



# FRIENDS OF AHOTOKUROM NEWSLETTER

Edition 27 June 2013

Registered Charity - DMJ 232421

*Everyone at Ahotokorum wishes to say a big 'THANK YOU' to each one of our supporters. The contribution that you each make is significant and without you we would not be able to survive.*

## Dr. Mark Mantey PhD

We are pleased to inform you all that the newly qualified Dr. Mark Mantey has now returned home to Ghana after more than 10 years study at the University of Limerick in Ireland. Mark graduated in January 2013 following a long and hard journey. We all congratulate him on his wonderful achievement.

The Doctorate was awarded for the dissertation "Authority, accountability and participation: A Ghanaian Municipal Assembly Case Study". As many know, during the course of his studies Mark worked as a tutor and part time lecturer in the department of Public Administration and Politics, this enabled him to complete his studies and provide support to his family.

On his way back to Ghana we were pleased that 'Dr. Mantey' came to visit the Friends of Ahotokurom in England and met many of our supporters.

Meanwhile, his return home is a major resource for the work, for needy local communities and for Ghana as a whole. Mark is a committed and active member of the Ahoto Management team and very

well respected as a role model for 'his people'.

All are proud to see 'one of our own', born to a family who suffered great poverty because of leprosy, reaching the highest levels of academic achievement.

'Ayekoo' Dr. Mantey. We are proud of you.



Dr. Mark Mantey with his wife Gladys

## Another Recent Academic Success - Joseph Oduro MA

Education is KEY to future employment when you have a disability. So we are especially proud to inform you that Joseph Oduro has been awarded MA at the University of Cape Coast. Joseph was brought up in the childcare centre at Ahoto. As a result of contracting Buruli Ulcer as a child, he lost his leg and his arm, also suffering severe muscle

damage to his other arm. He manages to cope quite well with his prosthetic arm and leg but it is his attitude that has enabled him to achieve! Joseph is a very hard working and genuine, caring individual. He has put everything into his studies, knowing the huge opportunity he has been given and as a result he has achieved against all odds. He has now been appointed as a Research Assistant at the University, which is a tremendous achievement with the great shortage of jobs in Ghana.

Joseph is determined to 'give something back' to the community. He regularly visits the children and elderly people at Ahoto and was first to bring gifts at Christmas.

He is a super role model for all the children at Ahoto and for all who have suffered disability in Ghana! Well done Joseph!



Joseph Oduro relaxing after his studies!

To make a donation please send a cheque (payable to DMJ Friends of Ahotokurom) to:  
The Treasurer, Holy Cross Parish, 208 Sangley Road, Catford, London SE6 2JS



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## **'Myself and Who I am!'**

The new IT training centre sponsored by individual donors to Friends of Ahoto has made such a difference to the young people. They come each day after school to create word documents and learn basic IT skills. Below is a piece created and typed up by Isaac. We thought we would feature this to give a little insight to how the children see their own lives:

*My name is Isaac Mensah. I am 15 years old and live at Ahotokorum but I come from Dompem No1.*

*I am in Junior High School 1 in St Anne's School.*

*My mothers name is Mary and my father's name was Evans Mensah.*

*The DMJ Sisters are taking care of me in Ahoto. My IT teacher's name is Sister Louise, one of the DMJ Sisters in Ahoto.*

*My father died when I was 5 years old. It was very sad for my mother but at that time I didn't know what was going on. When I was 7, my mother told me everything about my father; I could not believe it but she says it is true.*

*1 year later I was taken sick and my mother took me to the hospital in our village. The doctor tried to help me but without success. After taking advice from friends my mother took me to Ankaful Leprosy Hospital where the doctors were very good. I stayed at the hospital for two and a half years. It was a very difficult time for me.*

*I thank God for the wonderful things that he has done for me and my family. After Ankaful Hospital, I went to live with the DMJ Sisters in Ahoto. The Sisters have been good to me.*

*Sometimes I go to visit my mother, brothers and sisters in my home town Dompem No1.*

*In future I want to be a Bank Manager. It is what I plan to do and I ask God to help me and let my dream come true.*

**AMEN**

**Thank you for sharing your story**

with us Isaac

## **Our New Website**

*David Edwards one of our UK volunteers has put hours of time into our new look website - please do take time to look at:*

[www.ahoto.org](http://www.ahoto.org)

*There is a lot of new information, interesting reading, photographs and even new video footage!*

*If you would like to see something else included - please do let us know!*

## **Sister Louise in England**

Sister Louise, has just returned to Ghana having spent 4 months in England. She was here to experience a range of Special Care Units for people with Special Needs. Thus she was able to compare the care and services provided here with that offered in Ghana. The idea is that she will be able to transfer some techniques and implement these in Ahoto where relevant and of course



budgets permitting!  
Whilst here she had to cope with the coldest winter and spring for 50 years but survived all with a smile.

## **Catford Parish twins with Ahoto!**

Following a moving talk by Sr Pat and Sr Louise at all the masses in Catford Parish, the Parish Council agreed to 'twin' themselves with Ahoto and commit to raising funds to support all the children in the Special Needs Assessment Unit through their schooling. This is a long term commitment with the aim of building a relationship, being in 'communion' with those in need.

The launch of the project raised £1300 in collections after mass and plans are afoot for a number of fundraising events including a sponsored walk this June!

Thank you to all at Holy Cross Parish Catford! This is a major step in ensuring that children with severe disabilities get support to achieve the most they can.

## **Chislehurst Churches Together**

We have also been blessed by a further generous donation of £2000 raised through the work of the Chislehurst Churches Together Charity shop! Please support the shop if you are in the area and know that your support makes a huge difference to the children in Ahoto!

## **Sister Alice Moves On**

We are very sorry that Sister Alice has now returned to Uganda following her five years of service in Ghana. Her hard work in developing the work at Enyindakurom will live on as three new Sisters arrive to help with the work! Sr Rosette and Sr Gladys come from Uganda and Sr Matilda from the Congo. We look forward to hearing more about them in our next edition but meantime wish them every strength and blessing for their new ministry in Ghana.

*For further information about any aspect of the work of Ahotokurom please contact [tkilcullen@live.co.uk](mailto:tkilcullen@live.co.uk)*

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