



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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Lighthouse Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars!

Beef BBQ Supper

Tuesday, September 27th

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LMI in Ghana



the week as we visited the people and programs sponsored by LMI. At first as we drove through the countryside, I saw only jungle and wasteland, but as we learned to identify the vegetation the landscape took on new meaning. What I initially thought was wild overgrowth or thick jungle, was actually groves of bananas, palm trees, cocoa beans, papaya and coconuts and fields of pineapple, cassava, and maize. Every country I have visited has its own beauty and potential, and Ghana is no exception.



The same is true for the people. Due to cultural, climate and economic differences, we don't have the same standards of living but people are the same world over; they all bleed red, live and die, weep and laugh, have the same human

desires and the need of a Saviour. No matter where I go, I find people who want money without working and people who are willing to invest their time and resources into improving their own lives and the communities they live in.

Part of combatting poverty is the challenge of educating people. In Ghana, girls would rather get pregnant in their teens than learn a skilled trade and hold a job until they are old enough to marry and take care of a family. People would rather invest their money into the purchase of the latest smartphone than save for a capital purchase in the future, even though it is impossible to get a loan because credit is unavailable. Public healthcare funded by the government is available, but many do not see the value of a \$5/year fee for a health card. Many people who graduate from high school want to be handed money rather than work for a living. These types of perspectives, coupled with an environment that presents less automatic privileges than the average American takes for granted, create a cycle of dysfunctional families, illness, hunger and abuse which we label as poverty.

It was an inspiring experience to see firsthand how your monetary gifts channeled through LMI are impacting the lives of Ghanaians.

- We visited numerous children who are enrolled in the LEAF program; meeting them at the school they attend or in their homes and villages.



- What joy to see Michael come running to meet us! He was at one point in danger of having his leg amputated due to an accident and through your gifts was able to access healthcare for his broken leg.



- Timothy, a former resident of the Lighthouse children's home, is the owner of a MF 285 tractor and plow. He owns farmland and does custom work. It is common knowledge in Ghana that this series of tractor is the best; it is the only model that has parts available in the country.



- The young boy, Philip, preaching to his mother from the New Testament he received from Gideons Bible through school.



- The new children's home provides not only a safe and comfortable place of care while children wait reunification

with their families, but a place where they receive academic and scriptural education.



- Joyce, a former LEAF recipient, who now administrates a portion of the LEAF program herself.



For every child in the childrens home there are a thousand more on the streets of Accra. For every child enrolled in the LEAF program, there are ten thousand more that would be eligible. The magnitude of the needs can be daunting but your gifts are making a difference one child at a time.

I was challenged by people I met in Ghana. People who are passionate about serving where they are and making a difference in their communities. Their opportunities, vision, resources and energy coupled with your funds enable them to do the Lord's work of "defending and delivering the poor, fatherless, afflicted and needy". Psalm 82:2-3.

May "the spirit of the Lord be upon (us), because He has anointed (us) to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent (us) to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." Luke 4:18

Carol Horst

LEAF Program - Philip's Story continued...

Philip was in the middle of preaching Jesus Christ to his mother when he heard the shout "Williams is coming!" He tossed his New Testament on the windowsill of the two-roomed mud hut and ran to meet him. Williams was accompanied by a group of Canadians and the nurse practitioner of the local medical clinic. They were thankful to see Philip in such an excellent state of health.

Philip's mother first noticed that something was wrong with her newborn baby in his first week of life. For 10 years she did not know what was wrong with him until he was brought into contact with Williams through the LEAF program and the local medical clinic where he was diagnosed with Hirschsprung's Disease. With funds from LMI, he received corrective surgery on his bowels. She was surprised and amazed that anyone would come to their aid because the community had written him off. But God intervened to redeem Philip's life. He can now carry two buckets of water and play football with the other boys. He is currently in Class 4 at school and hopes to be a doctor someday.



Board Report

And Jesus . . . was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd. Mark 6:34 The preceding quote is one of about a dozen times in the Gospels where Jesus talked of having compassion for the people around Him. In Mark 6, Jesus had just asked His disciples to come apart and rest. From this we can deduce they must already have been weary, but as the people thronged them the response was not one of frustration but compassion. What an example! Jesus instructed us to live a life of service as well.

And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. Mark 10:44 In our recent visit to Ghana we were greatly encouraged and blessed by the many individuals who were giving selflessly as Jesus taught.

In the children's home the selfless spirit of the caregivers was evident by taking a quick peek into their personal quarters. Here they are to have their very own space for beds and storage, but instead of the storage area we saw small toddler beds. The caregivers gave of their personal space and time to have the vulnerable little children close to them rather than on the other side of the home. This outward sign clearly displayed what was close to their hearts.

The children's home administrator, Sylvester, has blessed the work of the home with his clear vision, boundless energy, and compassionate service. He is a very gifted man who would receive much higher pay working for government offices or schools while also working fewer hours. Instead, he has intentionally chosen to work in a field of service where the pay is not the reason for staying at the job. The reason for staying springs from a heart of compassion that desires to follow the command of Jesus to serve our fellowman.

In my first meeting with Williams, the director of LEAF, I was impressed by the desire to give back to the many poor people in farming villages where he grew up. After having established a career as an IT expert for Ghanaian banking systems, he quit his career to serve his fellowman, particularly the farming villages. Through his educational, vocational, and medical programs countless opportunities arise to tell the people about Jesus.



Through Williams we met Naomi. She is the head nurse of a government run medical clinic in the Swedru farming regions. The Ghanaian government has a health program to assist their people with medical costs. Unfortunately, many villagers have never been signed up. When a villager comes to the clinic with a medical need, Naomi is required to send them away if they do not have either cash upfront or the government health card. Sending an urgent case away with out help is very difficult to do. Many times, Naomi and her nursing staff will come together to decide whether they have enough funds to pay the patient's bill out of their own meager pay.

One final example that has inspired me for many years is the Ghanaian board's service. Contrary to their culture, they are serving faithfully on the board with no reimbursement. To see their passion and realize their service is countercultural is a testament of the servant heart that comes when we follow Jesus.

May we all be found serving selflessly in God's kingdom,

Matt Frey

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Calvin Frey (Vice Chair) | (519) 698-0336

Matthew Frey (Chairman) | (519) 638-0122

Kevin Weber (Board Member) | (519) 292-1327

Annual Fundraiser Supper

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Wallenstein Bible Chapel

Supper from 5:00 - 7:00

Program starts at 6:45

Singing starts at 6:00

Singing before and after the program

RSVP:

call or text 519-616-4133 for tickets

Everyone is welcome; your early confirmation is appreciated.

Limited number of walk-in meals available.

Tickets are:

Freewill Donation - no receipt issued for donations for the meal