

“The Lord is my light!”

By Darin R. Eckton (Alumni: '99, '03, '12)

My BYU experience ignited a lifelong pattern of receiving and sharing light! I taught at the MTC for three years as an undergraduate student, then earned three degrees at BYU (BA Spanish Teaching, MS Sociology, and Ed.D. Educational Leadership), the latter two earned while working full time at BYU. During that time, our family founded a volunteer-run non-profit to serve globally and cultivate a spirit of service, connecting through Spanish and Portuguese, making the world our ongoing campus. We've awarded scholarships to BYU-Hawaii students, installed boreholes for clean water and built a K-6 school in rural Ghana—growing enrollment from 50 to 180. Later this year, we will break ground on teacher housing to accommodate government-assigned teachers, so they remain and continue teaching at the remote village. One Ghanaian orphan we supported through high school and college in Ghana just graduated from BYU this year with a Ph.D. in molecular biology. Our 501(c)(3) also empowers others to serve in Kenya and beyond. As a professor, I've led UVU and high school students on humanitarian trips to Peru, Nepal, and Ghana. Each experience reaffirms this truth: *“Because I have been given much, I too must give.”*