



# LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

45th Edition  
Spring 2016

Lighthouse Newsletter



## Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Spring Garage Sale and BBQ

Friday, April 29 | 7:00am - 8:00pm

Saturday, April 30 | 7:00am - 2:00pm

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## LMI Board Trip Report

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On Jan 26th 2016, as Delta flight 478 from JFK to Accra, Ghana was ascending from cruise altitude, I found myself sitting in a window seat on the plane and watching the outskirts of the sprawling capital city start to come into view. The sun was already up, as the local time was early in the morning, but my internal clock thought that this should be the middle of the night. The flight had probably been the bumpiest ride I had ever experienced in a big plane and so the last ten hours had not been the most conducive to "good sleeping". Before getting on the flight I had been home for exactly one day after being at Maranatha Bible School for three weeks and right at that moment I just wanted to be at home in my own bed. As I watched the houses get closer and we were preparing to land I had the thought go through my mind, "OH, WHY AM I HERE?". In my case it was a fleeting thought, born out of the current "little" circumstances and in short order the Lord made it clear to me, that my thoughts notwithstanding, I did really want to be where I was. This got me to thinking though, should I sometimes be asking that question in a different way, like "Lord, why am I here?". Maybe it should sometimes be, "Lord; am I doing what I am here for?"

In my little funk the "here" was a certain geographical location on the globe but if I change the "here" to being the fact that I am a living, breathing human being living anywhere on this earth, then the question becomes something very different. "WHY AM I HERE and what does the Lord have to say about my purpose? What would I do if my circumstances found me in the dilemma that Queen Esther faced in the palace at Shushan all those years ago". She dithered, knowing that what she was being asked to do could easily cost her her life. Then Mordecai had the nerve to remind her that "Don't think to yourself that you will escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:13,14 We know that this story ended well (my trip to Ghana did too) but the day that Esther decided to accept that her purpose was to do what she could with where she was, we find her saying, "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will

also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.” Esther 4:16 Maybe we all need the not-so-gentle reminder at times that “who knows, maybe you have been born for such a time as this”

Oh, and now about the trip..... Delfred and Doris Weber, Paul and Cheryl Horst, Calvin and Jeanette Frey and myself spent a week in Ghana at the beginning of Feb. The trip was in part a regular visit to do our due diligence in giving oversight of the activities taking place with the funds we send to Lighthouse Children’s Home. As well we planned to attend the annual general meeting of the NGO that is registered in Ghana to operate the home

there. We had a very blessed time in all our interaction with the members of the local board and we can say that we came back challenged by the dedication and diligence of the locals that are caring for the children and working through the daily challenges that a country like Ghana presents. We may get a bit exasperated with our government bureaucracy sometimes but if you ever want to get a lesson on real challenges in this regard.... It is also so rewarding to work with Christians in another land that share so many of the same understandings of how God would have us conduct our lives and in how to make decisions to be a blessing in a ministry that we believe God has called us to be a part of.

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above photo: Group photo of board members and their families at the Annual General Meeting.  
front cover photo: the children at the home put on a small program for us.

Some highlights from the time there.

### From the Annual Meeting

1) Lighthouse Children's Home will be changing its name to Wellspring Ministries. There is another ministry in Ghana called Lighthouse Christian Children's Home. This has been causing some confusion with the Government and with other individuals as well, so LHCH has decided to change their name to remove that issue. The other Lighthouse was registered after LHCH so we could have claimed first rights to the name but the other home is associated with a church group called Lighthouse Chapel so it was felt that the right thing to do was for us to concede.

2) We were presented with an architect's plan of the new facility that is planned on the land that is owned by Wellsprings. It will be a well planned facility and will be nice when it is completed.

### New Rental House to Replace the Current Facility

1) Social Welfare has decreed that the current house we are renting does not meet the standards that they have for a Children's Home.

2) The local board has found a house in the Abura town area that is much better suited for our needs. We had the opportunity to see the prospective house and we

were very pleased with what it has to offer. It also has the benefit of being priced in Ghana Cedi's rather than the current arrangement in which the rent is paid in US dollars.

3) This house will be used as the home until the new building that will be built is ready for occupancy.

### Lighthouse Education Assistance Fund (LEAF)

1) We met with Conrad Swartzentruber to discuss growth opportunities for the LEAF program. Conrad has been managing the LEAF program for LMI and he believes that the program is a very valuable and needed program in the country of Ghana. LMI will be working on putting together a growth plan for LEAF and giving our support community the opportunity to sponsor children for this program.

It was a very rewarding trip as we observed all that the Lord is doing for His children, through His children both at home and abroad.

As Bond Servants were instructed in Colossians 3:22-24.....but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

*- Arnold Frey*





## Annual Fundraiser Schedule

Spring Garage Sale and BBQ

Friday, April 29 | 7:00am - 8:00pm

Saturday, April 30 | 7:00am - 2:00pm

Fall Beef BBQ Supper

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

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)

## Redeemed Vocational School Work Team Report

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Tuesday, February 2nd was the day for six young men from the MWMC to travel to RVS in Haiti. We flew out of Toronto, Pearson Airport at 6:30 am. After having the frost and ice removed from the wings of our jet, we were ready to take off. After an approximately 2.5 hour flight, we landed in Miami, Florida. Our next flight, from Miami to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was not until 12:45 pm so we had lots of time to relax and enjoy our lunch of burgers and soft drinks. We also toured the airport, rode the skytrain, and met other travelers bound for Haiti.

After a smooth flight to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, we got our passports stamped, found our luggage, and threaded our way past eager Red Caps. Red Caps are people who work at the airport, carrying luggage for travelers for as much money as possible!

We were glad to see Wismith waving at us in the parking lot! In a short time we had our bags in the back of his pickup and were on the road. One thing about Haitian travel. Traffic laws seem almost non-existent, but nobody gets angry about delays..... Just wait patiently and go whenever there's room!

We arrived at Redeemed Vocational School at 5:00 pm on Tuesday. A nice sized room adjoining the mechanic shop and sewing classroom, had six cots for us to sleep on. After finding spots for our bags, we headed back to the house for a delicious supper of spaghetti, chicken gravy, and avocados.

Wednesday morning, after a good night's rest, we began work

on some kitchen cabinets for the apartment where the mechanic teacher, Michael Galdonik and family, live in. Only one of us had any experience in cabinetry, so it took some time to get started. First, we cut the sides, backs and bottoms out of plywood with a tablesaw. Then each piece was sanded, ready for assembly. We used a pin nailer to assemble each box, then added screws for more strength. Next we applied three coats of varnish. Before we could install the cabinets, we wanted to paint the kitchen. What a pleasure to turn drab concrete walls to a cheery yellow! When the paint was dry we built a frame of 2x4 lumber to set the lower cabinets on. The upper cabinet we fastened to the wall with concrete screws. Then we screwed on the doors, popped on doorknobs and positioned the shelves inside. We also figured out how to install the kitchen sink and put the plumbing in place. It is truly satisfying to see our labours turn into something useful.

On our first Saturday in Haiti, we were privileged to travel to the Dominican Republic. It's getting more and more difficult to travel from one country to the other because of strained relations. Wismith's brother came with us. He was a big help to negotiate with customs officials to get us through more smoothly. In the D.R. we visited IFM's church, and stopped in at the Pastor's house. For lunch we had fried chicken, rice, and fried plantains at a small restaurant in Jimane.

The next Saturday, Wismith took us to the tin market, which is where they create art out of scrap metal. There are countless amazing pieces to choose from, as well as colourful oil paintings.

We also visited the Baptist Mission and store. Street vendors eagerly showed us their wares; machetes, bracelets, tin art, and carvings to name a few. There's also a restaurant at the Baptist Mission where they serve burgers, pizza, ice cream and other delicious American food.

On Sunday we attended IFM's church. Even though we couldn't understand the words, the tunes were somewhat familiar.

On the last Monday of our

stay we worked at finishing up the project. Some of us helped the guys from Ohio with the overhead garage doors. On Monday night we all went down to IFM to help unload two sea containers. Many hands make work light!

Tuesday, February 16th was the last day of our stay in Haiti. Definitely mixed feelings as we were glad to go home again but we will surely miss all the people we learned to know and appreciate during our stay!

Wishing God's blessings on RVS,

*- Elmer Bowman*





# Lighthouse Ministries International

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

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