

GHANA: THE PEARL HOUSE

It has been a busy couple of months here at The Pearl House. We have gone from having eight girls, to no girls, to 11 girls, to 20 girls! Yes, you read that right. We now have a house full of 20 pearls!

The past two months have been filled with changes for these girls. Most came from homes with no running water, no electricity, and no bed. They now have all of that. Can you imagine sleeping on a mat on the ground with five of your other siblings for your entire life and then in just one day be given a bed that is all yours? I can't even begin to think what that would feel like!

They came here wearing pieces of cloth and with broken sandals on their feet. Now they have new dresses and multiple pairs of shoes. Their senses have got to be overloaded. It is funny to see them adjust to all of the new things in their life. Flipping the light switches on and off, breaking a number of things in the house because of their curiosity, and learning to live with two white girls. Courtney and I do our best to work with Tina and Rita, making sure we do not Americanize the girls. But instead we hope they will see how to be Ghanaian women of The Lord.

On September 8th we took the girls on their first outing. It was Maranatha Homecoming in Accra and they girls expressed how much they wanted to go. Going to the convention meant that many of them would get to see family members and pastors, so we decided to go. We went to both services at the church that morning, where the girls were called down by Bishop Odai to be recognized.

We then took the girls to Cocoa Beach to see the ocean. Many of them had never seen the ocean before and would run away and hide behind one of us when a wave came rolling in. As we were about to leave the beach, a man who offered horseback rides asked if they girls wanted a ride. He too was an orphan and so he offered to let them all go for only 15 cedis (about \$8). The girls started the ride off having mixed feelings about the horse, but they all came back with huge smiles across their faces. And of course since we are a house full of girls, we had to leave time for group pictures on the beach! After the beach, we went to eat dinner in a restaurant. The girls (who can eat the same serving as a 25 year old man) left full and happy. It was a great day for the Pearl House family.

The trip was a great start to the week, because two days later, September 11, the girls had their first day of school! Most of the girls love learning so they were excited, but also felt nervous. Being nervous to start at a new school is a universal thing. They seemed to have a good day and were happy. They are now about three weeks in and are still enjoying school. They go from 7:30-2:00 and then have extra classes from 3-5. When they come home our staff helps them with homework and reading.

They are learning quickly and trying so hard to get promoted to the next class by the end of the term. Slowly, but surely these girls are transforming. Just from the two and a half months they have lived here I can see tremendous differences; physically, mentally, and spiritually. They have a long way to go, but have come so far. Please pray for the girls as they go to school, that they will learn hard and be lights at their school. Pray that God gives them all wisdom and surrounds them with good influences. We thank you for your support, prayers, and donations. It is very encouraging to the staff and to the girls to know we have a huge support system back in the states that is lifting us up.

God Bless,
Clara Brown, Pearl House Intern

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