



# HEARTBEAT



A NEWSLETTER OF HEARTS OF THE FATHER OUTREACH

## From the Founders



Christmas is a special time of year – beautiful lights, decorated trees, choosing gifts for loved ones, baking cookies, special holiday meals.



Even the music played in the stores and over the airways proclaims the joy of the season. If you are a child, it is especially exciting and much of the focus will be upon you. Our daughter Lily has already given me her “wish list.”

This excitement and pageantry are in sharp contrast to the humble manger where the baby Jesus was born. “No room at the inn” was the message his parents heard. Yet the wise men were led by a star to the child where he lay.

Angels proclaimed “Glad tidings to all” and directed the shepherds to the stable.

When I think about these different images of Christmas, and I think about the children we are trying to help, I’m reminded of that humble manger. Our prayer this season

is that more people will be led by the angels to make room in their hearts to help the orphaned and the fatherless.

Thank you for your gifts this past year, and thank you this Christmas for helping us continue to bring “Glad Tidings”... good news... to the children of the world.

With gratitude,

## 1st Annual Tournament for Orphans

September 21, 2007

**Tournament Winners – Team IGOE**

**Overall Winners – Children with no parents and no idea what a golf ball is**

*By Libby Moritz*

‘With God, all things are possible’ were the words that reoccurred time and again as I planned for this benefit tournament. John had said, “The golf club has given us a date, lets get started!” **Just six weeks away, no budget, no committee, never done it before, and needing to raise a bunch of prizes.** ‘Oh my’ – what is a putt-ing contest? What is closest to the pin? Talk about being overwhelmed. *“But, God!” It could only get done with His help.* And *WOW, what marvelous help He gave.* Everything came together amazingly. We had a gorgeous day with nearly eighty golfers. Everyone expressed how much fun he and she had and they were all pleased to support the cause of orphans. They left that evening feeling like they made a difference. And they certainly did. The proceeds helped us cover the third term education costs for over 75 children in our Uganda programs, and ongoing expenses in Ghana and India. We even have some starting funds for a possible new program in Mexico. Our goal is to give children with no chance, a hope and a future. This is happening and you are playing a part in making it possible. ‘Way to go!’ and thank you. It’s also delightful that you can have fun doing it.

**Thank You!** *You made a difference in the life of a child.*

**Golfers... Sponsors... Volunteers... and Wyantenuck Country Club**





# THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES AND ORPHANAGES in Ghana

By John Moritz

[This article was written prior to the recent trip to Ghana inaugurate the ACHO]

## THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES AND ORPHANAGES

(ACHO) of Ghana has begun.

It is being welcomed and endorsed by the highest levels in the Ghanaian government. One of ACHO's founding board members is the Minister of Culture and Chieftancy, S.K. Boafo. The Hon. Mr. Boafo is a personal friend of Kwame Okofor, the President of Ghana. He is also a minister of the gospel. Other board members include representatives of Compassion International and World Vision.

The government has expressed a need for some orphanages and homes when it came to its attention to go forward with the Association and its accountability and better access to clothing, and

Over the past few years, many orphanages and homes, the Operation Breadbasket (a program of three of these homes): the St. Joseph's Orphanage in Wa, Upper West Region; the King's Orphanage in Kumasi, Ashanti Region; and, the James 1:25 Home in the Volta Region.

These homes were started by nuns, couples or individuals who saw a great need and felt compelled to help. They persevered through all kinds of circumstances and demonstrated their dedication and faithfulness. Without large

organizations and them, through the work of their own hands and the kindness of those who witnessed their efforts, they continued to selflessly to care for the children in their charge. They continue to this day. Many times it was after prayer that the needed financial resources arrived. These are representative of the homes that the Association is being formed to assist.

The Association has gotten off the ground. A generous couple here in the United States provided seed funding for the creation of the Association. Libby and I will travel to Ghana the first week in December for the official inauguration of ACHO. We look forward to its development over the next few years and will be actively seeking funding from large non-profit organizations and individual donors.

### News briefs...

An article about John and Libby and Hearts of the Father Outreach appeared in *People Magazine*, June 18, 2007.

An article about them is expected in *Guideposts Magazine* in March, 2008.





## Answered Prayer

By John Moritz

[We held the newsletter so we could get this report from John and Libby who just returned from Ghana.]

We have just returned from Ghana, West Africa, where we participated in the successful launching of the ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S HOMES AND ORPHANAGES. Government officials, the Bishop of all the Methodist Churches of Ghana, and many children from 22 children's homes participated.

It was a momentous first step. ACHO is now officially recognized. Its mission and goals have been publicized and applauded. It was also the answer for many people who have been praying for more assistance in rescuing orphaned and abandoned children.

Before leaving Ghana, I met with the newly installed officers of the Association. All of them gave me their testimonies of how they were called into this work. One Child Welfare officer, Mr. Albert Apemewoe shared this powerful experience:



Mr. Albert Apemewoe

*"I was working with the government and was stationed in a remote area in the Central Region. I was told about an orphanage near me and decided to investigate. The orphanage was run by a woman who had responded to the cries of the children. She had taken 12 of them into her "home." Her home was a dismal place but it was better than wandering the woods or begging for food. The children were fed a minimal diet, but they were all loved and happy.*

*At the urging of the housemother, who was semi-literate and could not write English, I volunteered to write appeal letters. We prayed over each letter. Over the months, people responded. The home began to flourish. I left my job to help full time. We evicted the chickens from the shed so I could have a place to sleep.*

*I taught the children how to pray to their Father in Heaven and the children became bold, like any other child is, in asking their earthly father for things. One child asked for book bags for everyone. I was shocked at the request but remained silent. One week later, book bags were brought by some European visitors. Another child prayed for rice, specifically 120 bags, 50 kilos each. Rice started to arrive, 20 bags at first, then 10, then 20 more. We kept a tally until all 120 bags came in, all in a very short time."*

Mr. Apemewoe shared another story, which moved me to tears. A condemned prisoner sent a note with some money for the home. About two weeks before his execution, he sent a representative to the home with some more supplies. Albert felt moved to go to the prison to visit the man. When they met, Albert told him that he felt that one

day the prisoner was going to visit the home. How outrageous that must have sounded because the man's only hope was a presidential pardon. When Albert returned to the orphanage, he and the children prayed in earnest. Two days before the expected execution, the man was, in fact, pardoned by the President and released. He is now at the home working as a house father, using his pharmaceutical training and military background to guide the children and help the village with its first clinic.

God listens to His children's prayers. I am honored to serve with people like Albert who have joined with us.

### GHANA MISSIONS TRIP 2008

February 14–25, 2008

**Where:** Ghana, West Africa

**Cost:** \$2,600.00 per person

(covers airfare, lodging & food, in-country transportation – *adventure is included*)



- Help us improve and beautify our JoshKrisDan children's home in Old Ningo – painting, carpentry, masonry, landscaping
- Spend time mentoring the children
- We will also do a children's outreach in the local area, anticipating 3,000 children
- Dental clinic in several locations

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me."*

Matthew 25:40





## HIGHLIGHTS *from Kampala, Uganda*

*Hearts of the Father Outreach has two program locations in Uganda. The first one we started was in Tororo, a rural area in the south-east edge of the country near the border with Kenya. The Tororo program is where we sponsor orphans to live with Ugandan families.*

*Tororo is also where we instituted the goat project, a micro-business that invested a pair of goats with each host family. The first offspring was donated back to the ministry for sale or placement with another family. Subsequent offspring were for the family to use, as they desired, for food or sale or to build a flock. The program has been very successful, however the families have discovered that the goats can prove cantankerous to manage. Some of them have traded up for a more manageable animal called a cow.*

*The second program operates from the Seguku Katale suburb of the capital, Kampala. Our local Kampala board reviewed the Tororo program and proposed a version modified for this urban setting. It is administered by Moses Bwambale (that's easy for you to say). He recently sent us a four-page report, which we have summarized below:*



Since the beginning of the year the HFO Program has been steadily impacting the community. The idea of fostering children in homes was very new here. Most of the host parents are growing to understand it and sharing testimonies of what God is doing as a result.

Twenty-five children, ages 4 to 14, are being cared for under the auspices of HFO. They attend four different schools in the area. Their school fees and supplies, as well as their lunches, are paid by HFO. (Educational costs are above and beyond the sponsorship, which is supplied to the host families each month.) Their school performance is improving steadily as they adjust to school and get to know their teachers. Special tutoring, particularly in math and English, is being provided to some, usually during their days off.

Since the beginning of the year we have been meeting regularly for discipleship training. We meet on Saturdays at the HFO centre and I go to the schools on Tuesday and Thursday to teach and pray with the children. This was pre-arranged with the head teachers and agreed to by them. I alternate schools. We have been studying the Ten Commandments, the Kingdom of God (Heaven) and its principles, and to value and love God. Most of the children have impacted their host families. The parents speak favorably about the spiritual growth of the children. They speak about their prayer life, their personal discipline, and their good conduct and how it positively affects the other children and the family in general. The children have begun to enjoy belonging in their families, even readily helping with household chores.

At our Saturday meetings we also do sports. They enjoy various games that help them develop their talents. They also learn self-discipline, learn to control themselves and bear with others. We also provide them lunch. They always need food after playing. World Food Programme has been supporting us since the beginning of the year but they have informed us that they are phasing out that support in 2008.

Our children have been involved in children's choir. They can minister to others in churches and be a blessing to other children. We also arrange plays of stories of Jesus and of Moses and the Israelites. We are arranging an outing in December immediately after they break off for the holidays. It will take place on the beach of Lake Victoria where they will also visit the Zoo.

These are the activities that have gone on. Much has been realized in their lives, spiritually, socially, academically and in building character. There have been some minor challenges but we have been able to sort them out. Otherwise, we continue to thank God for the support of the ministry here in Kampala. We have seen God doing good things. Thank you for the privilege of serving with you. It has helped me to grow, mature, and discover my calling.

Blessings,  
Moses



**We will be in Uganda in January, 2008, and plan to inaugurate a third program near Jinja at that time.**





## Mariana Manuela Cruz Lozano, Cuernavaca, Mexico

November 24, 2007

Dear John, Libby and sponsors at Hearts of the Father Outreach,

The first thing that I want to do is give you cordial greetings and big thanks for all the help that you have given me these past years. It started when I entered the orphanage. I thank God that He put me in your path. As you know I was in the orphanage for 11 years. I studied from the 4th grade, until my first year in the University. That's when I left the orphanage to reunite with my family and you have still helped me with my studies. For that reason I am thankful with all of my heart.

I want to tell you also about my daily activities. In the mornings I work cleaning houses and in the afternoons I go to school. You might be thinking why am I working if you were paying for my school? I think that a person needs to learn how to earn money and also, I need to help my mother.

I am studying to be a lawyer and have only one year left. I am very thankful for all your help. Without it I would not be where I am now.

I also want to say that we went with Jeremy and Bruce [and the team from Christ the Rock Church] to the outreach in Chalco. It was awesome. The experience was unforgettable. I want to tell you about my spiritual life. The church that I go to is



close to where I live. Though I go almost every Sunday, I feel I need to seek more of God in my life. I want to have a stronger sense of His presence. I gain peace thinking it will come in time.

Again I thank God for all the blessings He has given me. I want to say God bless you and may God fill you with grace and happiness.

*Mariana Manuela Cruz Lozano*

*Mariana came to the orphanage at age 10. Her father had abandoned the family. Her mother worked several hours from their dwelling. She often had to leave Mariana and her younger brother alone, often for days at a time. Their home was in an isolated area without electricity or phone service. The mother worried for the children's safety. Though it was not an easy thing for her mother's heart, she was grateful to be able to place Mariana in the home and know she was taken care of.*

*Though Corazones del Padre, Cuernavaca, Mexico, transitioned back to local governance last year and no longer receives support from HFO, HFO continues to help four alumni of the home with their higher education. Mariana is one of them. (Mariana's letter was translated from Spanish courtesy of Andrea Uchani.)*

### *In Memoriam*

**Vivian Beatty**

A friend of HFO, Vivian was a sponsor and supporter. She brought donated sewing machines to our home in Cuernavaca where she spent several weeks teaching sewing to the older girls. At age 78, she traveled to Ghana for an Operation Christmas Child distribution. Energetic and engaging, she exemplified a spirit of love and service. She graduated to Heaven in November, at age 83. Thank you Vivian, for giving of yourself to help the children.



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Thank  
you



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## Could that someone else be you?

*By Libby Moritz*

We just arrived back from Ghana. It was wonderful to be able to spend some extended time at the JoshKrisDan home this trip. A number of the children were away at university, and a number were still at boarding school. Two new children, siblings, Belinda, 10, and Raymond, 8, have been taken in. They came from a desperate situation in a slum area outside Tema.

During the last day of our visit, many of the children were finishing letters to their sponsors for us to carry back to the states. The older children wrote theirs in their rudimentary English, then helped the younger children. Belinda was excited to write a letter as well.

As the children wrote, they talked animatedly and brought out pictures sent by their sponsors. Gradually, Belinda, realized that she didn't actually have a sponsor. Her countenance changed, giving way from excitement to sadness. As John and I prepared to leave she came to me and put her arms tightly around my waist. She was quietly whispering something I couldn't understand. I asked Esther, the house mother, to translate. Esther leaned down and listened carefully. Belinda, Esther said, was asking me if she too could have a sponsor. Would I get her a sponsor, someone she could write to?

I took Belinda's little face gently in my hands and looked into her eyes. "Belinda, first of all, you need to know that God is watching over you. He loves you very much. He is your sponsor forever. He will be with you always. But we will find a human sponsor for you too. When we return in February, we will have a sponsor for you." Oh, she was excited again. She gave me another hug and ran off to be with the other children. As we drove away, I said to John, "We should sponsor Belinda." He thought for a moment and then replied, "We could, but I think we should let someone else have the opportunity of that blessing." Could that someone else be you?



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