

Blessings to you, from the Annan Family!

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings of love sent to you all from Ghana. As the weather there is getting colder and winter is setting in, the weather here is getting hotter and dry season is setting in. 2019 was a very busy year for us! As we look back, we can hardly believe that we have come to the end of another year. In some ways it seems like the year has just flown by, but in other ways it has been a long year.

The Move: On January 14th we moved to Ghana West Africa and



began our journey here as self-supported

missionaries with Fields of Hope. We are here as the Field Directors, starting up a farm project and mentorship program for young men. Richard's focus is on providing work for the boys and teaching them Godly principals so they can be successful in life and impact those around them. When we arrived last January, there was a lot of work to be done on the mission house we are living in. Basically, the house needed to be gutted and redone. We stayed in a guest house (hotel) for about a month until we got the house livable. A team of 10 people from New Covenant Mennonite church came to help us with the house, they were here for 9 days and got so much done. It was such a blessing having them here to help us, settle in and get started here. There was still a lot to do after they left but the transformation that they made in such a short time was amazing! By mid February we moved into the house, that



was far from done but livable. We were finely done with the house by the end of May when we got the kitchen cabinets and sink put in. I don't think I will ever take for granted having a stove to cook on and a sink to wash dishes in!

Family Life

We are all doing well here! The girls are adjusting and seem to be enjoying life here. They still miss America and talk about many of you often. They look forward to coming back to visit and often ask when that will be?

Richard: is doing well and loving the ministry and opportunities he has, reaching out to the young people here in Ghana. Recently he started speaking at some schools in the area. He tries to motivate and encourage the young people to make good choices and honor God with their lives. Telling them that it doesn't matter what their family background is or where they come from, God can use them in mighty ways if they are willing to surrender to Him and be empty vessels for His use. He is trying to get 3-4 schools to speak at once a month each. Richard is in his element when he can speak to the youth and encourages them! I'm always so blessed and amazed as Richard deals with sometimes difficult situations here with such grace and ease because he knows and understands the culture of his people.

Faith: I'm doing well, sometimes I get homesick and miss you all a lot, but I'm so thankful for the opportunity that God has given us to be here and impact the lives around us. I spend most of my time teaching the girls home school and helping Richard with the bookwork and ideas for the farm. I really enjoy teaching the girls and they are both very good students. One of my favorite parts of our school is our Bible memory. I'm amazed at how quickly their little minds can memorize and retain what they have learned. So, I'm trying to take advantage of that and put as much into them as I can at this young age.



Deborah: is now 6 years old and has grown so much in the last year! She is over 4 ft. tall, and it is amazing seeing her grow in body and mind. She is a very caring and thoughtful girl. She loves doing artwork and is trying to write some stories about living in Ghana. She is doing very well in school. She also loves playing with her sister and their puppies. Their dog had seven puppies and they are keeping 3 of them.

Shalom: is 4 years old now and has grown up a lot this past year. Shalom really wanted to learn how to read when she saw her sister reading so I started teaching her a couple months ago and she is doing so well, I think she will catch up to her sister soon. Shalom loves her big sister and always wants to do everything Deborah does. She loves swimming in the ocean and playing outside. Shalom is a brave and caring girl. She always wants to help when someone is hurting.

Baby: We are expecting a new baby in March! We are all excited about having a little one around again. I have been very blessed with a relatively easy pregnancy. Baby seems healthy and everything is going well so far. Our plan was to stay here to have the baby and my mom was going to come, but we just found out she is not able to come so we are Lord willing going to be coming back to the States mid-February – early April to have the baby. I hope we can see many of you when we come!

Fields of Hope Progress Report

The Needs in Ghana: So here in Ghana the needs are many. A lot of people live and try to survive on very little. As we look around, we see a lot of single mothers trying to make ends meet by standing out in the hot sun day after day selling water, bread or ice cream, making just a few dollars a day. Many of the fathers are not taking responsibility or have abandon their families because “life is too hard” to cope with the burden of taking care of others. What we at Fields of Hope want to do is raise up young men who have a fear of God and values that will keep them with their families and working together with their wives, to build a strong family unit. As we look around at the young men, we see a huge need for guidance, a father figure and a way to take care of themselves. Most young men in Ghana are expected to take care of themselves by the age of 14 or 15, some even as early as 12 are “on their own”, expected to fend for themselves for food, clothing, and basic living expenses. A lot of these boys have dropped out of school because they don’t have what it takes to continue. If the boys want to learn a trade the apprenticeship system here in Ghana is also very difficult as well. Most of the time they must pay a large sum of money to a master. The master will then “teach” them the job. By teaching I mean they are allowed to watch him do his work, often without much explanation and sometimes they become like slaves, washing clothes, cooking, doing dishes, cleaning up or whatever he asks them to do, meanwhile not getting paid a penny from him. Sometimes partway through (normally a 3-year apprenticeship) the master will require them to pay more money. Many times, living conditions are very poor as well. This makes it very difficult for the student, and sometimes they are not able to finish. At Fields of Hope we are providing the boys with work, teaching them responsibility, discipline and work ethics, as well as biblical principles. Each of the boys are encouraged to come up with a goal and then save some of their money to work for that goal. We want all of them to catch a vision for their life, because truly without a vision the people perish.



Meet Some of the Young People

*Each of these young people have been given an opportunity by Fields of Hope!
Richard and I have been so blessed by their lives! The greatest blessings in life are the people
that God brings into your life!*

Meshack is a young man 24 years old who came to live with us in late May. He had moved to Accra and had completed 2 of his 3-year apprenticeship as a mechanic. He had been sleeping in one of the broken-down cars at his master's shop, and after 2 years his master said he needed more money. Meshack didn't have the money to pay him so he was forced to quit his training. He started selling some things on the streets of Accra to try to make a little money to take care of himself and hopefully save enough to continue his mechanic training. When we met Meshack Richard and I observed that he was a humble, God fearing young man with a servant's heart and a vision for his life. We discussed it and Richard offered that he could live with us and work on the farm so he could save his money and finish his mechanic training. Lord willing in February Meshack will be going to do a 10-month course at New Hope Foundation Vo-tech School (a mechanic school run by a Christian group from PA. USA) to finish his training and get his mechanic certificate. His hope is that he will be able to start up a mechanic shop here near Fields of Hope and as the ministry grows, he will be the Fields of Hope mechanic for the farm, as well as offering mechanic services to the community.



Mariama, she is a young lady 20 years old, also God fearing and has a vision for her life. We were needing someone we could trust to help me out around the house. Most household jobs here are a lot more labor intensive than in the states, one example being, washing all laundry by hand. With the girls schooling and helping Richard with the bookwork and planning the farm stuff I couldn't keep up with everything. Mariama's family lives a distance away so we offered that she could stay with us 3 days a week and she could go home the later part of the week and weekend, but she prefers to just stay here most of the time and just go visit her family every couple weeks for a few days. It has worked out very well, she is easy to have around and is very good with the girls. She would like to start nursing school next fall, and so she is saving her money to do that. She has been such a blessing and joy to have around!

Emmanuel, we met him when we first came to Ghana in January. He lives right here in the village at Apam Junction. He was doing some of the mason and carpentry work when we were fixing the house. Since then he has done many odd jobs for us around the house and worked at the farm a lot. He is also a Christian young man in his mid-20s. He would like to finish building his house and get married soon. He really appreciates the consistent work that we have been able to provide for him.

Evans is 18 years old with an incredible story. He has been on his own since the age of 8 years old, when his mother passed away. He doesn't know his father at all and none of his extended family have taken care of him. He has taken care of himself by selling fresh coconuts and doing odd jobs. Richard got to know him a little by buying coconuts from him. Recently Evans came to Richard and asked if he could work on the farm because the man who loaned him money for his coconut business came for the money and he didn't have any money saved to start it back up again. Evans worked on the farm for a couple of weeks, but he really wanted to set up his coconut business again. So, Richard loaned him the money to start up again, but he also set up two savings accounts one for Evans to put the



money in that Richard loaned him and one for him to be saving a little bit for himself each day so that he will not be stuck in the situation he recently was. He has been doing an excellent job at saving and is excited about seeing his money grow. He is hoping to someday have enough to expand his business.

Peter Kwesi is a 16-year-old boy that has been basically on his own since he was 13 years old. He sleeps in a community building in his village, and must fend for himself for food, clothing, and basic living expenses. When he was in junior high school he dropped out because he couldn't keep up with the expenses and wasn't being supported by anyone. His father is an alcoholic and not involved in the children's lives. Peter came to work on the Fields of Hope farm in April. We have seen real growth and life spring up in Peter over the past few months. He has become hard working and has gained a vision for his life. He would like to become a mechanic, or a tailor.



Farm Work

Currently Richard is working with around 9 young men regularly, all with their own unique story. So far, a lot has happened on the farm, the boys and Richard have planted over 250 mango trees, 100 plus coconut trees, around 600 plantain trees, 150 or so banana trees, about 2 plus acers of cassava, some sugar cane and coco yams. They planted and harvested about 10 acers of corn, about 1 acer of vegetables, cabbage, green peppers, and cucumbers. We are trying to come up with a good source of water and an irrigation system so that we can continue to grow the vegetables in the dry season. Please pray for God's leading and provision as we continue His work here.

We are looking forward to a team from our mission board coming here in January. If any of you have Christmas Cards or update letters about your family, we would love to hear from you, and you can mail them to the address at the end of this letter and the team will bring them to us in January.

Your Support

We want to thank all of you that support us in prayer and financially! We couldn't do this without you!

If you feel led by God to support us, please see the information below. We are currently operating at about 2/3 of our monthly target budget. This is especially challenging when planning a trip back to the States. Your support is a huge blessing to us!

For a tax-deductible donation:

Make checks payable to:
Just Disciples (Memo: Annan Family)
And mail to:
Richard & Faith Annan
C/O Just Disciples
P.O. Box 34
Reamstown, PA. 17567

For convenient online donations:
PayPal to theannanfamily@gmail.com

Please keep in touch with us, we love hearing from you and please continue to pray for us!

With love,
Richard, Faith, Deborah, Shalom and Baby Annan