HBA Newsletter Winter 2018

Dear HBA Supporter, Heartbeat For Africa sent this newsletter to you to share some highlights that you have made possible as a DIRECT result of your financial support and prayers.

Field Reports from the HBA July 2018 Ghana Trip

God has blessed me with a number of opportunities to travel to Ghana as part of an HBA team. One of the most fulfilling elements of each trip is the time I get to spend with our partners on the field. They are the ones who do the day to day ministry of caring, loving and serving the people of Ghana. They have a passion and commitment to their calling that both encourages and inspires me. I love watching them as they faithfully pray, work, problem solve, dream and love so many children, men and women in practical and life changing ways. This year it was a special treat to see Troy and Jammie Tompkins living in and opening up their home that was in the construction stage on my last visit.

Thank you Dayo, John Bull, Stacy, Troy and Jammie for all that you do to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Ghana, to welcome our teams with such gracious hospitality, and to represent Heartbeat for Africa in such God-honoring ways.  

Julie Wesley

I was happy to return to Ghana this summer after having been there only last February! For me this trip was about seeing the work on the ground first hand, and strengthening the relationships that we have formed. I was particularly happy to see all that William has done. William is a neighborhood leader in Aveyime who, while shyly while talking to us, lit up while talking to the people in his community. It was obvious that he was well loved and respected for all the work he has put into his community. This is what CHE is all about; finding local resources and training local leaders with skills and confidence to make a big difference in their community.

Elizabeth Koleski

Excerpt from email from HBA partner Dayo Obaweya explaining the impact of CHE training on an individual in Burkina Faso:

Hello Dayo, Do you remember me? (Dayo) No please ......
My name is X. I was present in your CHE training for Microenterprise in 2016 in Burkina Faso. 
Really......? (Dayo) I am so sorry I couldn’t remember...

After the training, I decided to begin to reach out to two communities in my area sharing the gospel in a holistic way. (Dayo) That’s great!

But I used up all my money and got stocked! Then I remembered your lessons and words... So I prayed and asked the Lord to show me which Microenterprise to start for income generation. I dreamt and saw myself making soap in large quantity and selling to shops. 

I started to use my home appliances for soap making. Today, I sell up to $400 worth of soap to a single supermarket. Holistic ministry works!!!

Thank you Dayo. Please visit my family soon. I am also happily married and able to do more CHE outreach with a new motorcycle.”
Two happy people, generous hospitality, good weather, and gracious team members - so many special moments. But something made me curious to know more. Why were there so many church signs along the roads? Are there really that many Christian congregations there? What about the billboards and TV stations for charismatic churches? Why aren’t all West Africans living a holistically rich life? And this: God’s plan to reconcile us to Himself through Jesus Christ has been spoken in west Africa for centuries. How does our Tucson team’s Kingdom work fit in? Spend an evening with Dayo, HBA’s partner and regional CHE director. Then you will know.

Let Dayo talk about the people he serves, and you will see his passion for community transformation in west Africa. Because he serves God on our behalf, it is a privilege to come alongside him to help bring more people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. His is no easy task, especially where thorns choke the sower’s seeds (remember, centuries!) Mark 4:3-9. The sacrifices we made to serve in Dayo’s ministry were small compared to his, and small compared to their resulting treasure in heaven. Beth Lynch

Update from City of Refuge Ministries

Greetings from Ghana!

The City of Refuge family would like to express our deepest gratitude to HBA for your partnership and the investments you have made in the lives of the people of Ghana. Over the years we have seen so many lives impacted and changed because of the trainings you have shared and relationships you have cultivated. Through HBA and your desire to advance the Kingdom of God the CORM community is more equipped and rooted deeper in our identity in Christ.

Through our partnership, in 2018, many children who had been rescued from child slavery at Lake Volta were provided a safe home, nutritious food, education, discipleship, clothing and so much more. In 2018 we also reunified many children back to their families. Although it was hard to say goodbye to them we know that because of the relationship with Christ that they developed at CORM they will be able to share their faith with their families and communities. Please keep the children who are enslaved at Lake Volta in your prayers, along with the children who are currently living at CORM who are working through the trauma they endured and the children who have been returned to their families. Help us pray for an end to this injustice in our life time.

We are excited for what 2019 holds in store. As many of you may know HBA is partnering with CORM to support our CORM Community Impact Team. This team is made up of a social worker, nurse and pastor and will be working in the communities that are vulnerable to selling their children into child slavery. The goal of our Impact Team is to introduce CHE and help the community implement these strategies for themselves. Stacy Omofere

Welcome to Chief (HBA President) Wesley’s Hut

Dear HBA Supporters,

As I read through our HBA team member reports from their trip in August [see HBA Team Article Pg 1, 2] and our partner City of Refuge Ministries (CORM) 2018 recap [see Pg 3], and even recent emails from our partner Dayo Obaweye who directs the African Internship Center (AIC) (see Pg 2) the one word that jumps out at me, time-and-again are “people”. The HBA teams or individuals who travel to West Africa and our African partners are all about connecting with and ministering to people. Their desire and our desire is through relationships and using the development strategy of Community Health Education or Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is to connect with people to help them improve their lives and discover the vital truth that God loves them and cares about their lives!

Every organization must make course corrections to ensure they are moving forward and staying relevant. During 2018, Heartbeat for Africa made one of those course corrections. We are a small non-profit with limited resources and we felt led by God to focus our time and talents and the resources you provide in 2 areas: marginalized people and promoting CHE in rural communities. Many non-profits working in the majority world purchase vehicles, build buildings, provide livestock for individuals or families or drill wells to provide clean drinking water and these are all great ways to minister to individuals or communities. In fact, HBA has been involved in these types of efforts in the past as well. In 2018, HBA we made the decision to limit our scope of operations to maximize our impact on marginalized people and through CHE.

What does this mean for HBA going forward? It means that we will continue to support the efforts of CORM to rescue children from human trafficking and slavery. As Stacy Omofere discusses in her article (CORM 2018 Recap, Pg 3) these children when given proper nutrition, an education, and a safe home environment at the City of Refuge can then positively impact their country and communities as responsible citizens. As Dayo Obaweye’s correspondence indicates CHE is changing the lives of individuals and their communities wholistically (health, economics, God-centered). HBA feels these efforts will glorify God and benefit the people we work with and through in West Africa and we thank you for helping through your prayers and financial support.

How Can You Engage with HBA?

Thank you for your support as we work together to spread a message of hope in rural West Africa through the CHE strategy and provide a future for children coming out of human slavery. Visit https://www.facebook.com/hbaorg

We encourage you to get involved with HBA as you are led. To find out how, check the HBA website at http://heartbeatforafrica.org/general-information/.

We support children at the City of Refuge Ministry who are being given a chance to experience a normal childhood after their rescue. You can join us by going to http://heartbeatforafrica.org/support-children/.

If you would like to help with Troy & Jamie’s ministry at CORM, please consider a one-time gift or reoccurring donations through http://heartbeatforafrica.org/donate/. (Please include “Tompkins Support” in the comments box.)

We cherish your prayers for HBA and joining us to make a difference! Thank you, and we wish you God’s peace.

Dayo with CHE Trainees

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