



# LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

49th Edition  
Summer 2017

Lighthouse Newsletter



**Mark Your Calendars!**  
Annual Fall Beef BBQ Supper  
Tuesday, August 29 | More on page 7

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# Jamaica

“I’d like one volunteer... maybe one of the bigger, stronger guys?” I asked. The words were barely out of my mouth before Damali was leaping down onto the stage. The tiny 12-year-old was definitely not one of the bigger, stronger guys, but his eyes were bright and his smile was wide. He willingly pulled on the various clothes I had along to illustrate my object lesson- all of them far too big for him.

It was a sunny Wednesday morning, but a gentle breeze kept temperatures livable. I looked over the 30 or so students seated in front of me; I didn’t have names for all the faces yet- especially the girls who wore a wildly different hairstyle every day- but Damali had already found his way into my heart.

The 7th Jamaica Music Camp began Monday morning, when the students arrived; many of them on a bus from Kingston, some from more local areas. The camp, empty and silent just moments before, became a hubbub

of excited activity. Phones, money, and snacks were confiscated for the week, campers were shown their tents, and then camp was underway.

Mornings had the campers waking up, getting dressed for the day, and beginning their devotions in their tents at 7:15. We met in the main hall at 8:00 for breakfast, then the outdoor amphitheater at 9:15 for chapel. At 10, classes began; was a mix of musical skills classes, boy/girl choir practices, and mass choir practices.

We had three music instructors: Wendell Glick, from Ontario; Dwylin Byler, from Pennsylvania; and Lee Scharschmidt, from Jamaica. For the musical skills classes, the students were split into 3 skill levels, each taught by one of the instructors; for the mass choirs, the instructors took turns teaching their songs.

I soon learned that, musically, most of the students had 2 things in

common: one, they had amazing voices, and two, they were not used to reading music. So they were very good singers, but they primarily learned the music by ear. So, one of my main jobs was to learn the music as quickly as possible, then to sing it as loudly as possible so the rest of the basses would hear me and start singing the same notes. It felt like a big responsibility, but for the most part I enjoyed it.

Morale slumped a little through the middle of the week, but by Friday, excitement levels were high again. Rehearsals were a bit more serious, standing arrangements were planned

out, and final details nailed down. By 4:00 we were all freshly bathed, suited up in our matching shirts, loaded onto buses, and headed off to a church in Ocho Rios for the concert.

After a quick dress rehearsal, several of the camp staff showed up with bags of authentic Jamaican 'patty' from a local fast food place. We had supper, cleaned up, and got ready for the concert.

As the clock ticked toward our 7:15 start time, we began to wonder if anyone was planning to attend. A few people trickled in; a little after 7, our audience was 10 or 12 people. We decided



to hold the concert at 7:15 Jamaican time- meaning, once we thought enough people had showed up.

Thankfully, our worrying was in vain, and a small crowd soon piled in. It still wasn't a large group, but they seemed enthusiastic, so we decided to begin.

One thing I had learned: Jamaicans love to perform. And concert night was no exception; we made that little church ring. The songs spoke of God's love, provisions, and faithfulness to us; of how we are His sons and daughters, that we will follow Him, and that we are never alone. As the final notes of 'Bambelela/ Never Give Up/' faded away, our audience erupted into applause and our choir erupted into chaos. There was no neat, orderly, North American-style solemn filing off the stage; we had made it through, we hadn't flunked it, and it was time to celebrate.

Saturday was the day of lasts; we had our last breakfast, then met in the main hall for our last chapel. We opened the time for

testimonies, and student after student shared how they had been impacted through the music camp. A few of the 20-yr-olds, too old to come back to camp, were struggling to hold back tears. Seven campers made commitments to follow Christ at the final invitation.

Contact info was exchanged, pictures were taken, and lots of goodbyes were said. Finally, the buses were loaded up and sent off, and the camp was silent once again.

Several months later, I'm glad to have contact with some of the students through some social media; it's wonderful to still get peeks into their lives. However, many of them don't have such luxuries, and I'm left to wonder how they're doing. Damali, my little friend with the shining eyes; so many things could be happening in his broken life. Does he remember what he learned about God? Has he shared it with others? Does he have a place to live? I have no way of knowing. All I can do is pray.



## NEWS FROM THE HOME IN CAPE COAST

### RELOCATION OF THE CHARIS SHEPHERD VINEYARD (FORMERLY THE LIGHTHOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME) TO A NEW FACILITY AND AREA

The Charis Shepherd Vineyard (CSV) has had to move from the facility which houses the Home due to certain humane considerations for the previous landlady who seemed to be under some pressure by new substantive buyers of the facility. This relocation is the second of its kind in less than a year of occupying a new facility. The relocation took place in June 2017. The Home is now housed in a facility located just around the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital Nurses' Flats.



Some of the LHCH children assisting to unpack items from truck to the new Home.



Front view (distant view) of the outside.



The LHCH children are ready to move out of the new Home for their various schools.



Front view (close shot) of the outside.



Departure for school on a typical school day.



Front view (close shot) of the outside.



LHCH children happily leaving for school in the morning from new Home.

## OPERATIONS AND LIQUIDATION OF LIGHTHOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME

Since May 1, 2017 the Charis Shepherd Vineyard Cape Coast, Ghana started operating a new formula of reporting. This formula was ratified at the 2017 Annual General Meeting and thus paving the way for the Lighthouse Children's Home to gradually make a way for the new name and mandate to be operationalised.

Legal documentation of the Lighthouse Children's Home to be liquidated and assets transferred to the Charis Shepherd Vineyard had also almost nearing its completion. We trust and hope that our International partners will still remain in prayer with us to ensuring that all due process is completed smoothly.

# Board Report

## **Luke 19:8**

*And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.*

I was listening to a sermon recently where the speaker made a point about this account that made me wonder if I may have missed a message that is contained in it. I have always read this thinking that “well yes, Zacchaeus was a tax collector” so he got all his wealth from a dubious occupation so it was only reasonable he should give most of his money away. But is that really what the message here is? Right after this proclamation Jesus tells him that he has experienced salvation. Zacchaeus promised really two things in his commitment, he was going to make wrongfully gotten gain right, at huge cost to himself in proportion to the gain he had from taking it in the first place, and then he was giving half of his rightfully earned money to the poor. Herein lies the point I may have been missing, why was this an indication that he had experienced salvation? I read this thinking that he had an obligation to make his fraudulent activity right and because all his money came from questionable activity he should feel “obligated” to give much of it away. But is this correct? Was he obligated to do so? For sure he needed to correct his wrongs but what if the other part of his commitment indicated a radically changed heart. Could it be that the money given to the poor was a response from a heart that now cared about others and not just himself? I wonder, have I missed the “heart of the matter” in this account?

## **Matthew 6:21**

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

May God richly bless all who are a blessing to others in whatever way he has called us to be his ambassadors of goodwill.

Arnold Frey

## Help Wanted

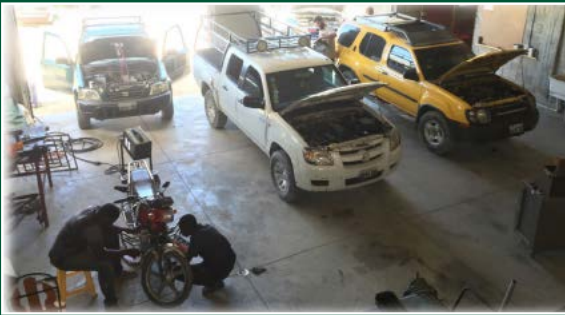
### *If you are:*

- ✓ An experienced Auto Mechanic
- ✓ Like new foods, languages, & cultures
- ✓ Have a strong relationship with God
- ✓ Enjoy some adventure
- ✓ Interact well with others



**REDEEMED**  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

## **NEEDS YOU**



To mentor graduates of our mechanic class and work with them as they staff and operate **Redeemed Mechanic Shop** (Fond Parisien, Haiti)

For more information call:  
**740-305-9849**

## 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

### **Special Singing by:**

Horst Family

Markham Youth Choir

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

Dennis & Laurie Frey | 519-638-2900

Doug & Sharon Weber | 519-638-9998

Mervin & Janelle Bauman | 519-574-2894

Ben & Luella Martin | 519-699-4689

Tickets are: Free Will Donation

# Lighthouse Ministries International

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