



AGAPE today

Evangelizing the Lost

Empowering the Church

Embracing the Poor

Welcoming the Four New Siblings at ACH

As 9-year old Emmanuel sat at the table on Christmas day, his face looked solemn. He sat quietly as the other children ate their Christmas dinner. “Why aren’t you eating your dinner?” Aunt Lydia asked in his native language. Emmanuel looked down and shrugged his shoulders, obviously hiding something. Aunt Lydia tried again: “You need to eat so you can be strong. Why don’t you want to eat?” Emmanuel looked up at her with timid eyes, then looked away and softly said, “It’s my grandmother. She doesn’t have any food to eat. I want to bring mine to her.”

Emmanuel has three siblings: Solomon, Rose, and Rosamond. They all come from Abonse in the eastern region of Ghana. Their mother died in 2008 while giving birth, and their father passed away eight months later due to alcohol poisoning. The three oldest went to stay with their 80-year old grandmother. She was too frail to care for them, so the children gathered firewood and sold it on the roadside just to be able to eat. Rosamond remained with her aunt who wanted to raise her. However, with six children of her own, Rosamond’s aunt had little provision for even basic necessities. The future appeared bleak for these children – but God had a plan for their lives. All four siblings came to Agape Children’s Home on Christmas Eve 2010. When they first arrived they were malnourished, sick, hungry, and



Left to right: Solomon, Rosamond, Rose, their grandmother, and Emmanuel



The outside of the their grandmother’s house

scared. However, they quickly adjusted to their new environment when they experienced God’s love and care through all the staff and children at the Home.

Ashley Schoen was visiting from the U.S. during the week the children were rescued. Ashley recounts her experience: “On Christmas Eve, my family and I travelled with Agape to a small village called Abonse on a rescue mission. I saw poverty there I had only seen in pictures. Rosamond wasn’t comfortable with us until the ride home. She had been reunited with her brothers and sisters just the day before, after living in another village for two years. Emmanuel was the independent

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big brother who was standing there brave and strong. My favorite part of the trip was bringing them back to meet the other kids from the Agape Children's Home. Every single one of them was so sweet and welcoming. They took the newcomers by the hand and showed them what a playground is, and made them feel like part of the family. The Whitcombs' Christmas party brought us even more joy. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces after opening their presents was the best gift I could have imagined. I'm confident that these children will all grow up to be men and women who serve God."



Left to right: Rosamond, Emmanuel, Rose, and Solomon

Jessica Arnold, teacher at Agape Academy:

"They are such sweet kids. When they first arrived, none of them spoke a word in English, but now they're learning quickly. When asked, "How are you?" they answer with the appropriate, "Fine, and you?" with pride and big smiles. Rosamond stops by my class just to come sit in my lap in the afternoon. Rose was on the "star of the week" board for her respectfulness. I was playing a hand clapping game with Rose and asked her if she could snap.

She couldn't, but then I guess she went home and practiced because the next day she proudly ran up to show me she could snap. Now every time she passes by we snap at each other. The four of them have quickly become a part of the family at Agape and are very loved."



The inside of their grandmother's house

Aunty Lydia Lartey, caregiver:

"When they came they didn't know anything, but now they love counting and saying their letters. They love to run and play. They were in their shells when they came, but now they are much more friendly and interested in the world around them."



Rose smiling on the playground

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