

FRONTLINE REPORT

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Hope for Life—Dreams Become A Reality

Mr. Gibirilla Agadi, (also known as **Jay Bee**) is the **Principal** of the **Hope for Life Children's Center** in Accra, Ghana. The School provides education to 150 students in 8 grades. Jay Bee has four teachers working at the school. Last year, when a donation came for the School, **Steve Phillips** and **Sean Hogan**, **S.M.A. Lay Missionaries**, met with Jay Bee to ask him how best the money could be spent for the good of the School.

Jay Bee often found the parents had difficulty paying the school fees, which made it very difficult for him to pay his teachers. With this need in mind, he wanted to start an income-generating project which would enable him to pay the teachers, even when school fees were late or not forthcoming. He said to Steve and Sean, "Let's start a corn mill." There was a need for this service in the area. Many people must either grind their corn in mortars by hand, or pay fees to Commercial grinders. So following Jay Bee's idea, inquiries were made into the costs of getting the corn mill



Above: (L-R) Steve Phillips, S.M.A. Lay Missionary; Mr. Gibirilla Agada, the Principal (also known as Jay Bee); Robert; and Sean Hogan, S.M.A. lay Missionary, in front of the Hope for Life Children's Center.



Above: Grade 4 Students at Hope for Life Children's Center are happy for the chance to go to school.

up and running. The following weeks were busy, but productive. They built a simple structure to house the new mill. As the people in the area saw the work in progress, they too were eager for the day the corn mill would be operating. The last item was the electrical hook-up with Accra's electricity services. Jay Bee was able to procure the power pole and hook-up in October 2006. Rapidly, Jay Bee's idea was turning into a reality.

The following are excerpts from a letter Jay Bee wrote in December: "...We wish to thank the whole S.M.A. Family for the donation to our school which has led to the purchase of a **Corn Mill** for our income-generating venture. The mill is now working and we are all happy about it. The people in the community are also happy and they send their grains for milling. With this income, besides paying the teachers, we shall start serving the children hot meals.

The generosity of donors and Jay Bee's vision, along with a lot of hard work, have made Jay Bee's dream become a reality.

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Out and About with Fr. Frank



Above: **Fr. Frank Wright, S.M.A.** takes time to visit a widow in his Parish, to offer prayers and support to the family in their time of loss.



Above: Fr. Frank listens to a Parishioner and Parish Council member during his weekly visit to an outstation some miles away.



Above: Sharing begins at a very young age in St. Ann Parish, Mataara, Kenya! Below: Sunday Mass is joyously celebrated and well attended at St. Ann's.



For the past four years, **Fr. Frank Wright, S.M.A.** has been serving as Pastor at St. Ann Parish in Mataara, Kenya. The Parish is nestled in a hilly, tea-producing area of Kenya. The nights are cool, and the climate is pleasant. Fr. Frank serves his parishioners well, encouraging them into active and full participation in the life of the Parish. He has learned the local language and delivers well- prepared homilies to his flock. His weeks are filled with outreach to the six mission outstations. Often he goes on foot, to visit the sick and homebound, bringing the sacraments to their homes, and praying with the families.

In his mission, he walks with the people, sharing in the joys, sorrows and the challenges of their lives. Faith is a vibrant part of life in Mataara. Many adults have lost their lives to the AIDS virus. Fr. Frank says that there are about four funerals a week. Faith in the Risen Lord and God's great love and compassion offer solace in the midst of this very harsh reality.

Prior to Mataara, Fr. Frank served for over 9 years at St. Joseph Parish in Jericho near Nairobi.. When he travels to Nairobi for supplies, he still follows up on the CFCA sponsorship program for many needy students begun when he was there. This Program allows them to attend school..

Happy Easter!



In Liberia: Life Beyond Death



The angel spoke and said to the women, "There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would."

Matthew 28: 5-6

During this *Paschal* Season of Death and Resurrection, it is good to recognize three very dedicated men who have been called to their eternal reward. In their names and memories, invaluable service is still offered to the people they left behind in Liberia.

In Gbarnga, there is a beautiful **Cathedral** where **Bishop Benedict Sekey** served the Diocese of Gbarnga. Also, a new **Pastoral Center** is serving the needs of the Diocese as the Church grows and develops in peace and hope.

A vital, life-saving **Mini Surgical Unit** has been built in the **Star of the Sea Health Center** in West Point in memory

of **Fr. James Lee, S.M.A.** In his mission service, he was a great support to Archbishop Michael Francis in the administration of the Archdiocese of Monrovia through the turbulent years of civil strife.

Through the new **Br. Joseph Sebastian Medical Laboratory** at

St. Joseph Catholic Hospital, Monrovia, the work of St. John of God Brother Joseph continues in service to the Liberian people.

Death has not been able to stop them, as their memories live on in active and vital services given daily to the people they loved.



Above: Dr. Charles Diabe Dore talking with patients at the Star of the Sea Health Center in West Point, Liberia outside the new Rev. Fr. James Fitzgerald Lee, S.M.A. Mini Surgical Unit. Fr. Lee died in 2006.



Above: Brother Justino, O.H., and Lab Technicians in their new Brother Joseph Sebastian Medical Laboratory at St. Joseph Catholic Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia. Br. Joseph died in 2003.



Above: Holy Spirit Cathedral at Gbarnga, Liberia. Inset: Bishop Benedict Dotu Sekey's final resting place. He died in 2001.

Hope for Life—Dreams Become A Reality (Continued)



Above: Robert with the new Corn Mill—ready for service.



Above: (L-R) Sean Hogan, a Teacher from Hope for Life Children's Center, and Steve Phillips stand in front of new Corn Mill House.



Above: Rose, Hope for Life Member, takes pride in running a shop for its owner.

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The History of the Project

The **Hope for Life Project (HFL)** was founded by **Fr. Jean Thibault, S.M.A.** who saw the sufferings of those with disabilities and had great compassion for them. He helped each one he met. Many HFL Members have grim stories about rejection and inhumane treatment, and the difficulties of eking out an existence in dire poverty. Fr. Jean treated them with respect, helping them realize their dignity as precious chil-

dren of God. Also, he believed they could do something to help themselves.

The motto of Hope for Life is: **Disability is not Inability.** Fr. Jean helped the Members become mobile with wheelchairs made from bicycle parts. He found training for the Members, so they could learn a skill and become self-supporting. Begging was not an option for HFL wheelchair owners. And so Hope for Life grew. Currently there are over 400 Members who are doing what they can to support themselves and their families.

There are 11 Branches in Ghana where Members meet regularly and get training in a skill that will help them earn a living. In the Branches, the HFL Members look out for each other. S.M.A. Lay Missionaries have had the privilege and joy of serving with the Hope for Life Project.

The needs are great. Often, Members need medical care, prosthesis, surgery and physiotherapy. School fees for the HFL Members' children is another great need.

Despite the many difficulties facing HFL Members, it is wonderful when HFL Member Jay Bee is able to see ahead, and plan an income-generating project with hopes of sustaining the Hope for Life Children's Center, providing education, and helping it to grow and develop.

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