



# LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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## Lighthouse Newsletter



“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.”  
Matt 25:40

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# LEAF Program - Philip's Story

Philip was born at home on 11/03/2010 to Miss Hagar Andoh and Mr Asemanni in a farming village called Awutu Mfafo in Awutu Senya west District in the Central Region of Ghana. Both parents are farmers. He is the third of four children. Unlike his other three siblings who were healthy from birth, Philip had a problem right after birth in that he was not able to pass stools since he was 2 weeks old. Although Philip was delivered at home, his mother took him to a nearby health facility to report his inability to pass stools. Philip was given some medication and the doctor asked his mother to bring him back for review in a week's time. But due to lack of money his mother was not able to go back to the hospital for the review. As Philip was growing, he could only pass stools once a week or once in two weeks. His abdomen gradually became distended and he experienced stunted growth and weight loss. His abdomen became so large to the extent that it affected his breathing and daily activities. Because he is from a village where illiteracy is too high, they



It was all joy when the community saw Philip walking majestically to their house.

believed he was possessed by witchcraft having swallowed a human head spiritually to make his stomach big. Philip's life became miserable and unbearable in the village as he was not allowed to play with other children because they were afraid Philip will bewitch them. Philip sometimes spent whole days without food. His mother would give him money to buy food while she left for the farm, but the food vendors refused to sell food to him but rather shout at him and call him all sorts of names while some poured water on him. This made Philip go back to the house crying without food and wait for his mother to return from the farm before she prepared him food. Philip's condition also made his father

divorce his mum so all this while Philip went through this hardship without his father. His mother sometimes resorted to herbal medicine but it didn't work. Her friends pushed her to believe that he was witchcraft, so she took him to some scamming churches hoping they would heal Philip, but to no avail. The churches claim to be from God but they are not, only extorting money from people to enrich themselves. Philip was susceptible to infections and low Hemoglobin level due to his condition. Philip along the line got one friend from school called Tutu who used to visit Philip and play with him. He continued to live in this situation for 10 years until Williams found Philip. Williams took Philip for several

medical surgeries to give him a stomach that functions properly. This fall Philip had a review with the doctors after the final surgery and is responding well to treatment.

Williams said, "As one of my core business to reach out to the less privileged it was very miraculous to find Philip and to help him lead a normal life."

Williams Yirenkyi



Philip in the middle with school uniform.

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## Lighthouse Children's Home

The year 2021 began with great excitement for both the children, staff and Board Members because all our attention was directed towards moving into our newly completed building complex. From the very first day of the year, the entire family had already put all the plans in place to move in; the only thing that we were waiting for was the

final inauguration of the place. The family finally moved in on the 14th January 2021 after the complex was inaugurated on Saturday 9th January 2021.

It was like a dream when we all woke up Friday morning 15th January 2021 in the new place. It was difficult to answer the many questions the children were asking all day because for them this was their haven. They

## Lighthouse Children's Home Continued



constantly gazed at the building admiring their "palace" day and night.

Currently, there are eighteen children living in the Home. However, the Home has seen different faces of children coming in and going out all year round when the government minimized the Covid-19 restrictions. Apart from the current number in the Home, Twelve children have passed through the home temporally, making the total number of children that have received care and protection

from the Home thirty. The most remarkable of them all is the reunification of Samuel and Dorothy who have stayed in the Home for Six and Nine years respectively. As part of government regulations, children who are eighteen years plus are supposed to be reunified to their families. This was the end of their stay at the Home because the Department of Social Welfare in conjunction with the Home had already made the social enquiry reports and their families were in constant contact with us. Finally, LEAF approved applications of support for the two children and all too soon they were reunified to their families. Dorothy is now having her training in fashion and dressmaking at the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) at Biriwa while Samuel is a second year pursuing Business at the Academy of Christ the King Senior High School by courtesy of the LEAF.

The Covid-19 came with its own challenges which the home had to put up with especially the spending on the Protocol Protective Equipment's (PPEs). For example the purchasing of gloves, nose masks, and

increased water bills because of constant washing of hands. We had to resort to Home school by organizing our own classes and examinations to keep the children engaged. It was not easy when the Department closed our doors for receiving visitors. This also increase our expenditure on food monthly because of the scarcity of food items as well as improving the diets to include more fruits.

Considering the cost of food stuffs and general market prices, and the vast space of land we have unused, the Board proposed that we start growing our own food stuff. The farm proposal was implemented and we can't believe our eyes the harvest we are already registering. We have harvested Okro, Tomatoes, Garden Eggs, and Peppers even though we



Martha Caregiver teaching kids in the Home.

are still expecting to harvest Cassava, Potatoes, Plantain, Sugarcane and Maize.

We are also trusting God to present Praise and Courage in November for the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). This means that we have produce four BECE candidates within two years. With the support we are getting from LMI through our donors, we have gotten them prepared for this examination. The smiles on their faces in the pictures say it all.

The increasing number of children in the home is attracting a lot of concerns from one of our stakeholder –the Department of Social Welfare, especially in the area of Transportation. The



# Lighthouse Children's Home Continued



Department at the current inspection expressed the importance of having a vehicle at the Home because of where it is situated. The bus we hire now is a fourteen seater passenger compared the eighteen children we currently transport.



Praise Dadzie our potential midwife.

The Department also added that it is likely that they will increase our number to 30 children by December because that is the capacity of our facility. It looked as if the transportation means is becoming a disadvantage for more children. How we send children to hospital at night in case of emergencies coupled with other things like a smaller vehicle for administrative errands is given immediate attention. On Sundays, our number increases to over 22 including the caregivers which makes the van overload. We have already started making arrangement to rent a bigger bus which also comes with a higher cost. We pray that the effort by LMI Board and the Local Board will see the light of the day.

Charis Shepherd

# Board Report

Greetings to our support community. Your generosity and love for the less fortunate is an inspiration to us and a great blessing to those who are the recipients. May God richly bless your sacrifices.

I came across an exposition by Jordan B Peterson. It is too long to print in full here, but I will give an outline and his ending.

## ***The Enemy***

He starts out with:

‘God lift from me the intolerable burden of my arrogance, willful blindness, bitterness and resentment as I pray that others rise above the same faults and temptations.’

He spends some time describing the world we live in. One in which sides are forming, blame is being leveled, what one side calls up the other side is convinced is down and conspiracy theories of every kind abound. He ends by asking us to consider: Who is the enemy here?

‘What are you aiming at in your heart of hearts? I see even the best of men degenerating into the exchange of blows. I see even the best of men identifying the enemy in our neighbors and friends. I see even the best of men falling prey to cowardice and self-righteous anger. It needs to stop. I need to stop. You need to stop before it’s too late. Who is the enemy here? The snake in your heart? The lies on your tongue? The arrogance of your intellect? The cowardice of your refusal to see. The enemy is that which divides to sow discord. The enemy is the pride and the fear that stops us from lending a hand across the divide. The enemy is the great and eternal adversary of mankind. And if we demonize our brothers, our comrades-in-arms, do we not precisely call that dread spirit forth? Have we not yet learned? Courage, trust, truth, love, even onto your enemy, which is yourself. God forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us. May what is highest guide our vision. May what is highest open our ears. May what is highest guide our tongues. And may we pray, fearful of the hell that we could so easily and carelessly create, deliver us from evil. Shine a light into the corners of our dark hearts for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.’

Arnold Frey



# Thank you!

THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND  
VOLUNTEERS FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL  
DRIVE-THRU BBQ FUNDRAISER IN NOVEMBER!



## Lighthouse Ministries International

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