

FRIENDS OF AHOTOKUROM NEWSLETTER

December 2011 Edition 24

Everybody at Ahotokurom wishes to say a big 'THANK YOU' to each one of you for your continued support

Enyindakurom's Craft Fair

Excitement was rife in the community as it prepared for an exhibition of its diverse talents and crafts. The event was set up with the overall aim of encouraging the production, cultural and societal aspects of the community.



Tie and Dye shirts on display

Many weeks of planning came to fruition on exhibition day as the people of the village came out in huge support of the occasion. As the day progressed it was estimated that well over 500 people were in attendance. Fr. Philip started the day off with the opening prayer asking God to bless Enyindakurom. Among the many distinguished guests was Archbishop Mathias Nketsiah, who blessed all the stalls before he cut the ribbon to open the Enyinda Gift Shop.



The youth involved in Enyinda

The success of the day as part of the

ever thriving Enyindakurom project was due in no small part to the MC Mark Mantey and his assistant Kofi Nyarko who both grew up there. The day was in doubt at the start as very bad weather seemed to be approaching. Fortunately the clouds cleared and the sun shone to illuminate the many high quality pieces of tie and dye, African art work, jewelry, bead work and many more goods, all of which were made by the children and grandchildren of the leprosy sufferers. It was Sister Hedwig's dream to make this event possible for the children. She began working with them to produce beaded jewelry, various crafts and colourful and unique doormats. This was extended to include batik tie and dye. With Sister Hedwig moving to Uganda, Sister Alice has happily stepped into her place to continue the good work.

Preceding the hugely popular market was an equally popular and entertaining demonstration of traditional Ghanaian dance by both young boys and girls from the village, all taught by Charles Atindago. It was clear that much practice had gone into choreographing the intricate performance and many passersby stopped to marvel at the spectacle.

It is hard to imagine that only 12 years ago people would not have entered this village because of its association with leprosy. It is a great testament to the work that a day such as this was possible! Well done to all!

Rainham Scholarships

A letter from Ghana says:
" I am Belinda Balugo who happens to be a blessed child of God. I want to thank God for all the favours I have had through the DMJ Sisters and your parish. Your scholarship has really helped me and my family very much and I would want to say a

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big thank you to all the benefactors, who through their

hard work and love, have given me education ever since infancy. By the help of you benefactors I have now been admitted at the college of further education and I hope that one day I will qualify and become a good teacher.

I first did my vocation programme in Home Economics but my points were enough for T.T.C. That is where I am now.

Thank you all Parishioners of Rainham, who through your great love and care have given happiness to me and my family. I believe strongly that God created me and then added my Angels which are the benefactors who have help my dreams come true. I say thank you and may God always put you in His shelter and grant you all your heart's desire. God Bless you all."
Belinda Balugo.



Belinda

THANKS AGAIN RAINHAM

"This is Victoria Amissah-Adjei, wanting to let you know that I never forget all Rainham Parish did for me and my brother. We started vocational school in 2002 on your scheme. Now we are both finished and employed full time, though Vincent (my brother) only gets bits and pieces of work. My marriage is blessed; Paul my husband is a plumber. Our daughter Trudy is in nursery. This all started with you helping me all those years ago. Thank you so much. God bless you all"
Victoria Amissah-Adjei.

IT Training Centre

The IT centre is almost ready to open

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its doors at Enyindakurom. The Sisters are now the proud owners of a small but beautifully designed centre, tiled, decorated and well situated.

Sister Louise has had some very tense moments trying to get it all together for a December opening. She has just completed a refresher course in programming so that the basics in computer can be taught. Two volunteers are also available to help.

The computers have now arrived and the IT boys, Franklin, Joe Oduro, Kwasi Mark and Patrick Davis are currently installing them. The students are ready too, so please pray that the doors will be open by December and watch this space for the opening ceremony & photos.

Our gratitude goes to all the benefactors who have provided the financial support to get this off the ground. Also to Alex Oppon and Nolly Tei who gave off their expertise freely to help develop the site.

To make a donation toward any of our projects, please send cheques/postal orders to

**'DMJ Friends of Ahotokurom'
The Treasurer
Holy Cross RC Church
208 Sangley Road
Catford, London, SE6 2JS**

ENDORPHIN RELEASE

The Magic of the Endorphin Release Therapy

Greetings from the Endorphin Release Therapy team of Ahoto.



Sister Monica in action with Endorphin release

Endorphin Release Therapy is part of the daily routine at Ahotokurom and Auntie Bea, Charles and Ben also treat many patients in their own homes.

Endorphin Release Therapy has proved to be one of the best interventions in the Holistic Care provided. It is very simple and yet proves itself time and time again to bring healing to those for whom traditional medicine has been unable to help. This is seen very specially in the mentally /physically challenged children. Wounds heal much faster, people with asthma get instant relief and people talk of a feeling of well-being. With our mentally/ physically challenged children, although they cannot tell us how they are feeling, they are seen to sleep better and spastic limbs relax. Their appetite and ability to chew their food improves. Also their ability to respond to human contact, such as a smile or a gurgle... This gives anxious parents great hope and also the fact that their child can come each day for a few hours gives them a little respite and helps them to feel they are not alone in their responsibility for their disabled child.

The team at Ahotokurom does not charge for the service, but often those who have been helped do think to give a donation to the elderly people or the children. People with chronic pain are usually referred by ex-patients who have already experienced great relief from Endorphin Release Therapy. That is surely the best testimony!

Fr Philip celebrates three years of priesthood.....

Those of you who remember Fr Philip's story will be delighted to see he is now celebrating his third year in the priesthood. Following a severe car accident

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he was paralysed from the neck down and it was feared he would die from his injuries. With the support of Ahotokurom he was nursed back to life and although he remains paralysed he was ordained a Priest in 2008

In Father Philips words:-

"I will always give thanks to God and bless His holy name because of His goodness to me. Indeed the Lord has done a lot in my life and it is by God's grace, your prayers and your support that I am what I am today. In order to show my appreciation to God for how far He has brought me, I have dedicated my third anniversary in the holy priesthood, which I see as a miracle, to the service of God. In view of this I have decided to repair the ceiling of a church building in one of the outstations in St Anthony's Catholic Church, Atonkwa. The whole project will cost about 5,000 Euros. The local people have contributed 25% of the total amount. I cannot achieve this all alone without your support, and no amount is too small. Therefore I would like to appeal to you to assist me to pursue this worthy cause, and God will bless you in abundance. Again and again, let me take this opportunity to thank all the people especially the "Friends of Ahotokurom" for all your help and support in bringing me so far. May the Good Lord bless you all."



Fr Philip saying Mass

There are many more stories of activities at Ahotokurom on our website Please take the time to look at

www.ahoto.org

For further information about Ahoto please contact tkilcullen@live.co.uk