” was launched and, through your support, only 6 of the 16 items are left to be completed! Please see the details on Page 8. As a matter of fact, these projects should have been completed in 2020 but we acknowledge that it became a year like no other.

Fulfilling these needs will help improve the quality of care that the children of Village of Hope receive and, therefore, our appeal to you is that you help us complete the renovations of the children’s homes, and the renovations of the primary and junior high school buildings of Church of Christ School.

PLEASE HELP US RAISE \$52,160 TO COMPLETE VISION OF HOPE 2020. 

The pictures on the right show the state of some of the children’s homes after years of usage and wear and tear by our children.





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TOWARDS OPERATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

I. HOPE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE (ORPHANAGE)

Renovation of first 5 Children's Homes/Cottages

	\$
1. George & Mary Chisholm House	9,000
2. Douglas & Margaret Boateng House	5,800
3. Traverse City Church of Christ House	5,360
4. Prestoncrest Church of Christ House A	10,000
5. Prestoncrest Church of Christ House B	10,000

Sub-Total **40,160**

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

1. Renovation of Primary and Junior High School Buildings	\$ 12,000
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Sub-Total **12,000**

GRAND TOTAL: \$52,160