



# LIGHTHOUSE

— MINISTRIES INT. —

Enabling Christians to serve their communities

Newsletter - 68th Edition - Winter 2024





[www.lighthouseministries.ca](http://www.lighthouseministries.ca)  
21 Church St W.  
Elmira, Ontario, N3B 1M2

### **How to Donate**

- By E-transfer to: [donations@lighthouseministries.ca](mailto:donations@lighthouseministries.ca)

- By Cheque to:  
Lighthouse Ministries International  
21 Church St W  
Elmira ON N3B 1M2

- Sign up for monthly contributions by Automatic Funds Transfer. Provide a void cheque with the contribution card included with the newsletter

### **Our Vision**

Enabling Christians to serve their communities.

### **Our Mission**

We provide a conduit for resources to flow from our communities to needy recipients.

With these resources we support local programs in education, health, and community building, with a primary focus on children and youth in Africa.

We are passionate about sustaining local ownership of projects and programs and mitigating unnecessary dependencies.

Our desire is that all activities facilitate the growth of God's Kingdom on earth.

### **Our Programs**

- Education
- Medical
- Community Care
- Child Care

For more information feel free to contact one of the board members.

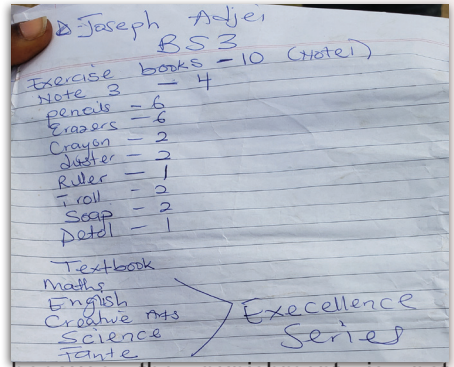


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- Matthew Frey (Chairman) | (519) 638-0122
- Marvin Weber (Vice-chair) | (519) 580-3860
- Arnold Frey (Board Member) | (519) 846-5898

# EDUCATION

Are a student attending school in America? Take a moment and imagine you are a child in Africa fortunate enough to attend school. The government supplies the building and teacher but you must bring your own exercise books, text books, and tools. Every item you have in your desk in America, you must bring to school in Africa. Of course, you bring your own lunch, but in Africa there might not be enough food for your lunch. You might not even get breakfast before you start your 16 km walk to school. If the school does not have enough chairs, you carry one to school; and after school you carry it back home again so that you can use it there. The school building needs only a roof to keep the rain out; walls are optional because it is always warm. It gets very warm in the classroom when there are 80 children in a room the same size as the one you attend in America, and there is no air-conditioning. In Africa, you try hard to have the correct answers and obey the teacher,



because the punishment is not usually missing recess or writing out lines, but often a beating. This is the only school life you know, and you cannot imagine going to school in America. But if you are lucky enough to attend school, you cheerfully walk the red dirt roads past the thick green banana groves and towering coconut palms. Whether your parents have enough income to pay for your school supplies or you receive money from kind strangers; you know it is important to learn how to read and write and add and subtract. Because when you can do this, your dream of being a seamstress or taxi driver or teacher might come true! Maybe you can even be a preacher someday because you can read from the Bible!



# BOARD REPORT

What is the value of a basic education? In North America, it is easy to take basic education for granted. The ability to read and write is woven into the fabric of our daily lives, from studying Scripture to penning a heartfelt note to a loved one. These fundamental skills, instilled from childhood, shape our view of the world, deepen our connection with God's Word, and enable us to navigate our complex society. However, this reality is far from universal.

According to a rather sobering UNESCO report, 1 out of 5 African children are not attending school. Many factors contribute to this situation however the primary reasons are poverty, conflict, and a

lack of infrastructure. Illiteracy robs children of opportunities, trapping them in cycles of poverty. It stifles their potential, limiting their ability to develop professional skills, or even fully engage with their communities. As Christians, we know that Jesus cared deeply for the vulnerable, and He calls us to do the same.

Consider what the ability to read means for us as Christians. Reading the Bible independently opens the door to understanding God's promises, building wisdom, and nurturing hope. Literacy is essential for spiritual growth and discipleship. When children are denied education, they are often cut off from this vital aspect of their walk with God. Educated children, however, have





the potential to become leaders, parents, and community members who can drive positive change. Providing access to education fulfills the biblical mandate to care for “the least of these” (Matthew 25:40).

At LMI we support several different educational programs in Ghana, and now also in Kenya. Through these initiatives, we have the privilege of helping some of the most vulnerable children gain access to education. While public education systems may be available in some areas, the cost of books, supplies, and school uniforms often remains a barrier. For many families, a \$40 contribution covering basic school supplies can be the difference between a child attending school or remaining on the streets.

From the children whose lives are being transformed through

education, I extend a heartfelt thanks to each of our supporters. Your generosity is truly changing lives and shaping brighter futures for hundreds of children. While you may never meet these young learners in person, please know that your contributions are making a profound and lasting impact.

As we reflect on our blessings, let us remember that the gift of education is one of the most powerful tools we can offer to break the cycle of poverty and open doors of opportunity. Together, we are not just providing schooling; we are nurturing dreams, fostering potential, and embodying Christ’s love in tangible ways.

On behalf of the board,  
Colin Shantz

# OUR PROGRAMS

## EDUCATION

Educational funding is an essential link for many African families to be able to send their children to school. Although public education is often government funded, the mandatory, unfunded school supplies, uniforms, and meals are cost prohibitive for many. We are excited to partner with families to bring hope into the lives of their children and ultimately to give the gift of reading so each child can have full access to the Bible. Along with meeting the school and food needs of these children, we provide every child in our sponsorships with a Bible or Bible story book of their own.



## CHILD CARE

The Child Care fund at LMI has many different facets. The one that has the longest history with LMI is the children's home in Ghana. This home serves several vital roles in its community. First, it is the only real home for many of the abandoned or orphaned children that have stayed here for years. Second, it is a temporary home for many trafficked children as the staff work with local officials to reunite these children with the families they were ripped away from. Many of these children experience heart-wrenching abuse at the hands of those they are sold to.

Another facet of the Child Care fund is assisting teenage mothers with their babies. This sometimes requires only emotional or medical help. Other times, it means finding foster homes to care for the babies until the mother has stabilized enough to provide well for her own baby.

Our prayer is that the Child Care fund can be an avenue that children around the world can be brought to Jesus who said, "Suffer the children to come unto me".



## **COMMUNITY CARE**

When Jesus lived and walked among men here on this earth, the needs He met were many and diverse. Just so today, when men and women are being the hands and feet of Jesus in their neighborhoods, they invariably meet up with many different needs. Community Care is the fund that

provides the opportunity to local Christians to meet some of the big needs they encounter.

These needs can vary from providing home care for elderly, fresh water for remote villages, addiction counseling for enslaved addicts, and so many more ways to offer a “cup of cold water” to “the least of these”.



## **MEDICAL**

The medical assistance fund is designed to bring financial support to seriously at-risk individuals who have no other means to secure funding for their medical needs. Rooted in the principle of bearing one another’s burdens (Galatians

6:2), this fund aims to alleviate financial strain by providing a conduit for resources to flow from our Christian communities to the very vulnerable. Through the touch point that the medical assistance offers us, we pray that the love of Jesus could be felt.



# MEDICAL



Chris's family lives in a rented house, just like most other Ghanaians, as most of the houses are owned by a few rich people. He is the second of four children. His father is a casual labourer, picking up whatever work he can. Even though Chris is eleven years old, he does not have an education. One reason is that his family is not well-to-do. Another reason is that Chris has never been a healthy child. A few years ago, Chris was in very ill health due to a disease that affected his bowels. Someone who knew Chris's condition heard on the radio about a local organization that helps with medical situations

and told his mother about it. The director of the organization, upon realizing she did not have enough money to hire a taxi to visit the organization to submit a request for assistance, paid her taxi fare. Chris was deemed eligible for medical aid through the Medical program and has since had several corrective surgeries including a temporary colostomy to eradicate the disease from his bowels. He responded well to the treatment and thankfully did not experience any infections. Today he is healed from the disease and with funds through the Education program is attending school for the first time in his life. In the words of the director in Ghana: "To God be the glory for his massive healing! My appreciations go to LMI for supporting this boy by bringing him back to life. God bless you all for your kind hearts towards our work in Ghana."



(Chris with his parents)