



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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Our visit *in Ghana*

Doris and I had the privilege of visiting The Lighthouse Children's Home in Ghana from Sept 29 through to Oct 15. It was a blessing to be there and reacquaint with the children, staff, board, and friends.

It was a special blessing to have Doris travel with me this time. God blessed her with healing from her surgery so that she was well and could go.

Sister Joyce met us at the airport and accompanied us in our travels and catered to Grandma during our visit. It was a blessing because with the meetings that I needed to attend, it meant that Grandma did not

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*Merry Christmas
From the Lighthouse
and Board*

need to be alone during that time.
cont.....

It was also touching to see the tenderness which Joyce ministered to Grandma.

There is also a legal aspect to these visits. In order to maintain our status as a registered charity, there needs to be an annual official visit by a delegate from the organization to assure the operations and disbursements of funds are in harmony with the approved programs at The Children's Homes.

With the restructuring that is taking place in Ghana with children's homes, the Government is implementing several changes through Social Service on how Children's homes are being licensed.

It means there are some changes at the Home. They are utilizing our home more as a crises home which means they show up anytime with one child or more depending on the circumstances that they are dealing with in the community. Needless to say this creates substantial extra work in the home for the staff and house parents.

These developments open the door for

volunteers from abroad and consider a format that would be for 3 month terms.

Monday and Friday evenings we joined the children there for the evening meal. It gave us an opportunity to interact with them and get to know them a little better. We missed those that have turned eighteen and are no longer in the home. We wish them well. It did seem more like a children's home with a table surrounded with small children.

It was encouraging to attend the board meetings, and to observe the passion and burden that members of the board have for the ministry of the home. To hear the board deliberate with wisdom and discernment about the challenges and issues that arise in the ongoing operations of a ministry of this nature was also an encouragement. I praise God for blessing the ministry with brethren that love the Lord a serve Him in sincerity.

When Brother David was in Canada, he spoke at the Beef fund raiser about the dream they have for a school. There is a need for a school that serves as an arm to the church and the home while providing a good quality of education; academics and scriptural teaching. Pray with us that we will discern God's will and timing in this opportunity.

One of the experiences that really impacted me again this trip was the day that Brother John Ofori (house parent) took us to the Cape Coast to visit Zabaro and his brother Abraham. They are living with their mother. Zabaro is the little boy that was so sick when he was brought to the home. It was very touching for me to see him and to have him walk across the room for me to hold him the



last time. I had seen him when he was not walking on my previous trip. Zabaro and Abraham are opposites. Zabaro does not show much emotion, but Abraham's face lit up when he saw me. He ran across the room, jumped on my lap, and gave me a big hug. There were some tears shed as we left. Abraham went to gather some of his things and was so heart broke when he could not go with us. Even the mother had tears running down her checks as we said our good byes.

There is lot of time for reflections on the long plane ride home. I was thinking about the Lighthouse Children's Home; its beginnings, the journey, highlights, discouragements, challenges



and yes--successes. My thoughts went to Psalms 127: " Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." God has blessed this ministry in many ways, and it is my prayer that the Lord will continue to build it. Together, we are labourers in his vineyard.

May God Bless You All,

Delfred Weber /Grandpa

What a blessing it has been to once again be in Ghana for the past year. My wife Juanita and I have had the privilege of being involved with the Lighthouse Children's Home in various ways over the past several years. It has been exciting to see the ministry grow and develop over that time, but it has been even more exciting to see "our children" mature and become young adults.

Our primary focus here in Ghana is to manage the farming project which has been set up by Lighthouse International Development and to employ and work with some graduates of the Children's Home. We no longer provide them with housing or food, but by creating jobs we can give them an opportunity to earn their own money and provide for themselves and their families. This arrangement also offers many training opportunities, from practical job training to work ethics and personal finances.

We have currently employed five graduates from the Children's Home who work on the farm daily. Farming in Ghana can be challenging and there have been many times when I have needed to change my way of thinking, but it has been a good learning experience for us all. Our first corn crop has recently been harvested and we are now cultivating about eight acres of beans which we plant to harvest in the beginning of the new year.

Please pray for us as we work daily with these young adults. We believe God has a plan for each of their lives, and it is our goal to help them discover that plan and fulfill it.

In addition to farm life, we are also privileged to be able to work with the board of Lighthouse Ministries in implementing the Lighthouse Education Assistance Fund, or "LEAF." Recent changes in Ghanaian social welfare laws have mandated that children who are eighteen years old or older may no longer reside in a children's home. This has been a difficult policy to comply with, since nearly all eighteen year-olds in Ghana are still in school. The problem is made more difficult because of the background of some of the children. Many of our children did not get a proper education before coming to the home, which has set them back several more years. Many of them also do not have families or relatives who are able to support them, making the processes of leaving the home a very difficult and stressful one.

The goal of the LEAF program is to help these students continue and complete their education after they have left the home. The students enrolled in the program do not reside at the Children's Home, but receive some support from LMI for school expenses. Some are also provided with a small amount of money and provisions to help them with each new school term. Most of them must still rely on family or relatives to cover a portion of their expenses. In a few cases, depending upon the need and the location of the school, housing is also provided for the duration of the student's schooling.

There are currently fifteen children from the home who are enrolled in this program, although they receive different levels of support. We have recently seen three young adults graduate from the home who are now taking advantage of this program.

The school system in Ghana can be challenging and frustrating at times. It can also be difficult to weed out the legitimate needs from some of the not-so-legitimate requests we receive. We covet your prayers as we interact with each of these young men and women who are working hard to finish their schooling. We desire the best for each of them, and for them to seek out and follow God's perfect plan for their lives.

Thank you to each one of you for your interest and support of this ministry.
God bless you all,

Jonathan Greff

Some students from the
LEAF program



Prayer & praise

Pray that God will grant the advisory board wisdom to deal with the various government directives.

Pray that the houseparents and staff would be granted wisdom, patience, and love as they deal with their daily responsibilities.

Praise God that Jonathon was healed from his mono.

Praise the Lord for the health that the children are blessed with

Praise the Lord for the financial blessings He has granted.



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.

Life at the Home



Gifty(physio dept.worker) of the Central Regional Hospital, Cape Coast with Maame Afua(a child with a moving disability)



Left to right: Kojo, Panyin & Kakrah (twins),Esi Abokoma, Mawusi, Godfred ready for Roman Catholic School, Abura



Mary(left) and Selina at a church service in Cape coast



From left to right: Koji Abban, Bethany, Kofi Tigbin-- all from the Good Samaritan Preparatory School.



Dorothy and some of the children at the Cape coast



Selina(Left, JSS 3, Ankaful MA school) and Mary(JSS 1,St. Nicolas, Cape Coast) prepare to leave for school

Board Report

As I look back over the past fifteen months in which I served on the LMI board, I can say it has been a worthwhile growing experience for me. Through tough times and good times, it has been a pleasure to work with the board as we make decisions regarding the lives of the eternal souls entrusted into our care.

As I think of comparing the life of a child at the Lighthouse Children's Home to the life of a child born and raised in a Christian home, I realize the differences are endless. They are too numerous to mention here. Let's consider only briefly the emotional and spiritual benefits that these children are deprived of. Things many of us take for granted in our homes are: structure, routine, confidence in our family, acceptance, love, guidance.....to name a few. These all bring stability to the life of a child. Now take the list and undergird and strengthen each with a strong faith in God, a Christian's perspective and the child will be twice blessed. My heart's cry is that we can in some small way bring a portion of this stability to lives of these hurting, broken children at the home. Pray that we could bring them into a place where they can find love, acceptance, and primarily a place where they can find Jesus. A place that they can call home.

So a hearty thank-you to each one for your support, whether through prayer, finances, or both. May the Lord guide us as together we reach out and bring hope to these eternal souls.

Merry Christmas!!

Matt for LMI board.



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