

one

ISAIAH
1:17



Three children currently residing at Beacon House Orphanage, dressed in their new Christmas outfits that were donated.

“Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans...”

Can we ever understand the ways of the Lord...?

Just three months ago we were as content as could be. Allen was loving youth ministry at Olive Branch with a wonderful group of young people. Amy was nearing the end of her education degree and looking forward to teaching elementary school. Hayla was settling in nicely at her new preschool, and Emily was enjoying life as a three year old. Then we received an email telling us about an orphanage in West Africa that needed help.

Beacon House Orphanage in Accra, Ghana was started just three years ago, and today is caring for 35 children. Their needs listed in the email were staggering. Immediately our hearts were stirred, and we began exploring the possibility of helping for a period of time. Over Thanksgiving, Allen made a visit to Beacon House and felt that this ministry was a perfect fit for our family. When the director told him she would have to put all adoptions on hold until she was able to get more help, we knew we needed to act quickly. We began praying together, talking with the girls, and seeking the wisdom of our local church family.

We believe God's hand is in all of this, and in just five

short months, by His grace, we hope to be moving to Ghana for a year. During this year, we will be helping Beacon House as they seek to place these precious children in Christian homes. Here are some of the specific ways we will be involved:

Teaching. There is a primary school located within the orphanage compound which has no certified or trained teacher. There are about 20 school-aged children between the ages of 5 and 12 who gather for school in one small classroom. Amy will help to develop curriculum for the school and will be involved teaching individuals and small groups.

Hosting Adoptive Families. Adoptive families frequently spend weeks in Ghana. Most arrive with no prior third world experience. This can be extremely overwhelming. We are excited about meeting these families at the airport, hosting them in our home, and walking them through the adoption process.

Adoption paperwork. One of the biggest problems with the adoption process in Ghana is the lack of appropriate paperwork for the children. Some of the children were abandoned and have no release papers from biological parents. Some of the children were orphaned by death, but there are no death certificates. Finally, for most of the children,

there are no legal birth certificates. All these legal documents are essential to the adoption process. Allen will be working with the Ghanaian officials to obtain these documents and seek ways to expedite the process.

Traveling. Most of the orphans come from the impoverished, northern region of Ghana which is more than a 12 hour drive from the orphanage. We will be making this trek to pick up “new” arrivals to Beacon House and to escort adoptive families to see the area where their child was born.

Communication. We will develop a website to raise awareness and support for Beacon House both abroad and locally. We will also communicate with adoptive families on a regular basis, giving them updates on their child's progress.

We are so excited to see what the Lord has in store for these adorable children and for our family over the next year. If you would like more information or have any questions, feel free to email us at allen.barton@mac.com.

Because He Lives,
Allen, Amy, Hayla, and Emily

143,000,000
one

There are approximately 143,000,000 orphans worldwide. Standing in a single file line, they would reach around the Earth over two times. That number equals all the people in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and the next 47 largest US cities, plus the entire population of Ireland, Nicaragua, Norway, Denmark, Costa Rica, Greece, and France. We can't reach all 143,000,000 orphans, but we CAN help one child at a time.

Statistics taken from 2006 UNICEF survey

This is Emmanuella or "Emma". She came to Beacon House weighing slightly over 5 pounds at almost 5 months of age. Through the ministry of Beacon House, and the partnering care of Larry and Beki McConnell with God of Wonder Ministries International, Emma is now a happy 11 month old who has been adopted to a wonderful Christian family in the U.S.



"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

Ephesians 3:20

Support Card

I will commit to supporting the Bartons in the following way(s).

- Pray faithfully for them.
- Daily Weekly
- Contribute \$ _____ toward their ministry
- Monthly Quarterly
(For a period of 1 year)
- Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$ _____ toward their startup expenses.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

- I would like to receive their monthly newsletter.

Make all checks payable to Olive Branch Church of God.

All contributions are tax deductible



How can I help?

Pray "With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Please pray that God may count us worthy of His calling, fulfill every act prompted by our faith, and that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified! We could not begin to face all the challenges that lie ahead without your faithful prayers.

"The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Give With your help, we will need to pay for airfare, passports, visas, immunizations, rent, food, transportation, insurance, and other incidental expenses. It is our hope that through generous support, we will be able to live meagerly and give generously to the ministry of Beacon House Orphanage. Please pray and consider how you can be a part of this ministry over the next year. Enclosed is a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please fill out and remove the support card to the left and send it back to us.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support.