



LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

40th Edition
Summer 2014

Lighthouse Newsletter



Mark Your Calendars!
Annual Fall Beef BBQ - Sept. 9
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Kathy's Ghana Trip

It was in February of this year that I first got a wind of the fact that my dream of returning to Ghana for a visit might become a reality in 2014. I was needed to attend the annual meeting over there. It was an exciting thought and that evening before I fell asleep I had all my suitcases packed in my mind and was ready to go!!! What a chance to reconnect with the children who considered me their mom for so many years and are now young adults. July 18th was the big day and Danielle, Shantelle and Trevon and I boarded a plane along with my parents, Delfred and Doris Weber and Arnie Frey bound for a reunion with the place and people that had been home for my husband and I for a number of years as we served at the Lighthouse Children's Home.

When we arrived in Accra we packed ourselves like sardines along with our luggage into the van that was to take us back to Cape Coast and I was "home." The heat, the stop and go traffic, the blaring of the horns, the bumpy roads and the sights and sounds were so familiar it did not seem like six years had already passed since I was there last. It was entertaining to take it all in again.

The first person I got to see was Auntie Esi a dear elderly lady who lived around the corner

from us and though we could not understand each other very well without an interpreter we always had enjoyed visiting and clearly understood the language of smiles. She was very excited to show me that she was still wearing the pair of crocs that I apparently sent her several years ago and praised the good quality of them and how much she likes them. Then she wondered if I could possibly send her a green pair with Grandpa next time. Green ones she said would look very fine for church. Auntie Esi is a lady that never receives a gift without giving something in return and we left her little table where she sells her few items with a coconut for Trevon and a handful of ground nuts (peanuts) and limes. She is a very poor lady by our standards but energetic and content and lifts my spirits.

Our next stop was the Lighthouse Children's Home. It has changed so much since we lived there, with Kwesi being the only boy still there because the others are all 18 or older now and no longer qualify to live in an orphanage by Ghana's government regulations. In Ghana nearly all homes are enclosed with a wall topped with sharp glass, metal, or razor wire and the gate closed and locked. However the road is higher than the Lighthouse so the children inside the gate

were able to see the moment the van pulled up and we stepped out. The shouts of “Grandpa! Grandpa!” brought everyone running and laughing, so happy to see Grandpa again. (Grandpa has always been the name for my dad over in Ghana, even the adults call him that.) It was wonderful to meet the new faces that now reside at the Lighthouse and encouraging for me to see first-hand that the Lighthouse Children’s Home is still ministering to the needs of children in Ghana. Danielle, Shantelle, Trevon and Grandma spend a lot of time at the Lighthouse playing with the children while I was in meetings with Arnie and Dad. Those meetings were the most encouraging aspect of my trip. I thank God for all the Ghanaian individuals who have taken an interest in the ministry of the Lighthouse and want to do something to help, want to take action and use their gifts, and their areas of expertise to help make the Lighthouse as effective as it can be to the lives that it impacts. The Ghanaian board, our administrator John, who is just starting his

position August 1st, the house parents Emmanuel and Olivia and all of you who support the ministry financially, prayerfully, serve on the board or toil over the fundraising events etc. are helping to provide a home, a place of safety, a place that offers full acceptance of each individual (some of these children are the ones that their parents chose as the one to not keep because they couldn’t afford to care for all their children), a place that introduces them to the love of God, their Shepherd, and guides them into building character that is pleasing to God in addition to feeding them three meals a day, giving them a place to sleep at night, clean clothes to wear, and schooling; things we take for granted on a daily basis. We were able to host a reunion for all those involved in the Lighthouse in the past, either as a child living there or staff working. It was a time full of delicious food (compliments of our always dependable Sister Martha), reminiscing, hugs and laughter – lots of laughter as many of the children do not see each other very often either as



they've moved back to their home villages or are gone to boarding school. I had asked some of our past volunteers to make copies of their photo albums for me to take along for the reunion. They were thoroughly enjoyed as it covered all first eight years of the Lighthouse and brought back many happy memories of their years growing up there.

We also experienced typical things that can be a great source of frustration sometimes for foreigners in Ghana. Number one is the waiting game. Things just simply take longer to accomplish and seem to usually start late. We did have some experiences at the police barriers again and our children found them intimidating as the officers carry their big guns and threaten to arrest drivers hoping to get a small amount of money in exchange for not arresting them! The first time we got pulled over at the police barrier they were going to arrest Grandpa because the vehicle we had rented had an expired fire extinguisher. The second time

was very amusing once we were on our way again. The officer, in attempt to find something wrong with the white man driving, pulled him over at the police barrier and asked him why he was following the truck. Trevon still laughs as he remembers. Grandpa replied with, "because he was in front of me." The officer took his licence and threatened to arrest him because there was no first aid box in the van. Each time our handy assistant, Sister Joyce, rescued us. We began to call her the lioness because she played their same game and wrote down their badge numbers threatening to report them to their superiors. It made them angry but we didn't have any problems after that.

Our week in Ghana was short and sweet. At times my heart was heavy as I listened to and observed the challenges that continue to be the normal for them in their economy but I will always cherish this privilege of seeing and being with my Ghanaian family once again.

-Kathy Weber



Leaf Program Administrator Report

I am Joyce Nana Ekua Entsie and am a committed Christian enjoying my liberties in Christ Jesus. I am administrator of the LEAF program in which there are currently nine students, two girls and seven boys; namely Washington Anowie, first year student of Methodist Senior High School, Abubakari Aidoo second year student of St. Vincent Senior High School, Abednego Kelvin Annan first year student of Kwegyir Aggrey Senior High School, Abraham Eshun a second year students of Gomoa Potsin Junior High school, Bernard Matthews first year student of University of Cape coast studying bachelor of Business Administration, Samuel K. Hammond first year student of Cape Coast Polytechnic studying H.N.D Business Administration, Selina De-Souza a proud second year student of Aggrey Memorial Senior High School, Dennis Kra University of Cape Coast studying bachelor of science, and Victoria Ama Mensah who has currently completed Martin Luther Health Training School.

I also have two incoming students. They are Abigail Annan and Emanuel Kofi Tettey. They have written their application letters and are waiting for acceptance in the schools and the LEAF program.

It is my responsibility, along with Delfred Weber (a.k.a

Grandpa), to review requests and then make recommendation to the Canadian Board for funding, to keep records of all funds, to pay the fees in various schools, to attend Parent Teacher Association meetings (P.T.A), to submit terminal reports, to budget the required amount from school authorities per term/semester, to contact school authorities about their performance, and to verify requests for additional materials.

In addition to these responsibilities I have taken the opportunity to mentor the LEAF students. I am honoured to fill the role of administrator for the LEAF program and especially enjoy talking and sharing ideas about education, problems in schools etc. I will take this opportunity to thank Lighthouse Ministry International for supporting these young ones, there are more countries, but you chose Africa, especially Ghana.

God bless you all.

-Joyce



Joyce
Nana
Ekua
Entsie

Board Report

At the time of writing this article I have just returned from a visit to the Lighthouse Children's Home in Ghana. Delfred Weber, Kathy Weber and I were in Ghana to attend the annual general meeting of Lighthouse Children's Home, the NGO that operates the children's home that we have in that country.

Ghana is not always the easiest country in which to get things done in an efficient manner or even to figure out the due process required to get things done properly. Theoretically the country has many rules and policies to regulate an organization such as ours but in practice what gets done can be quite conflicting. So in our case we have requirements for space and amenities needed per child (which makes perfect sense) but even though we have more children in the home than we can accommodate to meet those requirements, the Social Welfare department keeps bringing us additional children. This is happening because of a serious shortage of facilities such as ours in the country and there is simply no other place to take them. Again, under the circumstances this is understandable, but then Social Welfare is "not able" to renew our official operating registration because we are "overcrowded" and have too many children to meet the requirements. Now I wonder how that came about?? (A humorous example of these kinds

of circular conflicts was shared by an American living there about the requirements for opening a bank account in the country. To get a bank account you need residency status and to get residency status you need a bank account... hhhmmm.)

So we struggle to get official papers signed etc. but in practice Lighthouse Children's Home has never been more needed than it is at this time. The country is in the midst of a serious economic down turn and even government agencies are not receiving their funding allotments. We were told that Social Welfare employees are using monies from their own pockets for even minor things such as taxi fare to travel to investigate reported problems or bring children to the Lighthouse as they have not received program funding since February of this year. Most of you reading this article have never lived in a country where inflation is running rampant and life is a day to day struggle to survive. Let us never take for granted the blessings we enjoy.

Our visit to Ghana was a good time of depending on the Lord and watching Him work things out in His good timing. We are extremely blessed with the local people we have that are willing to serve on the board and staff positions at LHCH. Brother David the board

Fall Beef BBQ Supper

chair of LHCH did a superb job of organizing the week and chairing the various meetings that we had while we were there. At a strategic planning meeting that we had, it was unanimously agreed that the highest objective of the home is to give children an environment that will be conducive to them becoming "good Christians" later in life. Thank you to all the good people in Ghana that are working hard to make LHCH a place where children are cared for in a Christian manner. We all felt truly blessed as we left for home and we wish the Lord's richest blessing on all those working in this area of His vineyard.

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and desire that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

-Arnold Frey



September 9, 2014

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:

Martin / Grove Quartet

Set Free Quartet

Special guest speaker:



Wismith Joseph

from Redeemed Vocational School

Everyone is welcome; your early confirmation is appreciated. Tickets are available from the events committee.

Dave & Jo Martin | 519-638-2900

Doug & Sharon Weber | 519-638-9998

Mervin & Janelle Bauman | 519-574-2894

Keith & Diane Snyder | 519-669-4084

Tickets are: Free Will Donation

Lighthouse Ministries International

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Board Members: (left to right)

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

Lamar Frey | (519) 291-9927

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

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

Calvin Frey | (519) 698-0336

Board Changes



A special thanks to Ken Martin for his years of service on the Lighthouse Ministries board.



In Ken Martin's place, we welcome Calvin Frey, our new board member.

