



# LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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## *New & Noteworthy*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
September 13  
Lighthouse Beef BBQ

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## Farming *in Ghana*

*If* you have ever lived on a farm, you know that can be challenging at times to get your crops planted at the right time, the proper amount of sunshine & rain to produce optimum yields, and good weather for harvest. While these weather related challenges are completely out of your control, you are still subject to them. God has promised the various seasons – and has been faithful throughout history. However, in Ghana, while farming is still reliant on weather conditions (frost is not an issue), there are many other obstacles that come up that possibly we don't have to deal with here.

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Trish & I (Gerry) had the privilege of visiting the farm in mid June, to help out for a short period of time and see the progress being made on the farm.

Jonathan & Juanita Groff from East Earl, PA, are currently in Ghana, administrating and overseeing the farm project. Currently we have 5 men working for us – Josh, Francis, Roland, Isaac ,and Kwame. When we arrived, they were in the process of building a storage building, installing poles and strapping. We spent the next few days building trusses for the roof structure, and we were able to get started installing them. It is very difficult to install trusses 8 feet apart! However, progress was made, and they were able to continue installing trusses after we left.

We have 78 acres of land, which is mostly dotted with coconut trees, which our workers are clearing, to make cultivating the land much easier. Even with smaller equipment, it is nice to be able to plant in straight rows. We have approximately 15-20 acres cleared, and have planted 8 acres of corn and some black-eyed peas. Our tractor and corn planter has been a real blessing, allowing us to plant our corn quickly and easily, and do some custom work for the Ministry of Agriculture, since our planter was in working condition, and theirs wasn't. (Maybe they should take equipment purchasing tips from the University of Guelph). The reality is that with the climate and growing seasons, it can be very difficult to maintain clear land. Before the growing season, the land gets cleared for the crop, but after the crop is harvested, the land usually sits until the next growing season,

which allows for a small forest to grow, making it challenging to keep after the weeds and other growth, especially without tillage equipment. Our goal is to keep after the weeds with proper crop rotation, and timely herbicide applications, so that keeping the land clear will be a little easier.

We have sourced some hybrid corn seed, which is uncommon in that area of Ghana, since the seed is so expensive. However, the expected yields are up to 3 times more, and the extra seed costs are soon covered by the increase in yield. Most of the corn planted there is a straight variety, and since the fields are planted in corn year after year with no fertilizer, the yields are quite low. However, the cost of a bag of hybrid seed corn is out of reach for most people there, and since they can grow the corn they harvested last year, they have very little crop input costs.

Another challenge in farming in Ghana is harvesting the crop before there is significant damage from bugs & birds. Although the hybrid varieties are more resistant, there is still a danger of spoil. Last year we harvested our crop by hand, which is labour intensive. We have imported a New Idea corn picker/sheller, which should help us in the task. The Ministry of Agriculture also wants us to help harvest theirs with our equipment, so if we have time, it will be a good custom job for us. They have approximately 300 acres of corn.

We are hoping to market our corn through agents that buy grains and resell them to the schools and



prisons in the cities. This will be the easiest way to market larger amounts of corn, as they said they would take everything we can produce.

In a land where tractors are scarce, and planting and harvesting equipment is almost non-existent, some challenges exist to create a viable cash crop farm, but with fertile land, relatively good growing conditions, and the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, our goal is to create a sustainable farming operation, providing jobs for our workers and food for the local community and cities beyond. Some of the immediate needs are: Crop storage facility, finishing our workshop/storage building, a tractor for Timothy's village, and ongoing costs of running the farm. If you feel led to share with this project, please contact me or one of the other members of Lighthouse International Development.

Gerry Frey

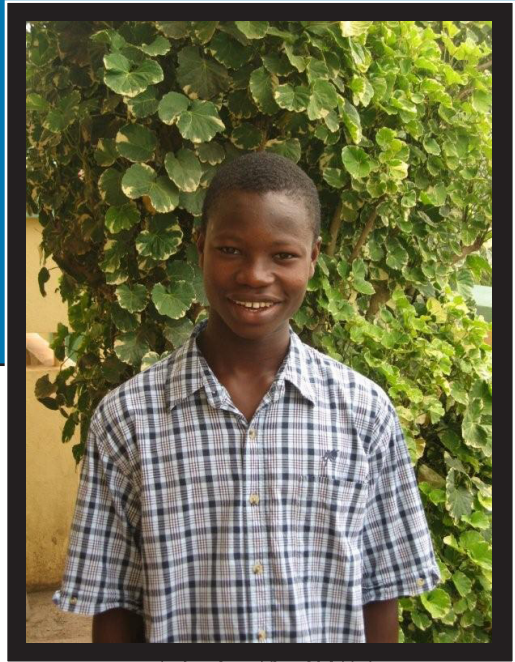
Hello,

## *a note from mershack*

My name is Mershack Annan. Thank you for the support you've been offering to me concerning my education like paying my fees and all the things that I would need for my education. Thank you so much for all that you are doing. I know your reward is not on earth cause earth cannot contain it. It is in heaven.

Since you are looking to ensure that my education becomes my first priority, you will like to know what I would like to be in the future. Becoming a lecturer (teacher) in the future is my dream, and I would like to continue my education in the tertiary institution after completing Senior High School. Without your help, all my dreams will be going after the wind. I also have an interest in music and would like to pursue a course in it someday.

Once again, thank you for everything you've done for me and I know the Lord will bless you and keep you in perfect peace.



*Lighthouse*

## **BEEF BBQ SUPPER**

**ON**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

**AT CALVARY UNITED CHURCH – ST. JACOBS**

**MEAL WILL BE SERVED FROM 5:30 – 7:30**

**PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 8:00**

**SPECIAL MUSIC BY:**

**NEW FREEDOM QUARTET**

**MEN'S ENSEMBLE**

**GUEST SPEAKER: BROTHER DAVID**



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME; YOUR EARLY  
CONFIRMATION IS APPRECIATED. TICKETS ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM THE EVENTS COMMITTEE.**

DAVE & JO MARTIN

519-638-2900

DALE & COLLEEN GINGRICH

519-669-5158

LORNE & MARILYN MARTIN

519-669-0197

KEITH & DIANE SNYDER

519-669-4084

**TICKETS ARE:**

**\$15.00/PERSON; CHILDREN 6-14 -**

**\$8.00; 5 & UNDER - FREE**

*Prayer & praise*

*Pray* for Abednego and Abigail during the loss of their father.

*Pray* for safety as brother David and his wife travel to join us at the BBQ.

*Praise* God that David and his wife were granted visas to travel over here.

*Praise* God for the board and staff that keep the home running.



All funds will be only used for programs that have been approved by the board.

Any funds that have been sent with designations attached will be used for the specified designation, provided that it has been approved by the board with the understanding that when the needs for the program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining funds will be used where needed most.

*- directed by the board.*



## *Children's Home Report*

Hello,

Greetings from the Children and Staff and Board to you and the team. By God's Grace everybody is fine. I trust that you are doing well. Currently the number of children stands at 21.

Apart from the 21, the home did admit 7 children who came in for a short period (between 2 days and 7 days) and were discharged from the Home.

Currently the Home has licence to operate as an NGO running a Children's Home. The Home has currently become a suitable facility where the Department of Social Welfare send needy children for care and protection.

With the changes being implemented by Government, the Home would in the future run as Centre where needy children would come in for short periods for care and protection. (No one knows when this new system would start)

The Home has a staff strength of 9. The breakdown is as follows:

Administrator - 1

Houseparents - 2

Supporting staff- 3

Security Personnel - 3

The Home two residential facilities.

God Bless You

Dennis, LHCH, Cape Coast  
Administrator

# Board Report

Greetings in our Saviour's name. We at Lighthouse Ministries continue to be blessed as we wait on God and watch Him move in His mysterious ways. There are a few lines in that hymn, *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* (by William Cowper), that stood out to me recently...the clouds ye so much dread, are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head and, behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face. The song ends with God is His own interpreter and He will make it plain.

The work continues to progress at the children's home in Ghana. It was a blessing for me to be able to meet some of our newer staff last Nov. in our visit there. It was also wonderful to meet our new Ghanaian board members, Bro. Nathan and Bro. David, and to see the experience and passion they bring to the work there. Now, Lord willing, it looks like the rest of you will get to meet Bro. David as well. We are very excited that he is planning to join us for a visit over the time of the Beef BBQ.

One big need that the Lighthouse continues to have is for a mature person or a couple to be a spiritual mentor to the children in the home. I feel that Mr. Dennis and Mr. John are filling their roles well but they have many responsibilities and it is still a prayer of ours that someone will fill the void that is there. However, we want it to be the person God calls to this role. Things always work out best when they are done in God's way and timing. There have been many times that I haven't understood God's purposes and it is easy for me to get impatient when things look difficult or when they don't work out the way I think they should. Serving on the Lighthouse board these past years has been a good experience for me in God's school of learning to trust Him. Along with the difficulties, there have been many answers to prayer and there is no doubt in my mind that we serve a great God.

Thank you again to all of you in the support community that have so faithfully supported this work in the good times and the bad. I see some real potential in the young men and women who have graduated from the Home. Keep praying for them as they continue to try to find their niche in the world. And next time you face a difficult experience in your life (for some of you, I'm sure that is right now) remember that God's ways are higher than ours and yes, also that some day He will make them plain.

God bless! On behalf of the board,  
Ken Martin

## Lighthouse Ministries International

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