



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

48th Edition
Spring 2017

Lighthouse Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars!
Annual Spring Garage Sale and BBQ
Friday, April 28 | 7:00am - 8:00pm

Inside this issue

Diana

2

Fundraiser Info

5

Board Report

6

Diana

“Fire! Fire!” the shouts rang through the streets of the Ghanaian village. People rushed out of their homes to stand in open-mouthed horror as the raging flames engulfed the home of their neighbour. Several brave men dashed through the open doorway to save anyone who might be trapped in the blazing inferno. Suddenly the cries of the crowd increased. The roof began to tremble as the fire-weakened supports gave out. The men hurried to safety. In the arms of one fire-singed hero was the small body of a badly burned, three-year-old girl. The crowd parted to allow the rescuer to pass through with his little charge. And as the fire began to decrease in its intensity the sober crowd began to disperse and head to their homes in somber mood. Everyone realized that in the home a mother and several children had perished. There was only one possible survivor.

Meanwhile in the local hospital nurses bustled



about heeding doctors' orders as they prepared to perform all necessary steps to save the life of the little girl lying before them. It was hours later when Diana regained consciousness. As she stared at her strange environment and felt the pain she began to sob. A kind-hearted nurse consoled the distraught child and, as gently as possible, explained the turn of events in the life of this little girl. This poor little girl did not have the capacity to understand implications of living life with one hand amputated and severe scarring on her face and arm.

After Diana was discharged from the hospital a compassionate social worker took her into his own home and family while the search for living relatives

continued. Eventually connection with an aunt from a distant village was made and plans were finalized for Diana to join her aunt's family. The parting was painful for Diana and her caregivers who had become family to her.

Diana adapted quickly as the love and care of her aunt won her trusting heart. She enjoyed helping her aunt around the house and attending the local school during the day. Many times Diana's aunt considered the great blessing that Diana had been to her and how different life would be had she not come. It was in school one day that Diana was called to the office. As she entered the office with questions racing through her mind she was startled to see another man in the head office. Did he look vaguely familiar? "This is your dad, Diana," the head master informed her. As Diana's mind spun she barely grasped what the men were discussing. After some discussion, it was agreed that Diana would be allowed

to leave with her father for the day. He stated his desire to purchase school supplies for his daughter and pledged to return with her by evening. It was a pledge that would not be honoured. Sorrow filled the aunt's heart as she grieved the loss of her little sunshine.

Diana sat dejectedly at the street corner watching the passersby with sorrow and deep longing in her eyes. Occasionally some stranger would toss a coin or small bill into her bowl that she held out with her one good hand. Would this be all that life had in store for her? She was startled as someone, that she expected to be just another passerby, stooped down beside her. After the stranger introduced himself as a social worker from the Department of Social Welfare he began to probe Diana with questions. As the kind tone of the stranger won Diana's confidence

she spilled out her story. After her father picked her up at school he had forced her to beg on busy street corners. The money that kind strangers gave to the “poor girl with the scars” ended up helping the bad habits of her father.

It was after this encounter that Department of Social Welfare brought Diana to the Lighthouse Children’s Home. She has been living at the home for several years and is loved by all. She has a very accepting, friendly personality but at the age of eleven she is becoming more self-conscious of her limitations and appearance. It was on the last visit to Ghana that Grandpa and Grandma (Delford and Doris) were privileged to be a part of a most joyous occasion. Some of the dots were connected for Diana and they visited the village where Diana’s aunt lived. What a joyous reunion! After all these years of missing her niece Diana’s aunt was overjoyed to know she was alive and well. This connection was made

possible through the diligent efforts of the administrator, Brother John, in conjunction with the Department of Social Welfare as we searched for permission from relatives to allow Diana to travel to Canada.

LMI has been in contact with Shriner’s Hospital in Montreal. Shriner’s has multiple locations across North America and it is still to be determined which location could best help Diana. They would perform cosmetic surgery and fit Diana with an artificial hand free of charge. Nonetheless there will be costs incurred to fly Diana and a caregiver to Canada and house them over the time of the surgeries. If anyone would like to assist Diana in gaining full use of both hands, then please attach a note with your donation or write it on your cheque memo. These funds can be receipted. Your support in prayer is also appreciated.

God Bless,
Matt Frey

NOTICE

Redeemed Vocation School is looking for a Mechanic Teacher

Michael Galdonik and his family helped at RVS for a year and a half and are now headed back home. We are looking for a mechanic teacher to take Michael's place.



Annual Fundraiser Schedule

Spring Garage Sale and BBQ

NOW FRIDAY ONLY

Friday, April 28 | 7:00am - 8:00pm

Fall Beef BBQ Supper

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

At Calvary United Church St. Jacobs

Supper from 5:30-7:30

Program starts at 7:45

Singing starts at 6:30

Singing before and after the program (check next newsletter for more details)

Board Report

We had the privilege again to visit Ghana this winter, the Lighthouse Children's Home. What a blessing, and encouragement it was to us again. As we arrived at the home and met the children, they all seemed so happy and well nourished! They waited so patiently for our late arrival. There was a short program presented as soon as we stepped out of the vehicle. What great eagerness and willingness they expressed! What a blessing to see these young ones being taught music and Bible verses. Thank you children, for allowing us to share this experience with you! A special thanks to all the staff that are serving at the home.

This experience of traveling to Ghana is always a good reminder to me that North America isn't the only part of the world. We get so focused in our own little world that we tend to forget the needs around the world. There are many needs throughout other countries even though there are also many needs in our local communities.

Thank you! Brother David and the rest of the local board for sharing time with us again, for the fellowship, and conducting the meetings in a Godly manner.

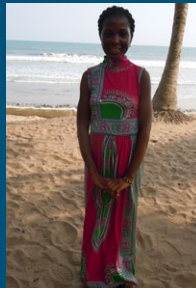
A special thanks to Sister Joyce for travelling with us so patiently and showing us the way around in Ghana!

Please pray for the children and staff as they adjust to moving once again, although we are looking forward to having them at an even larger facility.

On behalf of the board we again want to thank each one for allowing yourselves to be used in any way

that you shared this past year. Thank you for your prayers as the work continues at RVS/LMI and the Jamaica Music Camp, as well as the work of the LEAF program. May God give us wisdom and knowledge as we continue to work with the challenges and blessings of these programs.

- Lamar Frey



Lighthouse Ministries International

www.lighthouseministriesint.org

21 Church St. W.

Elmira, Ontario, N3B 1M2



Board Members: (left to right)

Colin Shantz (Secretary/Treasurer) | (519) 591-9891

Lamar Frey | (519) 291-9927

Calvin Frey (Vice Chair) | (519) 698-0336

Arnold Frey (Board Member) | (519) 846-5898

Matthew Frey (Chairman) | (519) 638-0122

