

History of Ghana

On December 4, 1998, Michael contacted ICC requesting our help to sponsor an orphan boy in Ghana, Maxwell Nyame, who needed help with his education and basic needs in life.

Michael had been working with ADRA/Ghana for some time and had developed a real interest in helping orphaned and deprived children in his area. He saw the needs and responded to the Lord's prompting by personally helping 4 children with their educational or vocational education needs. Even after Michael graduated from college he continued his passion for helping children.

One day Michael spotted a young boy arriving at school dressed in an extremely worn school uniform and bare footed. He carried with him a determination to succeed in getting an education. Michael decided to befriend him and began asking some questions. He discovered that the boy was living with his grandmother and did not have all the necessities of life. He had not paid his school fees for almost two years. Michael decided to investigate and see if the story was true, so went to visit the grandmother. He found out that Maxwell had told him the truth and along with this found out more, including that he was an orphan. His parents had been killed in a car accident. Michael was so touched by his story that he was determined to find help for the boy.

Michael contacted friends who agreed to help him, but later decided to leave to further their education and could no longer continue their help. He could not take over the sponsorship since he already was taking care of four other children, so he continued his search in the country to no avail. Next he started contacting charitable and religious organizations but these attempts also failed. Finally Michael went to the internet and sought out possibilities. He was led to the ICC web site that December 1998 evening. Michael felt that it was worth a try, so sent a letter to our office. It was almost three weeks later that a reply came from Elder Ottis Edwards informing him that we were interested in helping Maxwell. The answer came as a big relief and at a special time - almost Christmas Eve.

Thus ICC began its work in Africa. About three years later, an urgent request for additional help came from Michael. There were five more children that had recently experienced a tragedy in their young lives. Their father fell off the roof of a house that he was repairing and died. Three months later the mother died of typhoid fever. Now the children were orphaned and needed help. They could no longer go to school even though the fees were minimal in our standards. They ranged in age from 1-11 years old.

ICC was quick to agree to help these children. In this way the project has grown.

Up until October of 2004, the children were cared for by two families in the church. Michael had been searching for a home closer to where he lived, in order to form one family with the children and supervise them better. He successfully found a home and moved the children and one set of parents into the home that they rented. We now had our first home. In November 2004, just at the time that ICC administration arrived for a visit, three more children joined the home and two more were waiting for approval to come. Very quickly our first home was filled.