

# Herald of Hope

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## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR HENRY AND SAKYIWAA



Henry



Sakyiwa

**H**enry and his sister Sakyiwa are the children of a single mother who was living with them in a single-room space in a compound house in a community in the Ashanti Region.

These children's story can be traced back to five years ago when their father passed away. After they lost their father, his extended family who are expected, traditionally, to support the surviving children, refused to help them because, according to them, the children's parents were not properly married as required by custom and they did not consider their mother, Gifty, a widow of their relative.

Left to their fate, Henry and Sakyiwa were sent to live with their maternal grandmother in the hopes that this would give their mother some room to work to care for the children. Unfortunately, their grandmother fell sick and passed on a few months later. Things got unbearable for Gifty, both financially and socially. Without a steady income and with two children in tow, Gifty's search for shelter brought her to an uncompleted building in the same community as the Church of Christ Senior High School in Adadientem in the Ashanti Region.

Gifty and her children lived in the uncompleted structure until they met a good Samaritan named Seth Asamoah who provided them with an improvement - a single-room space in a compound house. Mr. Asamoah was not financially stable enough to support the family and, even after the issue of shelter was improved, Gifty was not able to feed her children, clothe them, or enroll them in school. They slept on sheets of plywood, on the bare floor, with just a blanket covering the wood. They did not always have clean water to drink and Gifty was constantly so frustrated that she often abused the children at the least provocation.

Eventually, Seth Asamoah realized that the solution to children's situation was beyond his ability and he reported the case to the Department of Social Welfare, after which investigations were carried out. The social investigations revealed that the mother of Henry and Sakyiwa was currently incapable of taking care of her children and, based on these findings, the Regional Director of the Department of Social Welfare arranged for Henry and Sakyiwa to be admitted into residential care at Hope Children's Village to give Gifty the room to find her feet.

Henry and Sakyiwa now have a new home and



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### 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

live with other children who do not have to worry about where the next meal is coming from or whether they will be able to go to school or not. Henry lives in Chisholm House with other boys who are cared for by George and Cynthia Arthur while Sakiywaa lives in Prestoncrest House B where Ebenezer and Irene Ayisi are her house parents. Please pray for these young children as they adjust to a new environment. Remember also to pray for their house parents who continually need grace to be an example of God's love to all the children that are brought to their homes. [📖](#)



Henry, Sakiywaa and their biological mother



Sakiywaa at Hope Christian Academy

## HOPE FOR DEDEE\*

Imagine being forcefully displaced from the comfort of your home with no hope of where you and your family are heading to. How devastating it would be, knowing well that you cannot return to your country due to some reasons beyond your control. This is Dedee's story.

Fourteen-year-old Dedee is an Ivorian refugee who was living in a refugee camp in the Western Region of Ghana with her mother, Cynthia, and her half-sister, Mina. As a single mother of two battling a medical condition, Cynthia struggled daily to provide her children with food, clean water, and the parental guidance they needed as they grew up. This situation exposed Dedee to many societal threats including defilement from unknown individuals in the camp. To possibly salvage the situation, Cynthia relocated with her children to Buduburam in the Central Region. There, the three lived in a small, single-room space in a compound house with five other tenants.



Dedee arrives at the Village of Hope.

A few months later, Cynthia's medical condition worsened and she passed on. After Cynthia's demise and with no other relative to turn to, Dedee was left in the care of her elder sister Mina, a twenty-two-year-old mother herself. Their only source of daily necessities was assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and whatever support



the father of Mina's child could offer. Notwithstanding, Dedee craved formal education, so she was enrolled in a school.

Mina had to live her life too, as she often headed back to the Western Region to visit the father of her child. For whatever duration Mina's visits took, Dedee was left to fend for herself with little to no money left behind for her. On a regular school day, Mina gave Dedee less than 50 cents (between 2.00 and 3.00 Ghanaian cedis) to live on for the day.

All hope was lost until Millicent, a good Samaritan in Dedee's neighbourhood noticed her plight and began to provide her with food, money, and shelter. Millicent is already married with four children hence, another dependent was a big drain on her family's limited resources, despite her willingness.



Dedee receives a new school bag.

The UNHCR, having considered Dedee's case, reported the situation to the Department of Social Welfare and, after assessment, recommended that she be brought to Village of Hope for care. [🔗](#)

\*All names have been changed to protect the identities of the individuals involved.

## HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY AND HOPE RIDGE SCHOOL PASS NATIONAL EXAMINATION

Hope Christian Academy officially started on October 1, 2002 and, in 2006, the very first group of pupils participated in the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), Ghana's ninth grade national exam. This is the exam that every ninth-grade student in Ghana must pass in order to be admitted to high school (10th through 12th grades).



Hope Christian Academy Graduating Class of 2021

Every year since the first examinations, students of Hope Christian Academy have all passed and qualified for high school. The results of the 2021 exams have not been different and we declare to the glory of God that all 45 students at Hope Christian Academy passed the exam. Six students from Hope Ridge School in Nkwatia also wrote the BECE and all of them passed the exam.



Hope Ridge School Graduating Class of 2021

Please join us in thanking the LORD for His blessings and the success He has bestowed upon our students. We also want to thank you for your prayers and encouragement. We asked for your prayers when the students were about to write the exam. God has answered and we are grateful. Thank you and God bless you all. [🔗](#)



# A WORKSHOP FOR HOPE TRAINING INSTITUTE

At the end of 2018, HTI embarked on a project to complete a building whose foundation had been lying idle for a few years. The purpose of this building was for the hairdressing trainees of the Institute to have a proper workshop/hair salon in which they could have their training programs.



**New Joseph Titus-Glover Building**

With support from Jeff & Karren Roland, Otis & Ann Adams, Steve & Tish Deffenbaugh, and Kelly & Deana Vaughn, all of Midland, Texas, and from other general donations, an amount of \$14,500 was raised between December 2018 and January 2020 to be used for the construction project. The hairdressing trainees were excited because their group was the only one that was still working in a wooden shed, while all other programs had a brick and mortar workshop.



**Joseph Titus-Glover and Peter Raw cut tape.**

Unfortunately, COVID-19 hit and construction of the building came to a halt. Meanwhile, in April 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, our hairdressing instructor also passed away some months after the birth of her baby boy. These two events saddened all at HTI but the hairdressing trainees felt it the most.



**Some trainees of Hope Training Institute express gratitude for their new building.**

For over two years the children were hoping and fasting and praying in faith because they had seen many times when God answered their prayers. Little did they know that there was someone here in Ghana who was counting his blessings

and looking for an opportunity to share those blessings as he celebrated his 50th birthday. This is how Joseph Titus-Glover (JTG) became part of the story of the hairdressing workshop for Hope Training Institute.



**Joseph Titus-Glover speaks to the gathering.**

JTG would be turning 50 soon and was hoping to choose one place for the celebration. There was a shortlist of several institutions to look at but, on February 19, after he visited Hope Training Institute, he canceled the rest of the visits and made it his goal to finish construction of the hairdressing building before his birthday on March 16. The staff and children of HTI were dumbfounded. It was a miracle!



**JTG plants a tree.**



**Plaque on new building**

On February 23, exactly as JTG had promised, a team of construction workers hit the ground running on the Ayawaso campus with the sole purpose of completing the construction of the building and, within two weeks, all construction was complete. The giving was not over, however, and this is how we know that God knew the needs more than we did. JTG provided funds to HTI to purchase and install all the furnishings and equipment needed to make the building usable including standing steamers, sinks, sterilizers, arch chairs, mirrors, wall dryers, hand dryers, cabinets, trolleys, towels, spray bottles, face shields, and scissors. These and many other items were added to our existing standing dryers, sinks and chairs and installed in the new building.

To complete everything and officially open the building, JTG's family, friends and work colleagues came to the Ayawaso campus of Village of Hope to celebrate his birthday with the children. On the morning of March 19, various teams came to set up marquee canopies, buffet tables and decor ahead of the event in the afternoon. Friends of JTG brought donations for the children and there was an abundance of food, drinks, and cake.



An exhibition of Off the Street (OTS) items was set up and some of our guests saw, for the first time, the skills of our children.



**Trainees present a pencil portrait to JTG as a birthday/appreciation gift.**

The day was all about the children having a good time and the actual commissioning of the building was a small part of the day's activities. Management of HTI had never confirmed or denied that the new building would be named and so it was a pleasant surprise to JTG and his friends and family when he was asked to uncover the building's name and unveil a plaque for the Joseph Titus-Glover Building.



**Exhibition of products made by trainees of Hope Training Institute**

The Joseph Titus-Glover Building has two sections, each with a training room, a store room and some office space. The second section, was originally planned for use as a kente-weaving workshop but we do not have any trainees in that program and so the leatherworks class has been moved from the space shared with the sewing class, into their own space in the Titus-Glover Building.

We are eternally grateful to every single individual who made sacrifices directly and indirectly, in order for this project to finally be completed. As we learned on March 19, JTG means "Just Thank God" and we are so thankful to God for His provision. It is our hope and prayer that many young lives will be transformed in these rooms to His glory. 🙏



**Peter Raw donates rice, oil, corned beef and biscuits to the trainees of Hope Training Institute.**



**Inside the leatherworks workshop of the Joseph Titus-Glover building**



**Inside the hairdressing workshop of the Joseph Titus-Glover building**



# INTERNAL SPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR HOPE COLLEGE AND HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Sports and exercise are important aspects of the life of every individual. This month, Hope College took a two-day break (March 11 & 12, 2022) from classroom activities to organize internal sporting activity sessions. The students took part in various sporting activities such as soccer, volleyball, sack race, and basketball. It was a friendly but intense battle among the students to prove which grade was the best at sports.



Sack race



Girls' soccer match

After the two days of activities, the 12th grade boys of Hope College met the boys from Hope Christian Academy in the finals of the soccer tournament and Hope College came out victorious. Meanwhile, the girls of Hope Christian Academy defeated the girls of Hope College in their final soccer match.



Final Basketball match



Some faculty members at the event

After many games, the Hope College 12th graders met the 11th graders in the basketball finals and at the end of the match, it was a massive win for the 12th grade students. They won by 32-15 points. Finally, in the volleyball match-up, the Hope College 12th grade boys and girls faced the 11th grade boys and girls respectively. After about 30 minutes per game, the 12th grade students won both matches and it was a moment of emotion and excitement for them.



Hope College 12th grade students with their coaches



Justice Yankson presents trophy and medals to winners.



On Monday, March 14, 2022, the winners were presented with their medals and trophies by the Head of Co-curricular Affairs of Hope College, Mr. Justice Yankson. [📷](#)

## ARABA ADJEI LEAVES VILLAGE OF HOPE AFTER ALMOST A DECADE

In September 2012, Araba Adjei joined the Village of Hope as a Hospitality Officer to help coordinate guest activities. That same year, in October, when Hope College was officially opened and urgently needed an Administrative Officer, Araba was reassigned to that role, working at the College but also still functioning as the Hospitality Officer. Almost three years later, when things had settled at Hope College, Araba fully took on the role of Hospitality Manager for two years, managing the guest house, guest schedules and guest projects. Then, in 2017, Araba Adjei became the Managing Director of Hope Christian Academy where her focus was entirely on providing quality education to the children who had been entrusted to us.



Beginning in January 2021, following changes to the management structure of Village of Hope, Araba transitioned to the role of Deputy Group Managing Director in charge of Administration until February 2022, when she made the decision to move on to something else. We are grateful for the decade that Araba Adjei gave to the service of the children and for the lives that were touched positively through her work. Please pray for Araba as we all wish her the very best in the next stage of her life. [📷](#)



# HTI VISITS WORLD'S LARGEST FLOATING BOOK FAIR

Many Ghanaians who grew up in and around the Ghanaian port cities of Tema and Takoradi have fond memories of a huge ship full of books, berthed at the port for at least a month. For many, it was the only time in their lives that they went to the harbour and climbed onto a vessel sitting on the ocean. This floating book fair is operated by Güte Bucher für Alle (Good Books for All) a German charity that sends book-carrying ships around the world. The first vessel, MV Logos, visited Ghana in 1977 and, since then, MV Logos, MV Doulos, MV Logos II and MV Logos Hope have visited Ghana a total of 17 times. During the third visit of MV Logos Hope to Ghana, it was in Takoradi from December 21, 2021 to January 19, 2022 and then continued to Tema where it was docked until February 28. The last time the ship was in Ghana was in 2016 and, before that, in 2010.



Trainees and some staff of HTI with visitors from MV Logos Hope

When the ship is docked, the staff and crew, comprising about 400 people from nearly 60 countries, often go on shore in teams to interact with and serve local communities. This year, one of the communities they chose to serve in Ghana was Hope Training Institute, where Village of Hope shelters and trains street-connected children and other vulnerable youth.

The interactions began with a preliminary visit to the Ayawaso campus of Village of Hope on January 26, 2022 by some of the vessel's staff and crew. During this visit, the team explored the facilities of Hope Training Institute and joined the children and staff in Bible study and prayer sessions. The team also played games with the children. These activities were repeated on February 2 by a different team of staff and crew from MV Logos Hope. For the third time, on February 9, yet another group of staff of MV Logos Hope who had not yet visited HTI, also made the trip to come and interact with the children and staff at Ayawaso.



Visitors from MV Logos Hope interact with trainees of Hope Training Institute.

The MV Logos Hope team then invited the entire Hope Training Institute for a special private visit to the ship on February 23, 2022. The 42 children and staff of HTI who made the trip, were given a tour of sections of the vessel that are not open to the public. They enjoyed music and dance sessions and were given drinks and snacks. More importantly, each child from HTI was given a discount coupon to pick their book of choice out of over 5,000 titles on a wide range of subjects. They prayed together, and then the crew also took the children's prayer requests to continue praying for them.

Finally, three days before MV Logos Hope left Ghana, the Managing Director of HTI and one of the residential social workers joined the MV Logos Hope staff and crew for a closing dinner. [📺](#)



Staff and trainees of Hope Training Institute board MV Logos Hope at the Tema Harbour.



Visitors from MV Logos Hope engage in sporting activities with trainees of Hope Training Institute.





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## PROGRESS IN RENOVATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES

**Y**ou may recall that the final item remaining on the list for “Vision of Hope 2020” was the renovation of the first five children’s homes. As we reported in January, all the funds needed for the renovation works had been received. The renovation process requires that all residents of the house under renovation move out for the period that work is ongoing. As of March 23, 2022, work on three homes - Prestoncrest Church of Christ House A, Prestoncrest Church of Christ House B, and Traverse City Church of Christ House - has been completed. We will continue to keep you updated. [🔗](#)



Above: Renovation work on Traverse City Church of Christ House completed  
Below: Renovation work on Prestoncrest Church of Christ Houses A & B completed

