



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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Lighthouse Newsletter



Wishing you a
Blessed Christmas

Inside this issue

General Report
on the Home
Page 2

Movement to the
New Building
Page 5

Board Report
Page 7

Report on the Home

Currently the Home houses seven boys and eight girls in all with the strength of seven staff. Early in the year, the Home was privileged to have admitted a girl—Yilma Wendlassida whose mother is on admission at the Ankaful mental hospital. The child was admitted at the Home in January 2020. As part of the admission procedures, we were to visit the mental hospital with the child to see the mother once every month but because of the Covid-19 it was rather upon request by the medical officers in charge of her. It has not been an easy experience but we have made enough visits with the child to promote mother-daughter bonding. In February 2020, Blessing Mawusi Musah was also brought to the Home for temporal care and protection. After the social inquiry report was done, the boy was successfully reunified to the family at Junkwa Nkwantam in July 2020.

The year started very well with the children going about

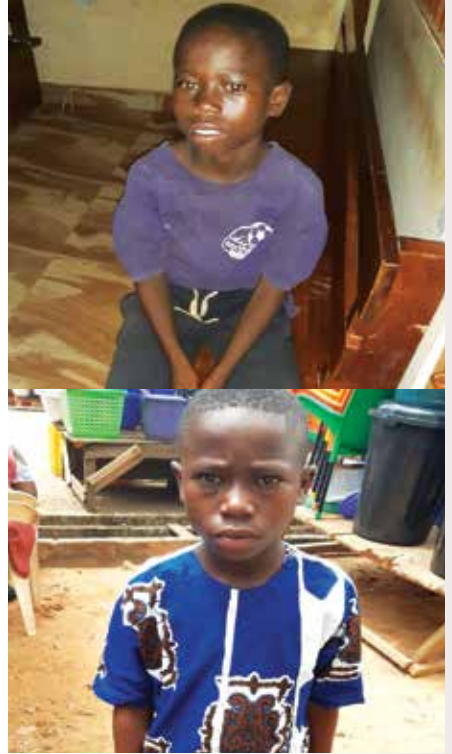
their normal school routine until March when the Covid -19 set in. Schools were closed down and the children have remained in the Home till date except for Dorothy Larsuk who had to resume school in order to sit for the Basic Education



Yilma Wendlassida with her mother on one of our visits to the Ankaful Mental Hospital. (Bottom) Yilma after three months.

Certificate Examination (BECE). In October, Courage and Praise who are Junior High School (JHS) 2 School Student had to resume school as well based on the government directive.

While in the Home a number of interventions were put in place to protect the staff and the children from the Corona virus. The home secured veronica buckets to ensure that the children resorted to consistent washing. Hand Sanitizers and nose masks were provided for them as well. The Department of Social Welfare also served all Residential Homes for Children (RHCs) with letters to hold on to donations and the receiving of visitors at the RHCs. The Board also put in place some internal checks to ensure that the children are safe and secured. The private teachers handling the children in the home were asked not to be coming until the Covid-19 situation is duly dealt with. Security procedures were tightened the more to control the sneaking out of children



Blessing Mawusi Musah on the day of admission (top) and the day of reunification

and the influx of unnecessary visitors. In addition, a Wi-Fi was provided for the children's E-learning (on the internet) coupled with mentee teaching by the Administrator and the Caregivers. We purchased some indoor games like the Ludo, Draught, Oware among others that kept the children happy and entertained at these difficult times. To ensure that their spiritual growth wasn't relegated, the daily devotions were intensified with the production of monthly devotional

Continued on page 4



Cooking competition between boys and girls in the Home: Covid- 19 lockdown period

as well as special retreats and Sunday church services were organized in the Home. We also had group drama and cooking competitions which kept the children busy with little fear for the parading Covid-19 conditions. In the face of the Covid-19 and its related lockdowns, prices of goods and services were rising each day, so the Board approved a budget for the advance purchases of food stuff as there was continuous suspicion that there was going to be food shortages.

It was timely that the cassava farm the Home invested in at the building project site was also ready for harvest. The harvest was done in two phases and there was production of Gari and Cassava dough which also cut down on the food budget of the Home during the rising corona

infections. We must say that November is almost ending and we still have some of the produce from the farm in the store. Though Covid-19 is not completely wiped out, we have a hope that has kept us continue to persevere, and a hope our local Board, International Board, Donor Community, stakeholders and all who share in our vision will be preserved.



Cassava Harvest at the Building project site by staff and children

Preparations Towards Movement to the New Building

It still sounded like a dream when the news of moving to the new building was announced to us. After the excitement, the children came up with many questions: please Daddy can we visit the place? So are we going to stay there and come to school at Cape Coast? Are we going to be coming to church service at Lovegate Assembly?

One important thing we have tried doing so far is to psyche the children for the totally new environment. The Home has provided the children with extra bags for them to organize their belongings and it is surprising how fast most of them packed up. Day in day out the children are washing and cleaning up because they don't want to send dirty things to a new home. As the movement comes with some cost implication

(for example transportation) Administration has raised a budget, yet to be sent to the Board for consideration.

With expanded responsibility, looking at the new and better working environment compared to our current place, the staff have also been motivated for the task ahead, which include the distance to travel to work, the needed commitment for smooth running of the home, among others. The LMI Board's good efforts and the local Board's work to make the dream a reality have caused



Continued on page 6

excitement among the staff as they look forward to working in a new building. The Board in the effort to make our operations more excellent at the new site has put plans in place to recruit a Matron and a Welfare Officer to replace those that resigned some months back. Another important step has been taken towards security by incorporating into a budget for the movement some defensive armor for our security personnel. Many factors have called for these measures. These include: living at the new site without walls, control of



movement or sneaking out of children from the home and also to control the influx of strangers. Beyond these, some basic home necessities have also been factored into the budget. For example, extra beds for the little ones, poles and ropes for drying lines, curtains, beds, tables amongst others.

The Administrator has been given the approval to look for an accommodation around the new site for easy access to the Home because the Administrator's residence is not yet completed. Even though it has not been easy getting it around the area, there is hope that he will secure a decent accommodation before final movement will be done. So far we are confident to say, so long as the movement to the new site is concerned, members of the home are all fully prepared and healthy for the movement.

Board Report

Heartbroken, sad, lonely, unloved, abandoned: these were some of the words our children used to describe how they would feel if they were in the shoes of Majid. In reality, words cannot describe the utter rejection and desolation felt by one so young and vulnerable as three-year-old Majid. He came to the children's home at the beginning of this month. He was found abandoned, a boy with no one to claim him as their own. At the time of this writing, no parents have been located for Majid. As I reflected on the feelings that my children expressed for Majid, I could not help but contrast them to what we can experience through the promises of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit. I would like to share a few of God's promises in contrast to the feelings of an abandoned child.

Heartbroken – In stark contrast to this is the mandate that Christ expressed of Himself in Luke 4:18 “He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.” What a beautiful promise of healing and freedom to those who come to Jesus!

Sad and lonely – How is it that even in the most densely populated metropolis, mankind can feel entirely alone? This feeling of loneliness in a crowd causes deep sadness. In the kingdom of Jesus, however, one can be in a desert place alone, but still enjoy deep communion with God, the Father of the fatherless. “And [I] will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:18

Abandoned – We praise God that even though earthly parents may leave behind their child, God will never abandon His children. He has given this promise in Hebrews 13:5&6 “He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

Continued on page 8

Majid will surely deal with feelings of sadness and rejection in the coming months and years, and we ask that you join us in prayer for him and the other children in the home. Pray that the staff would be able to fill vacancies in the lives of these precious young souls and point them to Jesus. In Christ alone is where Majid, and each one, can find a true sense of belonging.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have supported LMI in the past year again. Your prayers and generous donations have been very humbling. Through your generous giving we were able to continue our building project at the children's home. The whole family of children and staff are excited to move in to the new facility this month! Thank you again, and may each of you be blessed this Christmas season.

On behalf
of the board,

Matt Frey



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