

Herald of Hope

Volume 10 | Number 11 | November 2022

RESCUED, REPAIRED, PREPARED... *From a Slave Child to a High School Graduate: The Story of Mark Manwu.*



Little Mark Manwu scoops water out of a canoe with his small rubber bucket.
[Picture Credit: The New York Times]

He was only six years old when he ended up slaving for a fisherman on the Volta Lake of Ghana as a result of child trafficking and forced labour. He had been taken away from his parents who lived hundreds of miles away and was now subjected to inhumane living and working conditions every single day. As a slave child, he had to work long hours – from dawn to

night – doing whatever work his master commanded. He couldn't do work that required a lot of strength such as rowing a canoe, casting a net over the waters of the lake or drawing in the nets after a catch of fish because he was so young and tiny; so when he went on fishing expeditions with his master or older slave boys, his role was to use a small rubber bucket to scoop water out of the canoe. Sometimes water got inside the canoe as a result of the waves on the lake. At other times, leakages on the canoe allowed water to seep into the canoe. While the older boys did the "hard work," his work was to scoop the water out of the canoe as fast as he could. For a six-year-old who was malnourished and often famished, that was more than hard work in the hot sun on a leaking boat in the middle of a lake. It was also a very dangerous work, considering the fact that he did not wear a life jacket and did not know how to swim.



Mark Manwu arrives at Village of Hope
(December 2006)



VILLAGE OF HOPE

Saving Lives and Serving Humanity

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

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

Website: 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 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



First Day of School: Matilda Adu-Poku (House Parent and Teacher) with 7 children who had been rescued from slavery. Mark Manwu is the second from right.

That was the life of Mark Manwu until grace found him, love rescued him and hope gave him a future. For many children who found themselves in a similar situation, after years of enslavement, they lost their identity, self-worth and, eventually, their lives. However, because of the grace of God and the love of caring people, Mark was rescued by George Achibra, founder of Partners in Community Development (PACODEP) – a non-profit that works to rescue and rehabilitate trafficked children on



George Achibra

Lake Volta. After rescuing him, George Achibra brought Mark to live at the Village of Hope where he received loving Christian nurturing, healthcare, education, etc.

Mark has virtually lived his entire life, since he was rescued, at the Village of Hope. Soon after his arrival on the Village of Hope campus, he was enrolled at



Graduation from Preschool / Kindergarten: Mark Manwu receives preschool certificate.

Hope Christian Academy where he had his elementary education from Pre-Kindergarten through 9th grade. He continued to Hope College for his high school education and successfully graduated from high school on October 1, 2022, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary celebration and 8th graduation ceremony of Hope College.

Mark Manwu is an example of how Village of Hope fulfills its mission of saving lives and serving humanity through rescuing, repairing, preparing and propelling those in need. Join us in prayer for Mark so that he will further prepare himself through college education and be propelled to be all that God wants him to be to the glory of God. Mark's story should also be an encouragement to all those who sponsor children. For 16 long years, Jason and Jennifer Hackmann have sponsored Mark and watched him grow from a little tiny boy into a confident young man. The transformation has been phenomenal. We are grateful to all whose sponsorship and donations have given a new lease of life to orphaned, abandoned, destitute and needy children. May God continue to bless you all. 🙏



Graduation from Basic / Elementary School: Mark Manwu receives 9th grade certificate.



Graduation from High School: Mark Manwu receives his 12th grade certificate.

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY LAUNCHES 20TH ANNIVERSARY



Village of Hope started Hope Christian Academy on October 1, 2002, with the aim of providing quality education for the children of the home. Before its inception, the older children attended a public school in the Gomoa Fetteh township. During rainy seasons, school officials were often compelled to close down the school as soon as clouds gathered, because the school's classrooms had badly leaking roofs. The academic standard at the school was low and so many students could not continue to high school after their elementary education.

The situation brought forth the inspiration to commence Hope Christian Academy. The school served children from both Village of Hope and neighboring communities.

Hope Christian Academy launched its 20th anniversary celebration on September 30, 2022. Students, teaching and non-teaching staff of Hope Christian Academy together with some members of staff of Village of Hope converged at the Gaylon and Deanna Smith Hall for the launch. During the event, Fred Asare shared the history of Hope Christian Academy from 2002 to 2022. Prayers were offered and an anniversary cake was cut.

The launch was climaxed with a float - a parade through the streets of Fetteh and surrounding communities by students and staff of the Academy led by a brass band. All who participated in the float had a jolly good time. A bonfire lit on the eve of the anniversary day, burned into the early hours of October 1, 2022. [📷](#)



Students and staff of Hope Christian Academy gather for the launching ceremony.



Students and staff of Hope Christian Academy and Village of Hope cut the 20th Anniversary cake.



Some students and staff during the anniversary launch



Students and staff of Hope Christian Academy during the float



Bonfire on eve of anniversary

HOPE COLLEGE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY



A parade by Hope College Regimental Band (left) and Police Cadet Corps (right).

Procession led by Mace Bearer and Bible Bearer



HRH Odeefuo Amoakwa Buadu VIII, Nana Abor Atta II and their entourage

On October 1, 2022, Hope College held a grand durbar to celebrate its 10th anniversary and 8th graduation of students. Since its inception in 2012, the school has graduated 835 students who have produced outstanding results in the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

In the ten years of the school's existence:

- Hope College has received an award that is highly recognised both locally and internationally for the excellent performance of its students.
- The school has had world-class leaders visit its campus to inspire and encourage students.
- Students of Hope College have excelled in the WASSCE and gained admission to both local and foreign universities.



Class of 2022



A cross section of the gathering during the 10th anniversary and 8th graduation ceremony at the Becky Holloway Courtyard

AND 8TH GRADUATION CEREMONY



A procession by faculty members



Board Members

This year, 111 twelfth-grade students graduated in a colorful ceremony held at the Becky Holloway Courtyard of the College. Family, friends, well-wishers, members of the general public, chiefs and an entourage of royal courtiers joined the Board of Governors, faculty, staff and students of Hope College to bid a befitting farewell to the graduating class.

The occasion commenced with a beautiful parade by the Hope College Police Cadet Corps and the Hope College Regimental Band.

The keynote speaker was His Royal Highness Odeefuo Amoakwa Buadu VIII, the Paramount Chief of Brehman Traditional Area and President of the Central Regional House of Chiefs.

To crown the celebration, each graduating student was called up to receive a certificate and a Bible. Graduands who excelled in character, scholarship, service and leadership - the four pillars of Hope College - received awards.

It was a joyous celebration of ten years of educating students in preparation for a lifetime of character, scholarship, service and leadership to transform their world to impact the world. 🌍



Keynote Speaker: HRH Odeefuo Amoakwa Buadu VIII



Nana Abor Atta II addresses the audience



Priscilla Alhassan receives an award from Nana Abena Ewusiwa II, Queen of Fetteh.



Benjamin Kumah receives an award for scoring all As in the 2021 WASSCE.



Joshua Thompson receives an award from Prof. Williams Atuilik.



Christiana Agbeko receives a certificate and a Bible from Dr. Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah.



Valedictorian Abdel-Mateen Allasani receives an award from Nana Abor Atta II.

8 TRAINEES GRADUATE FROM HOPE TRAINING INSTITUTE

It was all joy when eight of the trainees at Hope Training Institute completed their training and successfully graduated on September 24, 2022. The graduating class was made up of four boys and four girls. Three were trained in leatherworks, three in sewing, one in hairdressing and one in auto mechanics.

Family members and friends of the graduating trainees, staff of Village of Hope, Board members of Hope Training Institute, benefactors, people from the community, members of the media and the public were all present for the colorful, joyous occasion.

Each trainee received tools, equipment and some money as working capital to help them settle in their communities and begin self-sustaining businesses so they can take care of themselves and their families and not return to the streets.

Items made by the trainees were on display and were available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support Hope Training Institute to acquire materials for the training of the teenagers at the vocational school. [🔗](#)



Juliet Ofori-Amoah (Managing Director of Hope Training Institute) addresses the audience.



Gideon Oppong Junior receives his certificate for graduating from the Leatherworks Class.



Ruth Aboagye receives her certificate for graduating from the Leatherworks Class.



Jonathan Aduku receives a sewing machine as his graduation package.



Beatrice Adufu receives hairdressing tools and equipment as her graduation package.



Emmanuel Sekley receives automechanic tools as his graduation package.



Graduating class with members of the Board of Directors of Hope Training Institute, Management of Village of Hope and invited guests.



Members of the graduating class pledge to utilize the skills that they have acquired at Hope Training Institute after their graduation.



Graduating class with some members of the Village of Hope Leadership Team



Graduating class with staff of Hope Training Institute



Exhibition of some products made by Hope Training Institute's 2022 graduating class

HOPE CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL PEER REVIEW

The Ghanaian Government's Ministry of Health has instituted a voluntary peer review mechanism for medical facilities where a medical clinic, polyclinic or hospital can invite medical and allied professionals from other medical facilities to assess its work. The peer review is for continuous quality improvement so medical facilities will maintain the highest required standards to save the lives of patients. It helps the facility being assessed to know its strengths and weaknesses; and how it could improve the services it renders to its clients.

A peer review was conducted at Hope Christian Hospital on September 29, 2022. The hospital went through six modules of review. The assessment was conducted by six different teams drawn from six healthcare facilities from six different districts (counties) in the Central Region of Ghana. After the assessment, the report was presented in an open and transparent manner at a durbar of hospital staff, Village of Hope management staff and community leaders from Fetteh.



Emmanuel Oppong-Boakye (second from right), Head of Medical Laboratory Department of Hope Christian Hospital, answers questions from a team of assessors.

At the end of it all, Hope Christian Hospital received high commendation even though areas for improvement were pointed out. This was the third peer review in the history of Hope Christian Hospital and the hospital received the highest score in its history. [📄](#)

PEER REVIEW MODULES

Module 1: Ensure sustainable, affordable, equitable and easily accessible healthcare services (universal health coverage).

Module 2: Reduce morbidity and mortality, intensify prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Module 3: Enhance efficiency in governance and management of health systems.

Module 4: Intensify prevention and control of communicable diseases and ensure the reduction of new cases of HIV/AIDS and other STI, especially among vulnerable groups.

Module 5: Institutional care

Module 6: Institutional governance systems and COVID-19 assessment



VILLAGE OF HOPE

Saving Lives and Serving Humanity

Rescuing. Repairing. Preparing. Propelling.

P. O. Box 670394
Dallas, TX 75367



THANK YOU FOR HELPING CHARLES BUKARI

Last month, we made an appeal for funds to enable Charles Bukari have a total hip replacement surgery. Thank you for your generous response. We have received the funds he needs to pay for the surgery. Please remember Charles in your prayers for a successful surgery. We will keep you informed about the surgery. [📞](#)



Join in our mission to save lives and serve humanity by sponsoring a child