

Volume 10 | Number 6 | June 2022

#### **BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**



Some of those who were clothed with Christ through baptism at the church of Christ at Village of Hope

s angels rejoice over the conversion of one soul, we believe that there has been great rejoicing in heaven as 50 souls have been clothed with Christ through baptism at the church of Christ at the Village of Hope over the past three years. Out of the 50 souls saved, 9 were baptized in 2020, 10 in 2021, and 31 in the first five months of 2022.

Village of Hope continues to fulfill its mission of saving lives and serving humanity not just through the provision of the physical needs of people, but also the provision of their spiritual needs through the preaching of the gospel, the teaching of the Bible, and the modeling of Christian character. There are daily devotionals in the children's homes and dormitories as well as daily Bible studies in the schools. The campus churches also organize Bible studies, singing practice, prayer meetings and worship services for the edification of all. Special programs are drawn for the children, the youth, the women and the men on campus. Some of the themes for the campus church over the past three years include being zealous for God's work, the Sermon on the Mount, and living as a Christian community. We have also studied the Bible books of Ruth and Romans.

God is blessing this work as evidenced by the transformed lives of both the children and adults. With 31 people having given their lives to Christ, we are working, praying and hoping that many more will be clothed with Christ before the end of this year; and we will witness more transformed lives to the glory of God.

Please join us in prayer so that as we preach the gospel to the children in the homes, the trainees at the vocational training institute, the students in the schools and the patients at the hospital, they will believe, repent and give their lives to God.



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LOCAL OVERSIGHT The Elders of Vertical Centre Church of Christ, Community Six, Tema, Ghana.

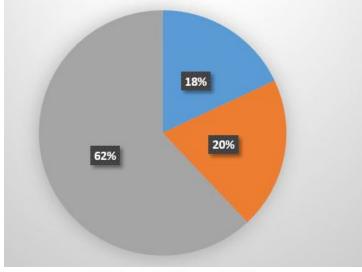
**SUPPORT** 

VOH-Ghana, A 501(c)(3) Non-profit.

#### **MINISTRIES**

Hope Children's Place Hope Children's Village Hope Training Institute Hope Christian Hospital Hope Christian Academy Hope Ridge School Hope College Agriculture Church of Christ at Village of Hope Campus Church of Christ - Ayawaso Evangelism Church Planting and Strengthening

#### **BAPTISMS OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS**



2020 2021 2022











Joseph Aboagye baptizes some of the children of Village of Hope into Christ.

## **TRAINING FOR TEACHERS & STAFF**



Albright Banibensu (left) and Dr. Nyuiemedi Agordzo (right) teach participants about psychological first aid, basics of counseling and holistic care.

Some teachers and staff of Hope College at the training program

t the core of the education offered by the schools ran by Village of Hope is the instilling of Christlikeness in the students who have been entrusted into our care. We aspire to provide holistic Christian education. To be able to do this, we constantly train the teachers and staff of the schools so they are equipped and their skills are sharpened for their responsibilities.

Just before the second term of the 2021/2022 academic year began, we organized training sessions for the teachers and staff of Hope Christian Academy and Hope College. On April 25 and 26, 2022, the teachers and staff of Hope

College were trained by a team of professional psychologists and university professors on psychological first aid, the basics of counseling and holistic care. On May 3, 2022, their colleagues at Hope Christian Academy participated in a seminar on helping students reach their full potential.

We are optimistic that these training sessions will further equip the teachers and staff in their efforts to raise a generation of Christian leaders for the Kingdom of God and the African continent. (1)



Samuel Ayim leads the seminar for teachers and staff of Hope Christian Academy

#### **ALL BOARDS MEETING**



Members of the Village of Hope Group Board



Members of the Hope Training Institute Board



Members of the Hope Christian Hospital Board



Members of the Hope Christian Academy Board

**E** ach of the ministries of Village of Hope (Hope Children's Place, Hope Children's Village, Hope Training Institute, Hope Christian Hospital, Hope Christian Academy, Hope Ridge School, and Hope College) has a Board of Directors that directs its work. There is also an oversight Board called the "Village of Hope Group Board" which reports to the oversight elders of the Vertical Centre church of Christ in Tema, Ghana.

All the boards meet together once a year to interact and discuss issues that cut across the entire body, set policies and guidelines; and cast the vision and direction of the ministry as a whole. Owing to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the boards were not able to come together in 2020 and 2021 so, it was all joy when an all-boards meeting came off in Accra on May 2, 2022. It was an all-day meeting – from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm. Board members traveled from various regions of Ghana to attend. Many board members who had not seen each other for a long time were happy to be reunited in love and service to God and humanity.

As part of this year's program, Robert Nii Arday Clegg, a Managing Partner of Nii Arday Clegg & Co., a corporate law firm, spoke to the entire gathering on good corporate governance and how it can be applied to the Village of Hope as an organization.



All-boards meeting in session



Robert Clegg (right) receives a framed picture from John Sackey, Chairman of the Village of Hope Group Board.



Members of the Hope Ridge School Board

Village of Hope is truly blessed to have such a committed group of wise, God-fearing men and women who serve pro bono on its boards. We thank God for such a great blessing. (1)



George Essel contributes to a discussion during the meeting.



Members of the Hope Children's Village Board



Members of the Hope College Board



Dr. Alex Peasah-Koduah prays to begin the program.



Lunch break



Nelson Aklamanu prays to end the program. June 2022 | Herald of Hope | Page 5



Robert Nii Arday Clegg - resource person at the all-boards meeting

# **DON COLLINS VISITS HCP**

In 2006, Don Collins, then an Elder of the Village church of Christ in Hot Springs Village in Arkansas, USA, led the efforts of the Village church of Christ to establish an orphanage/ children's home at Bongo in the Upper East Region of Ghana. In 2020, after 14 years of running the home to care for many orphaned, destitute and needy children, the Village church of Christ transferred ownership and management of the children's home to Village of Hope. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Don was unable to visit Ghana until recently.

With the current easing of travel restrictions, Don Collins was finally able to travel to Ghana during the first week of May 2022 and visit the children's home again. He had a joyous interaction with the children and staff of the orphanage. Don had a very happy reunion with the children whom he has known for many years, especially those who are now adults. He also paid a courtesy call on the Bonaba, the Paramount Chief of the Bongo Traditional Area.

We thank God for the life, ministry, and sacrifices of Don Collins whom God has used to give hope to the hopeless and transform many lives in Ghana. We are grateful to the Village church of Christ for their missionary zeal and their continuous support of the children's home at Bongo and God's Kingdom work around the world.



Don Collins with Felix and Joyce Ayambilla (house parents) and their children



Portia Ayenga and Don Collins - a happy reunion



Some of the children and staff of Hope Children's Place with Don Collins (middle of back row), Fred Asare (left) and Samuel Osei (right)



A family conversation under the shade of a tree on the Hope Children's Place campus



Meal time at Hope Children's Place

## **FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE**



The children who loaded this truck pose for a picture before the fully-loaded truck departs to distribute their gifts in the Upper West Region of Ghana.

In the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons; freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8) The mission of Village of Hope to save lives and serve humanity falls directly in line with Jesus' instructions. As followers of Jesus today, we heal the sick through the work of the hospital. Those under the dominion of Satan are set free from the bondage of the devil and those who are dead in sin receive new life when they obey the gospel of Christ and are raised from the dead to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:1-4).

Our challenge is to freely give what we have freely received. Sometimes, the lack of faith and the presence of doubts make us want to hoard what we have received so we can fall back on that in times of scarcity but that is contrary to what God expects of us. We cannot hoard what we have received in the midst of poverty and overwhelming needs all around us. The love of God compels us to give to those in need. The best way to teach ourselves and the children to be givers is to act in obedience and freely give what we have freely received.

Each year, Village of Hope is blessed with a lot of used clothing and footwear donated for the use of the children. We receive much more than the children need. So, we give enough of these gifts to meet the needs of all the children and then encourage the children to give the rest to others who are in need. In some rural areas of Ghana, there are thousands of children, living in abject poverty, for whom the clothing and footwear received from the Village of Hope are a great blessing.

This year, three separate donations of truckloads of clothing and footwear were sent from Village of Hope to villages in the Upper West, the Northern and the Eastern Regions of Ghana. Each truck was loaded by the children themselves. They consider this as their act of love to others who are in need. It was out of love that people gave so much to the children and it was out of love that they, in turn, gave part of what they received to some of the poorest communities in the country.

The people who received these items sang, shouted for joy, danced and celebrated to show their appreciation for the blessings from God. We, at Village of Hope, also express our profound gratitude to everyone whose gifts made it possible for these blessings to reach some remote parts of Ghana. Thank you and God bless you.



A fully-loaded truck about to depart to distribute used clothing and footwear in the Eastern and Northen Regions of Ghana



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We experienced a glitch which caused a considerable delay in the printing and mailing of the February and March 2022 editions of Herald of Hope.

We have done everything possible to expedite the printing and mailing of the two newsletters alongside the May 2022 edition. While those who receive the electronic version of Herald of Hope received the February, March and May 2022 editions on time, those who receive the print version will be receiving the February, March and May 2022 editions together or in quick succession.

We wish to sincerely apologize for the delay in sending the newsletters to you. Even though they are late, we hope you will take the time to read them because they contain important updates on the children at the orphanage and the street-connected teenagers at the vocational training institute; and much more.

Thank you for your continuous support which enables us to save lives and serve humanity. God bless you. (3)