

Evan's Yearly Ghana Trip to Visit the Beneficiaries

In this newsletter, I will highlight a visit to a particular village during my recent trip to Ghana. I was in Ghana this summer from 7/1-7/25. During that time, the Ghana BTCTE staff and I visited 115 of the children and young adults we care for. I met 28 new beneficiaries for the first time, six of whom come from the same village. I will describe this particular visit, as it reveals the children's living conditions prior to receiving our support. I was in awe of these children's resiliency, and I think you will be impressed as well.

At the end of this newsletter, please read about our 6th Annual Sam Liss Memorial 5K on Oct. 1. We hope you can join us!

Evan Robbins

Jul 20, 2023

This village is set in a beautiful area where a river feeds into the ocean. It was a very nice community, and they took me on a walk to tour the surroundings.



Three of the new beneficiaries are children with the same mother but different fathers. Mary is the oldest, and she told me their backstory. This background goes for all three beneficiaries. They were born in a neighboring country to Ghana, Ivory Coast. Her mother died and she didn't know her father. After the death of her mother, a woman came to take the three children into her home. She then abused them. They had one meal a day and were forced to work smoking fish. They were beaten and verbally abused. They spent two years with this master and then someone notified their grandmother that they were being mistreated. The grandmother, who lives in Ghana, arranged for them to return to her. The grandmother doesn't have much money to care for them, but she tries her best. The children only get a small meal during the day and a meal at night. They bring 18 cents to school every day to buy rice.

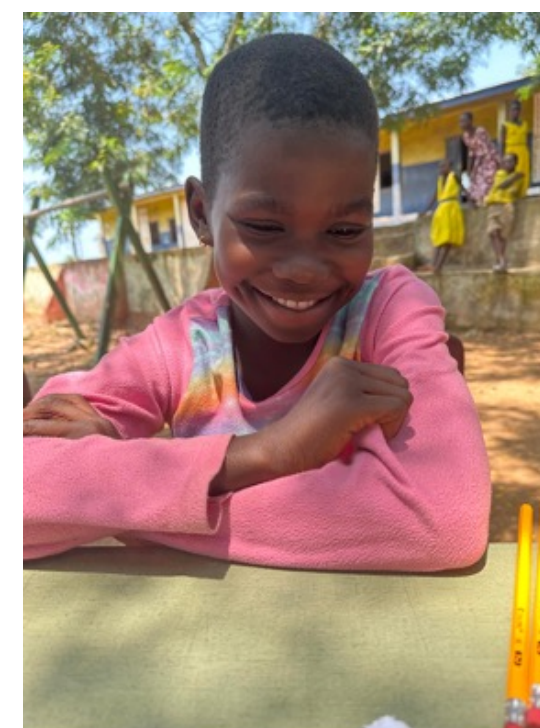
Mary: age 15, JHS 1 (equivalent to 6th grade) Likes school and would like to be a teacher. Her favorite subjects are science and math.



Theophilus: age 8, Class 2 (2nd grade) Her favorite food is Jollof rice, and her favorite game is football. She is happy at home and at school.

Desmond: 7 class 1: Same answers as his brother.

Next we have Hannah: 11 Class 2: Likes school. Crowded home. Happy at home and at school. I think about 11 people live at her home (which has 2 rooms). She only eats two meals a day of banku without protein (usually banku, a grain, is served with fish or meat).



This was a very difficult backstory. Born in the Ivory Coast. Mom had been trafficked. She had four children with another trafficked man who was owned by the same master. Mom took four children back to her birthplace in Ghana. Mom trafficked her back to Ivory Coast for 40 cents. After 6 months she requested to go back to Ghana and the master let her go. Mother tried to traffic her again but she was stopped by the CCPC Community Child Protection Council and Social Welfare. I spoke to Mom and we made it clear we would not tolerate her trying to traffic Hannah ever again

Vivian: 17 SHS 1. She goes to a tiny secondary school. I see schools with thousands and thousands of students all the time. She is one of 6 in her class. I can't imagine that it is a very good school. She lives at the school boarding facility. Vivian is studying hospitality and catering but would like to be a nurse. She didn't go to school. Her father was a fisherman and her mom smoked and sold fish. Vivian helped out. Her parents got divorced. Father ran away. Mom trafficked her. She was 5 when she was trafficked. Spent two years living with a master. A family member saw Vivian and the way she was abused. She took her to Ghana. She was brought to Ghana 12 years ago. She gets some money from her family to buy food or goes home and takes food back to her dormitory. The family can only afford to give her 20 cedis a week. About \$1.75. She needs financial support for everything. Actually, that goes for all of these children.



Michael: 19 stopped school after JHS 2. He's an orphan. Born in Ivory Coast. He never knew his father. Mother brought him to Ghana because he has epilepsy and she gave him to a healer. The healer abused him as a trafficked child. The Master was a woman who used him to smoke fish and do domestic work. When his mother died he came back for the funeral and his family insisted that he stay. Really liked his family. Get to that later. Michael would like to be a tailor. At first he wanted to stay in his village because he thought they could better help him if he has a seizure. We talked about it and explained we will bring him to a hospital and attempt to get him proper medical care. We will also educate his roommates and master tailor about his epilepsy and they can look after him. He decided that he wanted to go to Winneba. His relative was so thankful that we would help him that she broke down in tears. She doesn't have the resources to help and was so grateful.



If you would like to read more about my trip, [Click Here](#).

Upcoming Event: 6th Annual Sam Liss Memorial 5K

Registration and sponsorship are now open for our 6th Annual Sam Liss Memorial 5K in Metuchen on Sunday, October 1. Please note new location and new time!

Sam, one of the founding members of the MHS Club, tragically passed away in 2017 from cancer at the age of 25. This annual 5K honors Sam's life and raises money for a cause he cared deeply about.

Register to walk or run for a great cause at btcte.org/5krun23.
If you are interested in sponsoring the race, btcte.org/5ksponsor23.



Thank you to all who support BTCTE!
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