



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Newsletter - 33rd Edition
Spring 2012

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Mark your calendars!
The Annual Lighthouse
Ministries Garage Sale
May 11-12
in Wallenstein



A note on the **FARMING PROJECT**

The dry season is always a slow time for Ghanaian farmers. Growing crops is difficult. The dry, dusty, hot weather is difficult to work in. This year we chose not to try to grow any crops during the dry season, but rather to use this time to prepare for our main growing season which begins in May. It has meant many long, grueling days working in the hot sun to clear land, remove tree stumps, dig ditches, and create new fields for this year's crops. Each of the six full-time employees at the farm have been working very hard, but the work is difficult and not usually very enjoyable.

It has been our dream since the beginning of this project to have livestock on the farm to provide good, honest work to our employees at any time of the year. This dream recently came true, when a long-time friend approached us about investing in a project on the farm. With the support of some businessmen and their local church, funds were raised in early February to start a beef cattle project here in Ghana.

We immediately set to work preparing land for pastures, building fences and installing water pipes. The site chosen for the pasture is an area of low-lying land which has proved difficult to farm during the rainy season. We cleared most of the brush from the area and began cutting fence posts

out of old coconut trees. The posts were then treated and we began the process of installing them. Three strands of high tensile wire and a solar fence shocker completed the 14 acre pasture. Water pipes were laid to bring water to a nearby storage tank, and a water trough was made from an old construction tire.

By the end of February, we were ready for animals, and it was time to go to the cattle market. We decided to travel to the northern part of Ghana where the dry season was especially bad in hopes of getting our animals at a lower price. After a very long journey, we reached the town of Gushiegu in time for market day on Friday, March 2nd. By the end of the day, we were the proud owners of ten young heifers. The heifers were thin and weak, and the twenty-three hour ride home was very stressful on us all, but we all arrived safely on the farm by Saturday evening.

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Buying the cows at the market



Bringing the cows home in the cattle truck



Cows grazing in their new pasture

cont....

The new venture has been an exciting one. The cattle are now settled in to their new home and enjoying the fresh grass. They have filled out and are looking much healthier already in just a few weeks time. Our workers have also embraced the project. It's a pleasure to see their excitement and dedication to the farm. Our plan is to start breeding them by the end of the year so we can begin growing and improving our herd.

The purpose of the Lighthouse farm project is to provide opportunities and training to young Ghanaians who are interested in agriculture. While we are technically operating as a business, I've recently been challenged again with the task of being a missionary and representing Christ in every situation. Working day after day with these young men has opened countless opportunities to speak into their lives about life, hard work, relationships, morality, time management, and so much more. We don't claim to have all the answers (or even most of them), but we are blessed every day to be where God has placed us and we thoroughly enjoy the ministry of discipleship.

In recent years there has been a surge in foreign investment in Ghana. Oil companies are coming in, beach resorts are being opened, businesses are being opened. The opportunities in Ghana are so great, but investors are coming for what seems like every reason except

reaching out to people. How incredible it would be if they had the same passion for the things above.

Regardless of where God may lead you in the future, I want to encourage you to be a missionary wherever you are and represent Christ to those around you.

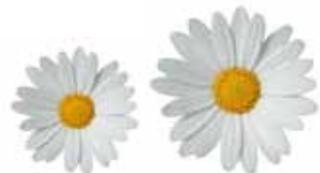
As we look back over the first one and a half years on the farm, it is so clear that God has been faithful through it all. We are thankful for your prayers and encouragement, and specially thankful to our dear friends at Living Stones Fellowship in Bird-in-Hand, PA for their support of our new venture. We pray God will bless you all richly, as he has done for us.

-Jonathan Greff

Farewell to Martha!

Martha will be greatly missed at the Lighthouse. She was a cook there and has made many meals for the hungry children and staff. We recently had a farewell for her to show appreciation for all her very hard work.

Thank-you Martha and God's blessings as you move on from here.





Martha shows appreciation for the occasion

Prayer & Praise

Pray that the children in our care would meet Jesus during their stay at the home.

Pray for continued health and safety the Lighthouse children and staff.

Pray that Jonathan's beef farming venture could be profitable.

Pray for the new staff members as they grow into their new roles.

Praise God for the positive results of the LEAF program.

Praise the Lord that the staff vacancies have been filled.



Children, staff, and members enjoying the meals at the Sendoff for Martha

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.

Board Report

As I write this report, we are enjoying an exceptional early spring here in Ontario, Canada. With this mild weather, plants and trees are “springing” to life. The plants that are budding and leafing out, brings to my mind an analogy that our spiritual lives also need to a “newness of life”. Romans 6: 2-4 tells us of the need to be dead to sin and raised in Christ to walk in newness of life. This is our prayer that we all continue to pursue this “newness of life” so we can express verse 11 of the same chapter: “To be alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” I understand there have been six new children admitted to the home in this last period, of whom were brought to us by the Department of Social Welfare. In this same period, on the recommendations of the same Department, five children were sent back to their parents and relatives. These happenings beg the question. What have we as Light House Children’s Home done to instill seeds that can be nurtured into “newness of life” in these children’s lives? They are fed physically three times a day with food that meets the required nutritional standard. We cloth them, we provide medical support if required, and send the school age children to school for academic growth. All this is good, but the development of spiritual direction is crucial. To help plant these seeds our advisory board in Ghana has put in place a program to continue Bible studies and prayer in the Home on a regular basis, but to also pursue Churches outside the Home to worship on Sundays and fellowship with members. You see, it is no different in the Lighthouse Children’s Home than in our homes. The devil does not want us spending time in the Word and growing in God’s grace! So pray for the Administrator, the House father and the advisory board in Ghana as they continue this work. We thank you all for your continued support. This may be in the form of prayers, funding, words of encouragement or your time. We are blessed to be recipients of all these and ask for your prayers for wisdom in using and disbursing them according to God’s will.

God Bless, *Paul Horst* for LMI board

Life at the Home



The children, Staff, and board members at the Lighthouse



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