

The Diaconate Ordination of Philip Addo



Philip ordained
The first disabled Deacon in Ghana

In 1999 Philip was about to be ordained Deacon when he was involved in a tragic car accident. He broke his neck and suffered a bad head injury. He was completely paralysed from the neck down. Months lying on his back in hospital had left him with huge bed sores, massive infection and on top of that he even got malaria. The hospital could do no more and he was discharged to the care of Ahotokurom on the verge of death. Sr Monica and the team nursed Philip back to life and then in 2001 he came to the UK for a short period of rehabilitation. He gained a little movement in his arms and learnt how to manage his life from a wheelchair. Not once in all this time did Philip stop believing that one day he would be ordained. But time passed by, and continued to pass by and still he was not called. It did not seem at all certain that the Cardinal would ordain him.

We bring wonderful news though. In September Philip's depth of faith was affirmed and he was ordained Deacon. Philip writes "for me I see my ordination as a miracle. I would like to render my thanks to all my loved ones in England and the Friends of Ahotokurom for their prayers and all the support they have been giving me to become what I am today. May the good lord

richly bless them and grant them all the graces to continue to put a smile on the faces of those less fortunate". Philip also asks for our prayers as he prepares for his ordination to the Priesthood on 2nd December 2007.

Cardinal hits London and attends Friends of Ahoto Meeting

We were fortunate recently that Cardinal Turkson of Ghana was in London and joined us at our meeting of the Friends of Ahotokurom. Cardinal Turkson who is the very first Cardinal from Ghana and lives in Cape Coast knows Ahoto and the Sisters very well. The Cardinal asked us to convey his thanks and best wishes to all those who support their brothers and sisters in Ghana through the Friends of Ahotokurom. So thank you to all of you who make this work possible through your generosity and love.



Cardinal Turkson during the tea break at Friends' meeting

Joseph Gets a New Leg

Claire and Tel Hewitt, from Sydenham Parish, recently revisited Ahoto, taking Claire's mother Janet with them. Janet is a long term friend of Sr. Pat. Claire and Tel have been successfully raising money for a new leg for 11 year old Joseph Baidoo. Joseph had a right side high-level leg amputation 4 years ago, following an accident when he was trapped under a fallen tree. The doctors were unable to save the leg as the bones were badly crushed and there was little flesh or muscle left.



Joseph Baidoo

Joseph was coping fairly well with one leg and his crutches, even able to play football and climb trees! As an adult however, Joseph would probably have had to beg to survive, because very few job opportunities would be open to him due to this disability. The best hope for his future was to receive an artificial leg.

Claire and Tel generously pledged to raise the money for Joseph to provide him with a new prosthesis and a replacement leg every two years until he reaches adulthood. He can now get about perfectly well on his two legs, without any crutches. He has a new optimism to his life, and hopes to become a doctor once he is older, a career choice that although will still be difficult to achieve, would have been completely impossible previously.

Francis

Francis is another young miracle. We first met him in 1999 as a 9 year old child. He had been in hospital with Buruli Ulcer for almost 3 years. Buruli Ulcer is a nasty condition and hard to cure. Surgery after surgery is required to cut away the ulcerous skin and try to control the spread of infection. Francis lost much of the muscle in his arm and this restricted the range of movement and left the arm very

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weak. Through the support of Ahotokurom, Francis was able to come and live in Childcare for the last part of his treatment. Here he was near the hospital, but able to go to school and mix with children rather than sick adults. He showed great ability in his education and having been given the opportunity to study he was a very committed student. Despite all the interruption to his education and childhood, last year Francis won a scholarship to the top boy's school in Ghana! He wants to be a doctor and help others in life. He wrote recently "I did pretty well in my end of term exams and I am working hard towards my dreams. ...the only secret that has brought me this far is the kind of support I always get from you." Francis really values the support of Friends of Ahotokurom and asks to be kept in our thoughts and prayers.

Sister Nelly – A profile



Sister Nelly was born in Mbarara, Uganda in 1975. She is the 8th of 9 children. Her Father sadly died when she was 2 years old leaving her Mother to raise this large family on her own. She studied at Kitagwenda High School which involved her walking 16 km daily to and from her home. Then she went to Teachers College obtaining a Diploma in Secondary Education.

She joined the DMJ Sisters in 2000 and worked with prisoners and Aids patients. She then spent a year in both Burundi and Cameroon before coming to Ghana in 2004 where she is a key member of the team looking after Special Needs Unit. Hopefully, she'll be at Ahoto for

many years to come.

The most unusual fund raising we have experienced yet.....

Tel Hewitt persuaded some of his ex-fellow train drivers at First Capital Connect to pose "In the Buff" for a very fine calendar that is now on sale at all their shops and stations, and it is clearly mentioned on the first page of their web site. Look at this link...

<http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/Main.php?iCmsPageId=277>

It is also on sale at some HMV outlets and was recently highlighted on ITN news.

The first £5000 raised will go to Ahoto. Thank you Tel.

Ed note; - No photos here. You will have to buy the calendar to see "State of the Art" trains with drivers "In the Buff".

Southwark Priests Visit Ahoto

Fathers Peter Stodart and Tony Charlton have just visited Ahoto and thank Sisters Nelly and Clarisse and also Nolly for making them so welcome. On the two Sundays of their visit they celebrated Mass at St. Clare's and at the neighbouring churches at Atonkwa and Snitt. On these excursions they were accompanied by Isaac, whom they described as "a very friendly and helpful young man". Sadly Isaac died shortly after their return home - see Obituary...

Muireann and Paul run for Ahoto

Muireann and Paul Sheahan ran a half marathon in October, raising £1,230 for Ahoto. Muireann is Sister Monica's niece: she and husband Paul decided to fundraise after a two-week visit to Ghana last year. They were overwhelmed by the welcome they received during their stay, and inspired by the amazing work carried out at Ahoto. Muireann says they are tempted to go the whole hog with a full marathon next year, so watch this space!

The team thank you all for your care and concern and hope that this newsletter will help you to understand the very real difference that you can

and do continue to make.

Obituary - Isaac

We are sorry to bring news of the sad death of Isaac aged 19. Isaac has spent most of his life in Childcare; he was the 'big brother' to the other children. Although he had sickle cell he had been well for a few years and nobody expected his sad and sudden death. Isaac was a lovely young man, he was good to the other children and he was always helpful and respectful of the adults. The Sisters and the children at Ahoto are heartbroken to have lost such a significant person in their lives. We can only take comfort from the fact that he died on all Saints Day.

May he rest in peace.



Isaac RIP

Tell your friends about our website

Our website is continually being updated. There are many more stories of activities at Ahoto. Please take the time to look it up. www.ahoto.org

**To make a donation
Please send cheques/postal
orders made payable to
'DMJ Friends of Ahotokurom'
The Treasurer
2 Century Road, Rainham,
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For further information on any of our activities please contact:
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