



Mommy, Will You Forgive Us?

“Mommy, will you forgive us?” what a startling request. This did not come out of the mouth of one of the little ones in our care, nor did it come out of the mouth of one of our own children. This request came from Maybelle, the Ghanaian woman who comes twice a week to clean our house.

Maybelle was aware that we had been asked to take a three-day-old baby girl into care and she had a friend who wanted to adopt, in their terms, a healthy “fresh” baby. And Maybelle thought this little one might just fit the bill (as did a number of other interested parties). Debbie did her best not to build any false hopes in Maybelle, because this is exactly the kind of child that the Department of Social Welfare does **not** ask us to take. It was true that we had been approached to care for this little one, but not through the proper channels. Therefore the prospects of such a child actually being placed in our care were not very good.

About a week later Maybelle was again at our home and the conversation again turned to this little one. But this time,

Maybelle’s enthusiasm was dampened. During the course of the seven days that had lapsed, it was discovered that the little one had been diagnosed with a medical condition that caused all the people that had expressed interest to withdraw their requests. This resulted in DSW officially requesting HOME to take the child into care after all.

But somewhere in the communication process there was a disconnect. Maybelle did hear that the baby was coming into our care and she heard that the other parties were no longer interested, but she missed the part about their being a medical condition that brought about these changes.

Debbie explained as gently as she could the reason DSW now wanted us to take the child and everyone else no longer wanted her was because of the newly discovered diagnosis. She continued by explaining that once a child is diagnosed with an illness or disease, no one in Ghana will pursue adoption. And then she asked Maybelle, “Would your friend still be interested in adopting her?” Maybelle

replied, “Mommy, will you forgive us?”

This sad story has a silver lining that is fitting for us to consider during the Christmas season. Instances like this allow Emmanuel to be clearly seen. Believers and unbelievers alike in Ghana are incredulous when they hear that there are Christians from outside Ghana who are not only willing to take a little one like this into their family but are willing to take on the financial burden that can accompany an “imperfect” child. And when we are asked why, we have opportunity to explain that God is at work in and through his children to provide a home for these children who were created in his perfect design.

That is how God is saying “Here I Am!” during this Christmas season. People in Ghana are seeing God through the actions of his children who are caring for these “disposable” precious babies. We praise the Lord for his continued and active presence. And we thank you all for being those through whom he can make that presence visible to those that need to see him.

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From Our HOME to Yours

I guess this is becoming a tradition. Thought you might like to see the children currently in our care. Favour and a yet unnamed baby girl are most recent additions, in fact they should be placed this week. We can't wait to see these new little ones when we return home after our vacation time in the U.S. Merry Christmas from the Deku's and the children of HOME!



Dinah's Doings

It has been so delightful for us to see Jeremiah again, I can only imagine how much more so it is for Dinah to have her son back home. What a Christmas this will be. Last year Jeremiah was getting ready to leave, this year, mamma's happy again.

Dinah continues her work in the villages and her work with the children at HOME. That part of her ministry is about to intensify since we are receiving into care two more infants with special needs.

The first of these little pack-

ages is Favour. Since her birth in the summer of 2010, Favour has undergone three major constructive surgeries to correct some issues with which she was born. She faces at least three more major surgeries in the coming months. We thank God for a godly and generous Ghanaian pediatric urologist who has done the surgeries free of charge for this little one and for his Lord.

The second new addition is a two week old infant with some recently diagnosed medical needs. She too is due to come into care this week.

Please pray for these new additions to the HOME family and pray with us for Dinah as she is about to see her responsibilities increase.

On behalf of Dinah and her family, I extend to you the warmest of Christmas greetings and prayers for a blessed new year. We all appreciate the support that you have given through prayer and your generosity as this dear lady continues to serve the Lord here in Ghana

Pastor Brian on Dinah's Behalf



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Selina Byykkonen

Selina's Spot

We are so excited about one of the best Christmas presents we could possibly have received this year: News that Selina is coming back!

Her current plans include her returning to Ghana in April of 2012 and staying for another year. And we couldn't be happier. Selina was a big help during her first stay with us, but more than that, she was a pleasure to have around. And we anticipate more of the same.

Selina will be working with the children at HOME, helping with the teams we have coming this spring and summer and staying in our home as we return back to the States in the fall of 2012 for our next home assignment.

We thank the Lord for this gift and ask you to be praying for Selina as she finalizes her plans and as the Lord continues to supply the funds necessary for her to come.

We can't wait for her to return. Jessica is especially thrilled to have her adopted surrogate big sister back in our home. Things are about to get very girly again.

Selina, Akwaba! HOME welcomes you and we welcome you home.



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Debbie, Tommy, Jessi, Derek & Brian

What a Kind God We Serve

Praise the Lord we are enjoying a real vacation. Through God's kindness and the generous gift of some dear friends, we are spending the Christmas holidays with Joshua and Norah, Jami and Mike in Wisconsin. What a kind God we serve.

We purposefully kept this quiet because this trip is not intended to be a working furlough. It is a time for relax-

Here We Are

Update on the McIntyre Family

ing and enjoying the Christmas season in familiar surroundings.

The Lord has worked it out so that Debbie will be able to visit her family in Kansas for part of the time and we will also be able to find our way over to Michigan to see my family.

But perhaps the thing we are looking forward to as much as anything else is to see three of our little ones in their new family environments. We have already visited Kojo (now Isaiah Kojo) and his family in Wisconsin and plan on seeing Juliana and Emily when we visit Grand Rapids next week. What a thrill it is for us to see how well they are adjusting to their new parents and siblings (and grandparents too) in their new homes. Here is another instance of kindness from the God we serve.

So bring on the snow! It can start on the 24th and melt on the 26th—just so we have a white Christmas. “We” (that means I forced the rest of the family) to warm up for the season by watching Christmas movies in November. I have made sure that everyone has had an earful of Christmas carols and songs prior to our trip. There is no room for Ebenezer Scrooges in my family, especially this year.

So we wish you a Merry Christmas and hope we will be able to do the same in person to as many as we can in December. Please tell Caribou Coffee to brew up some extra “Reindeer Blend” because we are on our way. I can hardly wait to be home for the holidays, feel a bit like a kid a Christmas.

Pastor Brian for the McIntyres