



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

46th Edition
Summer 2016

Lighthouse Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Fall Beef BBQ Supper

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Redeemed Vocational School Report



Michael and Wismith met in Fond Parisien, Haiti over 20 years ago. Michael was on a work team and Wismith was studying English. Because of their friendship, we've had the opportunity to see a nice idea become a clear vision, fueled by passion and inspiration from God and His Word, encouraged and motivated by many friends, resulting in the current reality of Redeemed Vocational School. We've had the privilege of observing God's faithfulness to Wismith and Becca, and their unwavering trust in a God for whom nothing is impossible.

As a family, our goal in spending this year in Haiti at RVS, is simply to lend a helping hand in whatever way possible. It is true that even in ideal conditions we need each other, and life in Haiti makes this an even more vivid reality! So, helping takes many forms—from the daily routines to special projects, from hosting groups of visitors to building individual relationships, from thinking and

planning for the future to taking care of needs in the present.

Michael is learning and practicing welding with a group of young men several mornings each week. They have been making water jug holders to sell, learning about the financial aspect of the project, and looking for other project ideas. In addition, he finds himself running errands, doing maintenance, organizing, learning Creole, working and playing with neighbour boys, assisting in the mechanic shop and in the school office, helping with a children's summer English class, and making sure our family is cared for well.

Rebeca teaches English at RVS—a regular class that runs on a nine month academic schedule, and the current summer class for children. She tries to be available to help as needed, while also caring for our home and family, homeschooling our three daughters, and relating to the neighbours and children that like to visit us.

Our little girls—ages 9, 8, and 5—are, overall, willing participants in our life at RVS, though they miss friends and family a lot. We try to involve them as much as possible in everything we do, and they enjoy being able to help accomplish



various projects. They are learning Creole, homeschooling, keeping in touch with people back home, making new friends, and finding adventure

and contentment in the many changes, challenges, and opportunities that living in Haiti presents.

Life at RVS is busy for everyone—students, teachers, other staff, and visitors. It is a sign of life—growing, changing, learning, and persevering. We are grateful for the opportunity to spend 2016 in Haiti at RVS.

Michael & Rebeca, Kezia, Elian, Sofia Gingerich



Life At The Lighthouse Children's Home



I started working at the Light House Children's Home (LHCH) on the 2nd of September 2015, as part of my national service and in the capacity of a Social Worker. Sincerely speaking I was quite skeptical about how life would be in the Home with the children. Little did I know that I would grow so fond of the children and my job that I would even get emotionally attached.

After meeting the staff and the children at LHCH, my uncertainties faded away as they gradually warmed themselves into my heart and I, into theirs. We are one big family, where the staff are like guardians who have the interest of the children at heart and will go to all extents to ensure the children are well taken care of.

Currently, the Home has 18 Children namely; Bismarck Abban, Emmanuel Obeng, Dorothy Larsuk,

Samuel Alorkhpa, Kojo Poku, Mary Eshun, Stephen Owusu, Praise Dadze, Blessing Dadze, Bashid Abdul, Courage Baidoo, Diana Obenewa, Kofi Tigbin, Mercy Eyiku, Elizabeth Annan, Philip Mawena, Araba Nhyira and Kwame Amuzu.

Also, there are seven members of staff; the Administrator (Mr. Yeboah), the Matron (Rosemond Ivy Mensah), the Cleaner (Hannah Kwofie) the two Security men (Francis Tayan - Day; and Nimorious Nyineakakone - Night), the Spiritual Advisor (Gifty Saah), two Caregivers, (Esther Bani and Rita Dede Tawiah) and a Social Worker (Priscilla E. Koomson, myself).

The children begin their day at 5:00am in the morning. They have their morning devotion for about 30minutes and then carry out their morning chores. By 6:00am, they shower and have their breakfast between 6:30am to 7:00am. Finally, they all leave for their individual schools by 7:30am. The younger children are given snacks for school and the older ones are given GH¢1 each day to buy food during their lunch break.

The children attend four different schools namely; Cape Coast International School, St Lawrence Catholic School, Good Samaritan School and Eyifua Basic School. The children close from school between 3:30pm-4:00pm and latest by 4:30pm they will all be at the Home.

After school, the children have their lunch and afternoon classes before having their bath and supper. They usually have their playtime at weekends and during that time they are given snacks as a treat.

Recently, one of the children in the person of Albert Manu (alias Akuffo Addo) was adopted. This little boy was rescued from a public toilet where his mother intended to kill him. He was sent to the Social Welfare Department and they in turn brought him to us. He was brought on the 20th of October, 2015 and he stayed at the Home for less than a year.

During his stay, he was the youngest child at the Home. He used to run to the Office right after he closes from school (he schooled at Good Samaritan School and was in Crèche) and greet us. Afterwards, he would rush out playfully to greet the Staff inside the House.

After having his lunch, he and the other three younger children will all come to the office and tell me all about their day and what they learned at school. This act on a regular basis increased the love and bond we share each day and I always look forward to them closing from school and telling me all about their day.

Albert Manu was adopted by Madam Ekuia Essoun on the 25th June, 2016. His adoption came as a blow to the Board, Staff and Children at the Home. Everyone was quiet after his adoption and

we all kept asking ourselves why he had to leave us so soon. He was indeed a very bubbly child and his absence has been greatly felt. We wish him well and pray that he quickly adjusts into the new family God has given him and grows to become a responsible member of the society.

The three younger children (Araba Nhyira, Kwame Amuzu and Philip Mawena) left are still my joy and my motive is to continually be there for them, as well as the older children as much as I can.



Although, we are referred to as a closed down orphanage by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), we are still their preferred place for temporary stay of children who are brought to them by the Police. Below are the three children brought to the Home by the DSW for temporary stay whilst enquires were being made to find their biological family members; All the three children brought by the DSW, were released to them after contacting their families.

As a Non Governmental Organization, we are most grateful to our Donors (both foreign and local) who have effortlessly put smiles on the faces of these needy

children. To the Board and Staff we say God Richly Bless them for their time and energy.

Carol Bellamy once said "... in serving the best interest of Children, we serve the best interest of all HUMANITY".

Long Live our Donors, Long Live our Board and Staff, Long Live LHCH... SHALOM!!!



Cover Picture: Albert Manu
Compiled By: Priscilla
Ewurabena Koomson (Social
Worker, (Acting Administrator)
LHCH)



Fall Beef BBQ Supper

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

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

Board Report

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Psalm 121:1-3.

Greetings to each of you in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour, the one who – praise God – does not slumber or sleep. What a comfort this is to know that our God is always near and sees our every move! He is intimately interested in each of our lives, in the lives of the children and staff in Ghana, the students in LEAF, the staff and students at RVS in Haiti, and the staff and participants in Jamaica Music Camp.

At LMI, recently, we have been confronted with challenges in finding a new location for the children's facility. Several times we assumed that arrangements were made for a new rental, only to have it be given to a different tenant. With the challenge of moving also came the challenge of funding the closure of the current facility and the down payment of a new location. But our Lord was not sleeping! We received some very timely donations to see us through the "crunch". Through all of this, we have but a minor share of the load in comparison to the task that our Ghanaian board faces. We are thankful for the great efforts which they expend to keep things in operation. I was much encouraged by a recent email

we received from our Ghanaian chairperson, Brother David. This is what he sent after funds were received to move ahead with moving plans:

Greetings;

We praise God for this great news! It proves God's faithfulness towards us and it is not to be taken for granted. Indeed I have been burdened of late with a lot of uncertainties about how we shall pull through. Quickly the Lord reminded me yesterday again in Psalm 125:1, "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever." May we be blessed as we continue to trust God for all things.

Even as pressures are coming in from all angles I am being reminded that he who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the cause. Jesus is Lord!

We appreciate you and promise to continue offering our best until the battle is won. The battle line is drawn but we shall be there, God being our help!

May we all be soldiers in the battle of our King and keep marching on even through the pressures and uncertainties of life. A heartfelt thank you for your support through prayers and funds. We ask for your continued support as we soldier on for our King who slumbers not!

On behalf of the board,
Matt Frey

Lighthouse Ministries International

www.lighthouseministriesint.org

21 Church St. W.

Elmira, Ontario, N3B 1M2



Board Members: (left to right)

Paul Horst (Treasurer) | (519) 669-4483

Lamar Frey | (519) 291-9927

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

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

Arnold Frey (Chairman) | (519) 846-5898

A Capella Choir Camp Report

On March 27th, a team of six from Canada and four from the United States travelled to Jamaica for A Capella Choir Camp. This was the sixth year of running a week of music camp for Jamaican teens. This year there were twenty-eight campers where eighteen were attending for at least the second time. It has been amazing to see how the camp continues to grow and the enthusiasm that the Jamaican teens have for learning how to sing a capella music.



I have had the opportunity to be along for the last five years and help out with the chapel sessions in the morning and also to sing in the choirs. A couple of praise and prayer items from this past year's camp are:

- Praise God for another successful camp.
- Praise God for safety and health during camp.
- Pray for each camper that came that they would continue to follow God and that they would continue to learn from what was shared in devotional and chapel sessions.
- Pray that the words of the songs we sang would continue to speak to the campers.

Thank you to Lighthouse for your support again this past year. Please continue to pray for the ongoing witness for Christ in Jamaica.

-Chris Jantzi

