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magazine



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Communications / Editor

Katie Keller
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Mia Brown
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Photographer: Janet Awotwe

Location: St. Monica's SHS, near Kumasi, Ghana (Ashanti region).

Equipment: Apple iPad
(1/202 sec @ f/2.4, ISO 25, 31mm)

Situation: Afia and Mrs. Comfort share a picture together at St. Monica's SHS.

CONNECT WITH US:



888-823-8772

globalservants.org

office@globalservants.org

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Déjà Vu At House Of Grace-Thailand

Long-awaited but finally here!

BY TRAVIS RUTLAND

One of the most unique athletes of all time is Yogi Berra. He was a constant source of hilarious quotes. During one game, the inimitable Yogi Berra watched his teammates Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle hit back-to-back home runs. He then excitedly exclaimed to his teammates, “It’s déjà vu all over again!”

Having said that, for many of you, this article may seem familiar. Almost 3 years ago, we began discussing the plans to renovate several buildings and construct a new middle school dormitory at House of Grace in Thailand. As you know, Covid put a total stop to those plans in 2020 and has continued to delay us for the last 3 years. Initially, in 2020, we had to shut down the entire House of Grace compound in Thailand. Then, in 2021, we started to open up a little before being shut down again by the Thailand government. Then, it took another year before we were able to have inspectors come to the property and then get our plans approved by the correct agencies. We only recently were able to visit House of Grace-Thailand with a team from America. So, it was necessary to put this

entire project on hold several times until Thailand was completely back to normal and the government was ready to allow us to move forward. Now, that time has finally arrived and we are so pleased to begin work on this project again.

To give you a quick reminder about this project, the dining hall and kitchen need to be totally renovated and our middle school dormitory must be completely rebuilt. These are our oldest buildings on the entire campus and the time has come for us to make a substantial investment in all of them.

These buildings will be renovated and rebuilt in connection with each other. As we look at all the needs of a growing ministry, we have decided to do several upgrades to the infrastructure of the campus to accommodate the girls better now and allow for healthier growth in the future. This process includes the demolition and reconstruction of the middle girl dorm, the demolition and rebuilding of the kitchen, upgraded bathroom facilities in the gymnasium, an expanded worship facility that allows all girls and staff to worship together comfortably, and the purchase of land adjacent to our campus that allows for us to expand our gardens, aquaponics, and other agricultural programs that both feed and educate our girls.

This entire construction project will cost around \$1.1 million. Because of your previous generosity, we only need to raise an additional \$725,000. This amount includes all renovation of the older buildings, construction of the new buildings and furnishing all the buildings. We know this will be a sizable project but it is much more than just another construction project. This project is an investment in the lives »



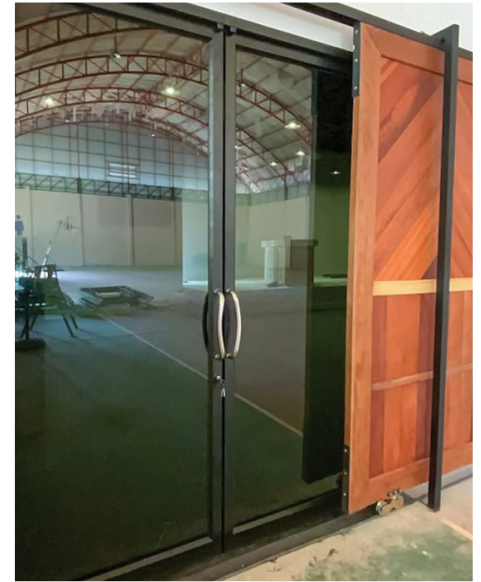


of all the girls currently at House of Grace-Thailand and all the girls yet to arrive. These new buildings will serve girls for years to come. Each of those girls arriving at House of Grace with a unique destiny and purpose.

So, this article may seem like déjà vu all over again. You have probably seen this information before and have heard of our plans previously. However, the time has finally come to begin. We have already begun renovations and this entire project will take around 18 months to complete. You will be seeing pictures of our progress and receiving regular updates on the construction. We wanted to let you know about this project now as we begin the work.

I encourage you to begin to think and pray about how you might want to be involved. We have many different ways that you could partner with us. There will be numerous construction teams headed to Thailand over the next 2 years. If you are interested in being on a team, please contact the Georgia office. You may also want to contribute financially to these projects. If you are interested in learning more about the breakdown of the construction and what the different phases cost, again please contact the Georgia office.

Above all, we value your prayers over this entire project. Building anything in Thailand is complicated and expensive



and we need your prayers. Please keep the girls, the staff and all the construction workers in your prayers during this process. I look forward to sharing more with you in the upcoming months about this project and all that Global Servants is doing around the world. Thank you for all that you do! ◀



TRAVIS RUTLAND has worked for Global Servants since 1997. He currently serves as the President of Global Servants. In addition to his role at Global Servants, Travis is the Lead Pastor at The Church at Liberty Square in Cartersville, Georgia. A native of Georgia, Travis holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree from Southeastern University. Travis has been married to his wife, Courtney, since 1997 and they reside in Cartersville, Georgia. They have three sons, Mark, Owen and Liam.

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Educational Challenges Faced By Student-Teachers

What you should know about teachers colleges vs. university in Ghana

By Yaw Aduama Adu

It is obvious that both the teachers college and the university have unique merits that enrich the academic development of their students. We cannot ignore the fact that they share a lot of common goals and features as educational institutions. Below is a careful analysis of the teachers college versus the university.

A teachers training college is an institution for the training of teachers, usually offering a full-four year or two-year educational course and receiving a bachelor's degree or a diploma, respectively. A university is where students study at a high level to get a degree. The university is not limited to one programme of study but often incorporates several.

University courses and programmes are structured in a way to give students diverse career options such that students graduate with adequate research skills, knowledge,

and experiences. As part of this, graduates from the university enjoy the right to apply for jobs at any educational or cooperative facility of their choice. Most of such graduates get an opportunity to work at senior high schools (SHS) because of their specialized area of study. However, brilliant but needy university students must obtain a loan from the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) to complete their studies. This loan must be repaid later with interest. Due to this, university students may end up with more debt when they graduate than graduates from teachers colleges.

Teacher trainees from teachers colleges enjoy a government allowance while in school. This fund mandates them to serve the government or country within a specific number of years. As a result, these individuals stand a better chance of getting hired by the Ghana Education Service (GES) since automatic recruitment awaits them after graduation. However, most of these students are typically posted to basic schools across the country and generally to rural areas. They have complete job security, whereas those with a university education have limited hope. They have a very small chance of securing employment.

Advantageously, after two or three years of teaching, teachers who received their diplomas through professional training from teachers college may request study leave. Once authorized, they can pursue a university degree while on paid leave. Today, just like universities, all 46 of Ghana's public colleges of education offer degree programmes. Graduates from colleges of education also take part in the compulsory one-year national service to the country. This helps them acquire additional practical skills and experiences to prepare them for the job market. Aside from the prestige of earning a degree from a university, teachers there cannot claim to be significantly better than those who do not.

Per the Ghanaian government's Single Spine Salary Structure (SSSS) introduced in 2010, university-trained teachers and graduates from teachers colleges receive the same monthly salary. Their base pay is the same. The scheme does not give any superior preference to the university over the teachers college. Ghana Education Service (GES) only increases the pay and gives certain work incentives to professional teachers based on their ranks and through promotional examinations. The Teachers' Union also, in their own capacity, advocates for yearly salary increments for teachers based on the current inflation rate in the country. Earning more as a teacher means you must constantly upgrade yourself academically. ◀

YAW ADUAMA ADU has been the headmaster of Trinity Foundation School since 2016. He studied Integrated Rural Art and Industry at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology from 2010 - 2014. He loves working for God and likes to engage in church activities. With the lovely support and encouragement from his beautiful wife, Lady Pastor Jessica Favored Adu, he's able to accomplish his passion and the calling from God.



Academic Milestones In Ghana

Let's celebrate as the last of our original charter girls begin senior high school

By Fay Inman

We have reached an academic milestone; the ten charter residents of House of Grace-Ghana have either completed or are currently attending Senior High School. According to an article by UNICEF about Ghana, the poorest girls from rural areas attain about four years of schooling compared to 13 years for girls from affluent homes in urban areas. God rescued ten girls from the poorest areas of northern Ghana. With your financial support, our girls are now competing academically with children from the most affluent families in the country. The girls at House of Grace attend Trinity Foundation School for Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary, and Junior High. They have the opportunity for thirteen years of education before qualifying for senior high boarding school. In Ghana, you must take a test after the ninth grade to be eligible for

senior high and determine the school you will attend. Under the current system, the students with the highest scores attend A-level schools. The school grading system is from A to D. In the Education Act of 1987, the established schools throughout Ghana were turned into national schools and follow the same curriculum. However, only eight percent of the schools are ranked A. These schools have the best facilities, resources, and teachers. Ranking criteria

include the number of students allowed in a classroom, sanitation facilities, trained teachers, and access to resources such as labs, computers, and textbooks. All original girls from House of Grace-Ghana attend A or B-level schools. We are proud of their accomplishment and are working to support the staff and schools they currently attend.

Global Servants is blessed with supporters that pay attention to the complicated interaction between social, economic, and political factors involved in empowering an individual. The idea to improve state-run facilities helps all marginalized people while supporting our girls. Three girls from House of Grace attend St. Monica's Senior High School. Global Servants built a mechanized well, water tower, and campus-wide irrigation system. Before the well, the water at the school was rationed, and bathrooms



were periodically locked because they were non-functioning. St. Monica's High School has an enrollment of 2,500 girls, and all know that a Christian organization supplied the well and irrigation system.



At FOSO College of Education in Assin Foso, Ghana, we built a public restroom with four private lockable stalls, each including a toilet and sink. Because of an existing mechanized well, we could build restrooms accessible for both genders. We hope the girls that plan to become teachers will attend FOSO after their high school graduation.

In 2017 the Ghanaian government passed the Free Senior High School policy. We are proud to work alongside the governments of Ghana and Thailand. Our homes serve as role models for children's homes within their perspective governments. The idea of a free school in Ghana is noble, and the intent is admirable. In 2021, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, told

Parliament that student enrollment at the SHS level had increased from 881,600 in 2016 to 1,261,125 in 2021. Even with free school, some expenses make high school unattainable for some. After your acceptance into the school, you must have a physical from your primary doctor and an eye exam to attend. Almost all senior high schools in Ghana are based on the British model and are boarding schools. Therefore, you must bring everything you will need for your dorm room. All schools require uniforms; the material is printed with the school logos and must be custom-made for the individual. You declare a course of study when you enter the tenth grade. You will use the same textbooks for three years and must purchase the entire set within 30 days of school enrollment. Depending on your study path, you will require practical items to use in a lab setting. For example, The Home Economics Department list has 47 items with a purchase price of approximately 350.00 USD. The school provides all meals but encourages students to bring supplemental nutrition. With all of the initial fees and start-up costs, a free school is actually accessible only to those that can afford it.

All of our senior high girls have sponsors that cover the cost of their time at House of Grace-Ghana and their school fees for Trinity Foundation School. Because of the generous donations from our Empowering Esther Team, everything our girls needed for senior high school was readily available. Each girl has a roll-up mattress

in addition to her dormitory bunk. They had the sheets, towels, blankets, hygiene items, and everything it took to set up a room away from home. The donations through the Empowering Esther Team are designated for girls at either House of Grace. We are grateful for individuals that donate without one particular girl in mind. The girls are the most grateful. Most have friends from their home villages who cannot attend school because of financial hardship. Each girl knows the financial commitment their sponsor family and the Empowering Esther Team members made to make way for them.



The girls at House of Grace can afford to attend high school; because of the faithfulness of our supporters to give without knowing the need. Our girls can genuinely act as daughters of the King. They can draw from their Heavenly Father's finances and cover the cost when a need arises. The staff in Ghana and Thailand can make financial decisions with funds already available. We are grateful for your trust and obedience to God's call, which allows the nationals of the country we serve to identify the need and financially meet it. ◀

FAY INMAN is the Advocate at Global Servants. With over 25 years of experience as an advocate nationally for girls. Fay has been married to Kenny for over thirty years, and they have two daughters: Kennedy, Gussy and grand-baby Ophelia Fay.





Apaporn
Bachelor of Faculty of Humanities
and Social Science



Kanyapat (Aching)
Bachelor of Faculty of Humanities



Sunisa
Bachelor of Hospitality and
Hotel Management



Aphon
Vocational Architecture Certificate
Dual Enrolled



Kanokporn
Associate of Hotel Management



Khanitha
Cosmetic Surgery Nursing Assistant



class of
2023
Congratulations Graduates



Home Economics

Learn why Home Economics matters in Ghana

By Sandra Odarno

Many young people in Ghana with limited knowledge, disregard the field of Home Economics and even attribute it to an area of only females or girls, and surprisingly believe that it's a sector for underachievers. However, I want to state that all these false accusations have no basis. Home

Economics is one of five programmes or courses offered in Ghana's Senior High Schools. Home Economics is a dynamic and exciting field of study that many students study to the highest educational level: MPhil and Ph.D. Home Economics is very lucrative, challenging, interesting, and scientific. Depending on how students excel in the electives' subjects determines their career path.

All programmes of study have core subjects, i.e., English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These subjects are mandatory for all students to undertake in addition to elective subjects. These elective subjects include Food and Nutrition, Management in Living, Clothing and Textiles, and an additional subject from Biology, Chemistry, Economics, and French to make four elective subjects. To gain admission to Diploma or Degree courses in the University, the students should pass three core and three elective subjects. An individual unable to pass the core and elective subjects can be self-

employed with knowledge acquired in high school.

There are several courses that Home Economics students can study at Higher Education Institutions in Ghana:

Bachelors of Education (B.Ed)

- Home Economics
- Culture and Tourism
- Textiles Designs and Technology
- Clothing and Textiles

Bachelors of Science (BSc)

- Nutrition
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Dietetics
- Community Nutrition
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Family and Consumer Science
- Food Science
- Hospitality Management

Having pursued any of the above Diploma or Degree programmes at the University, the career opportunities are endless. One can be a Teacher, Clinical Nutritionist, Dietitian, Nurse, Midwife, Food Scientist, Fashion Designer, Hotel Manager, Caterer, Chef, Event Planner, or Food and Beverage Manager to mention a few. The salary range of these professions depends on the entry-level and duration or length of stay in the institution of work. The higher your educational level, the higher your salary.

For this reason, Home Economics is one of the most valued and underrated programmes offered for young men and women starting their educational path to a future career. ◀



SANDRA BOAKYE ODARNO is a Clinical Nutritionist at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi Ghana since 2006. She has over 15 years of experience managing children with severe acute malnutrition and other diet-related diseases. She graduated from the University of Cape Coast with a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition & Dietetics and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) from KNUST. Sandra has been married to Daniel for 13 years, and they have three children; Samuel, Ohenewa, and Obiribea.

A Legacy Of Grace And Faith

Because of our supporters, lives are forever changed

By Rev. Ronny Brannen

You may never know or realize the lasting impact you can have on others. One of the great blessings in my life is the opportunity to experience this through the incredible work of Global Servants that you have made possible. You are helping to leave a legacy that will affect future generations. Please know that whether you have seen or experienced it, you are making a difference.

On one of my trips to Ghana some ten years ago, I welcomed the first group of girls to House of Grace-Ghana. It was a wonderful time, but I will be honest, I didn't see the hope of how this would work. In this first group of girls, no one spoke the same language nor spoke the same language as the director. Communicating was hard; the little girls were scared and knew no one. I am proud to say that ten years later, I was wrong. God has indeed done miraculous work. We now have 30 girls on that campus, and when I was there this past October, I got to see the grace and majesty of our Lord in their lives. That original group of girls are now in high school, can speak three languages, and are helping their little sisters acclimate to a new life filled with hope and promise. We have one girl who has graduated from high school. She and I got to talk and reminisce about those first days. She told me that I was the first white man she had ever talked to and that she still had the gift I brought them on that first visit. I have watched a scared little girl turn into a young woman of hope, and confidence, with dreams of a future.

On this trip, I also went to several villages in northern Ghana. One was the village Gbimsi on the edge of the desert. We have a church there, and the pastor helps council a school there. They have built a block school building with their own money to go along with the mud hut classrooms. They now have over 350 students that meet in 5 or 6 rooms. As we talked to the pastor, we learned that the

church and school had no well. There is a neighbor that would help some with water, but his water was limited. The pastor told us that when it was too hot, they would walk to the river and get water or even take the classes to the river for school that day. As best I could tell, that river is miles away. I am excited to tell you that a well has been built in Gbimsi, a sanitation station has been built, and electric power is coming to



the school soon. This well, the sanitation station and the electricity will bless the church, the school, and the entire village. Look at the legacy you are leaving because of your generosity and faithfulness.

The legacy you have left is not just in temporal things and ways, but you have also left an eternal one as well. I have had the privilege of going to House of Grace-Thailand some 17 times. I have seen many of these little girls become young women of faith and courage. It is not a requirement for the girls to be Christians to live at the home; however, due to the staff and teams' example of living out the Gospel in their everyday lives, all the girls have chosen Christ as their personal Savior. One of the great honors as a pastor has been to baptize these girls on campus and in a nearby lake.





With every baptism I have done, I thank God for the faithfulness of each sponsor that has invested in the lives of these girls, temporarily and eternally. You have shown God's love which they have received and they wanted to profess. I take great joy when I look at the staff, knowing that I had the honor and privilege of baptizing them in the name of our Lord, and now I get to see them putting their faith into action as



they love on and care for their little sisters. They share their faith and encourage little lives for the Kingdom of God.

Look what you have done and are doing. Thank you, thank you, thank you for leaving a legacy of grace and faith. ◀

REV. RONNY BRANNEN is the Chief of Staff at Global Servants. He is a retired Pastor of 40 years, and the past Chair on the Board of Directors for Global Servants. Ronny holds an Associate of Arts degree from Reinhardt College, a Bachelor's degree from Georgia State University, and a Master's of Divinity degree from Emory University. He has been married to his wife, Darlene, for 45 years, and they have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Congratulations High School Graduates

We want to congratulate all of our House of Grace-Thailand High School graduates. We are all very proud of their accomplishments and pray for blessings and favor in their lives.

class of
2023

Congratulations High School Graduates



Buder



Ladawan



Onraya



Phueksa



Sudaporn



Suthima



Thawitiya



Wilai



Piti

Katiu Did

The story of an orphan girl who found a new life and new destiny

BY DR. MARK RUTLAND

Once, over a decade ago, a small girl named Katiu lived in a village in the remotest corner of northern Ghana. There was no hospital for many miles and no library for hundreds of miles. The village “school” was a pathetic crumbling shambles with no desks, chairs, blackboards or any other accoutrement of formal education. At seven years of age, Katiu should have begun attending that school, such as it was. However, she had not been there even a single day in her entire life.

To the east of her village, and not far away, lay the country of Togo. To the north was Burkina Faso and beyond that Mali and then the vast Sahara Desert. Katiu had never seen either of those countries and didn’t even know they were there. Indeed, she had never seen any place except her village. She was an orphan child whose life, like the desert to the north, was barren and filled with danger. A girl alone in such a place is almost certainly a future victim whose ravishment is only a matter of time and whose inescapable future was a soul-grinding existence of poverty and ignorance.

There was a church in that tiny village. It was a small church with a pastor who farmed a small plot to feed his family. He cared for his congregation and taught them the Word of God. One day, that pastor came to Katiu and told her that she was to go far away to a new home in Kumasi. It was a girls’ home called House of Grace-Ghana and that she would also go to school there. He told her not to be afraid. That it was a wonderful place where she would be safe and well fed and cared for and educated in a fine school with hundreds of students. She would be given new clothes and taught to speak English and how to use a computer. He explained that he would take her on the bus all the way to Kumasi and there, her life would be changed forever.

Katiu was astonished at all of this and confused and not a little terrified. She had never heard the English language spoken, not a single word. Her language was Dagbani. In fact, she had never heard any other language. She had no idea what a computer was and had never ridden in a motorized vehicle. She had heard of the great city of Kumasi but she could not imagine how far away from her village it was. In fact, she had no clear concept of distance at all. A thing was either in her village or it was not. Most of all she could not begin to comprehend what the pastor meant when he said her life would change forever.

Nine years later, Katiu graduated from the 9th grade at Trinity Foundation School. She had studied English in school every day of those nine years. She had also learned Twi, the prevailing language of the Ashanti region where Kumasi is located. She had also taken many years of French and though not fluent she had the basics of what was now her fourth language. Katiu now knew geography. She understood distance, national boundaries and how to use a computer to learn about far away places. She knew the names of all the continents. She could find the United States on a world map. She could even identify Georgia where her House of Grace-Ghana sponsor lived. Most importantly of all, she had passed the Ghanaian National Standardized Test and would now be placed in a secondary school. In Ghana, only thirty percent of all ninth graders pass that test, but Katiu did.

Katiu’s sponsor in America loves her so much that she bought her clothes and food and paid all her school fees. She is committed to seeing Katiu succeed and flourish. No one else in her village received letters from a kind and loving sponsor in far away America, but Katiu did.

Katiu wants to be a Naval Officer. She wants a fulfilling and promising career to serve her country. For Katiu, it is as simple as that. Katiu becoming



a Naval Officer is her way serving others. What could she have ever done if her life had not changed? The impotence of an ignorant life is its own tragedy, of course, but it is also a social tragedy. A life of ignorance and poverty can hardly help itself but it is utterly bereft of the ability to help anyone else. Now, for the first time, Katiu can think beyond her own needs. Now, the needs of others have suddenly become important to Katiu as she sees the incredible possibility that she can actually serve her country and help others even as she was helped. How wonderful for her! All those years

earlier, Katiu could not imagine what the pastor meant when he said her life would change forever. Now Katiu did.

Global Servants, our village pastors, our African leadership team, our school teachers, our house mothers and our child sponsors are all committed to this one vision. Katiu must be helped to find and fulfill her destiny. She must not be brutalized. She must not be lost. She must not be allowed to live a useless life of ignorance and poverty. Thanks to House of Grace-Ghana, to generous caring people she may never meet and thanks most of all to God Almighty,

Katiu is being saved for a big destiny. So few little African orphan girls will ever find a destiny. Thank God... Katiu did. ◀

DR. MARK RUTLAND is the Founder of Global Servants. He is a New York Times Best Selling author, educator, charismatic leader, businessman and a nationally recognized figure in Christian higher education. Dr. Rutland has been married to his wife Alison for more than 50 years now. They reside in the greater Atlanta area. For more information about Dr. Rutland please visit (drmarkrutland.com) and follow him on Twitter (@[drmarkrutland](https://twitter.com/drmarkrutland)).





20 Satellite Drive
Winder, GA 30680
Toll-Free: (888) 823-8772



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globalservants.org

DrMarkRutland.com

theNICL.com

