



# LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

37th Edition  
Summer 2013

Lighthouse Newsletter



## Mark Your Calendars!

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# Harvest

Ghana's rainy season runs from May through July, and is generally marked with many days of very heavy rains. This, along with high daytime temperatures, makes it the perfect growing season for corn and many other crops. This year, however, was unusual. We had many cool, overcast days, but very little measurable rainfall. While we were thankful for the cooler weather, the lack of rain will certainly affect the crops.

We are now moving out of the rainy season, and the days are becoming hotter. The air is drier now, and the corn stalks have turned from deep green to brown. It's time once again for the corn harvest, an exciting, but very busy time of year.

We are fortunate to have a two-row, New Idea corn picker with a shelling attachment, and while it gives us our fair share of headaches at times, we are thankful for it. A wagon is hitched to the back of the corn picker, and our John Deere pulls it nicely through the fields. Two or three workers ride along on the wagon and fill bags with grain as we go.

Because we never have a killing frost, the corn is harvested while the weeds in the field are actively growing. Some dry season tolerant grasses especially make it more challenging to harvest, and from time to time we need to stop and remove the weeds that have been wrapped up in the picker.

Even in the dry season, the standing corn will only dry down to around 20% moisture content, so drying the corn after harvest is always necessary to preserve it. We do not yet have a dryer on our farm, so the bags of corn are loaded onto a vehicle and hauled about 10 minutes down the road to the dryer. Here the bags of corn are offloaded into a flat-bed propane-fired dryer to be dried for several hours. After the corn is dried to around 13% moisture, it is measured and once again packed into 140lb. sacks. The sacks are once again loaded onto the truck and hauled back to our storage room where they are stacked for long term storage.

The size of the dryer and the hours it operates limits us to about two tons, or 30 bags of corn per day. When the corn is dry and

yielding well, we can fill the dryer in a very short time. We normally start early in the morning in an effort to have the first 15 bags at the dryer when they open. After bagging, measuring, and storing the previous day's load, we go back to the farm and harvest another 15 bags for drying in the afternoon. Then the load from the morning is packed up and stored.

Harvest days are long and tiring, and our muscles ache at the end of the day from loading and carrying the heavy sacks. It feels great to go to bed early with

the day's harvest packed safely in storage, and we are thankful to God for the way He blesses and provides.

Thank you to each one who has supported the ministry in prayer. Please continue to pray for us as we work with these young men daily on the farm. We believe God has a special plan for each one of our farm workers and it is our goal to help them find and fulfill it. Please also pray that we will be able to see and follow God's plan for the future of the farm.

*-Jonathon*



# Fall Beef BBQ Supper

**September 10, 2013**

At Calvary United Church St. Jacobs

Supper from 5:30-7:30

Program starts at 7:45

Singing before and after the program

Special Singing by:

Surrendered Men's Group

Set Free Quartet



Everyone is welcome; your early confirmation is appreciated. Tickets are available from the events committee.

Dave & Jo Martin | 519-638-2900  
Doug & Sharon Weber | 519-638-9998  
Lorne & Marilyn Martin | 519-669-0197  
Keith & Diane Snyder | 519-669-4084

Tickets are: Free Will Donation

The impact of the ministry of LMI on the community, in the Central Region is, to say the least, tremendous. It is noteworthy to remark that this has been motivated by the objective of the mission:

“To demonstrate the love of Christ by providing assistance to individuals who are suffering from the effects of poverty, war, famine, disease, without regard to their faith, ethnic origin, social class or world view, and with the primary focus on needy children.”

The work that is going on in LHC is therefore guided by the above.

The classes of most of the children are far below their ages. The explanation is that their academic background is below the standard of the classes they should have been admitted to. As a result of this some of them are given extra tuition in the home. Those who have attained school-going-age will all be enrolled next academic year.

Between April and July thirteen children were admitted to the home. Their ages ranged between two days and fourteen years: Two babies were two days and three days old. There were three others whose ages were five months, seventeen months and eighteen months; the rest of them were between the ages of six and

# Lighthouse Children's Home Report | 2013

fourteen years. Of the number that was admitted, seven of them were sent off to their respective parents upon searching and finding them by the Department of Social Welfare. In all some of the children spent one day, ten days or more up to twenty eight days in the home. Four of the children that had been admitted in 2011 and 2012 also returned to relatives. As well, an adoption has taken place.

The children seem to do well in accepting each other and maintaining friendly relationships. The house parents have a wonderful way of relating to them and treating them as their own offspring. As the home continues to look for a new matron the house father also prepares the meals with the help of some of the older children.

To maintain a high standard of hygiene the children all have two sets of clothing available per day, and are asked to bathe regularly. Laundry needs to be done very frequently so as to keep the children supplied with clean clothes. The home is always on the lookout for good second hand clothing. There is a full time employee in charge of keeping the home cleaned.

Conscious of the spiritual development of the children the administration ensures the children have their normal Sunday church service by visiting a church.

They are also, at certain times, visited by local youth groups who come to interact and share Bible stories.

A limited amount of games and recreational equipment is available to the children, but seemingly they never tire of an exciting game of football (soccer). They also use their soccer ball to play some basketball.

Recently the sofas in the sitting room were in dire need of repair. This was completed by Kobi, a young man who was formerly connected to the home. He did an excellent job! It was encouraging to see a former home member making his own way in the world.

LHC wishes to express profound gratitude to all abroad who have made it possible for the children to enjoy life as any other child living with his/her natural parents. The board, staff and children thank those working very hard to raise support for the home. We further thank our Lord for all the blessings He has so richly poured upon us.

*-Ernest Aboagye (Administrator)*



# Board Report

“Get him!” shrilled an angry voice behind me as I dashed for a side alley to escape into. “He stole some food, somebody catch that boy! Get him!”

Suddenly my escape route was blocked and a firm hand grasped my arm tightly. “What’s going on here?” a gruff voice asked. “Why are you stealing food young lad?”

I trembled in fear under the firm hand that held me from dashing away. “What would they do to me? Would they beat me? Would they put me in jail? Would they take me back to my mother?” That thought brought a surge of anger coursing through me. “No, not to my mother, never!” I kicked and bit my captor in desperation to get away from what I thought would lead me back to the place of all my pain and rejection. My mother didn’t want me and now I didn’t want to see her ever again!

The policeman took a firmer hold as he guided me to the waiting car. After giving back my stolen lunch to the irate storekeeper the policeman proceeded to take me to the station. “Where do you live my lad?” he asked in a kind tone.

I responded with silence.

“What is your name sonny?”

“Name,” I thought to myself, “what do you mean, I don’t know if I have a name? I have been called many things but I don’t know if any were my name.” So again I answered with silence.

“How old are you, do you

know?”

Silence.

When Children’s Services arrived I was asked the above questions and many more; all of which I left unanswered.

After doing some research it was thought that this young lad’s name might be Kofie. Kofie came to the Lighthouse after his encounter with the police several months ago. I had the privilege of meeting Kofie when we stayed at the home in the beginning of April. Quite understandably this young lad had a very difficult time interacting with other people, especially children. All his interactions with adults had been accompanied with yells and abuse; first at home, then from the unsuspecting people from whom he took food to survive. Upon arrival at the home he sought for approval and recognition in the only way he knew how, by kicking, biting, and clawing. The older children reacted negatively and the younger ones became fearful. The only thing that could fix this broken, scarred young heart was love, lots of love and time.

It was rewarding to see that with time Kofie could also express love to those around him. The day came that Kofie helped a crying toddler to his feet and proceeded to give him a big hug. Children need to feel love to be able to express love. Please pray for the staff at Lighthouse Children’s Home that they can fill the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the children entrusted into their care.

May God bless you richly  
for your continued support!

In as much as ye have  
done it unto the least of these my  
brethren, ye have done it unto me.  
Matthew 25:40

On behalf of the board,  
Matt



## Prayer and Praise

Pray for the spiritual welfare of the children in the Home.

Pray for smooth transitions as the Advisory Board restructures.

Pray for good relationships with the government agencies that work with the Home.

Pray that reliable Christian staff may be hired to fill the vacancies.

Praise the Lord for the dedication that Ernest displays in the role of administrator.

Praise the Lord for food and clothing to meet the physical needs of the children.

Praise God for the gift of love that we can share with the needy children of Ghana.

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

All 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 have 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.*

# Lighthouse Ministries International

[www.lighthouseministriesint.org](http://www.lighthouseministriesint.org)

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

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