

Friends of Ahotokurom

Edition 29 June 2014

Registered Charity-DMJ 232421

Sister Pat Provincial for Africa

Everybody knows Sister Pat either personally or by reputation! She is the larger-than-life Co-Director at Ahoto & hails from Middlesbrough. She has been in Ghana for over 30 years and helped to master-mind the developments there.



Sister Pat

Sr. Pat has just been appointed to the role of Provincial for The Daughters of Mary and Joseph's African Province. This will involve her being based in Uganda and undertaking a lot of travelling. Thankfully, we are not losing her completely, because she will be spending some time in Ahoto each year undertaking specific strategic tasks. Also her appointment as Provincial is for 3 years and we are expecting her to return - God willing.

Her vision and caring nature coupled with her forthrightness will be of great benefit to the African Province at large. Our loss will be to the gain of all.

Computer Centre How is it going?

Many parishes and individuals contributed towards the building, equipping and running of the Computer Centre. We reported on the new facility and the demand for places in our June 2012 issue. We can now tell you that the Computer Centre is even busier! At school children are often taught computing on a cut out paper keyboard. Here they can use real computers so unsurprisingly the IT Centre is popular! 36 attend lessons every week. The Centre helps young people from Saint Elizabeth's Special Needs School from Enyindakorum, and some staff members from Ahoto too!

Hastings Half Marathon

Lucy and Bridget (who claim not to be vocational runners), set what seemed to be the impossible goal of running in the Hastings Half Marathon. The motivation was to raise money for the residents of Ahoto, both have spent time living and working as volunteers there so they know the needs.

Lucy said "our time at Ahoto working in St Elizabeth's Special Needs School and helping to run the summer camp for the children, gave us a reason to throw our fears aside, and get our trainers on!"

The race itself was tough... not helped by the fact that the course is considered one of the hardest

half marathons due to the long,

steep hills that seem endless in Hastings! "Something shocking happened to us around the 8 mile mark - we actually started to ENJOY ourselves! The support of the crowds and the rush of adrenaline kept us going and despite a very hard last 2 miles along the seafront, running over that finishing was an incredible experience".

Thanks to wonderfully generous friends and family (who supported them both throughout) £2,165 was raised to send out to Ahoto.

Lucy and Bridget are truly passionate about the work and we thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment. **Well done on this splendid achievement!**



Lucy and Bridget

See our superb new website
www.ahoto.org

Also check out the short videos at:

www.ahoto.talktalk.net/stories.html

For more information contact:
tkilcullen@live.co.uk

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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Sister Clarisse

Congratulations to Sister Clarisse, who will celebrate her final profession (pronouncing her final vows as a Daughter of Mary & Joseph) on 19th July 2014 in the chapel at Emmaus, West Wickham.

Sr. Clarisse, originally from Rwanda was based at Ahoto and is currently mid-way through her studies at Keele University for a degree in medicine.

Once she becomes a Doctor she intends to specialise in General Medicine and return to Africa.



Sister Clarisse

Please keep her in your prayers at this special time.

Leadership Programme

At the end of each year in Ahoto and Enyindakurom, a group of teenagers, who have displayed good leadership potential, are invited to take part in a "Future Leaders Programme".

Each programme runs for seven weeks and the aim is to improve teamwork and communication skills, so that they can endeavor to realise their potential as future leaders.

The last programme had 10 students.

The teenagers met once a week with

their Group Leader. They were then given voluntary tasks to complete e.g. helping with computer classes or gardening.

After 6 weeks on the programme, they all came to stay at Ahoto where there was an intensive programme of workshops coupled with sport and fun!

New Ahoto Team

With Sister Pat moving to Uganda, it seems an appropriate time to update you on the DMJ Sisters currently at Ahoto.

These are: -

Sister Monica from Ireland
Sister Louise from Burundi
Sister Gladys from Uganda
Sister Mathilde from Congo

This is a truly multi-national team who see no boundaries and all get on well together!

Sister Mathilde arrived at Ahoto last year and is a most valuable member of the team. She is bilingual, speaking French and Swahili fluently and is now rapidly learning English and Fanti. She loves working with children and is doing her Apostolate in Child Care, looking after the young children.

She has introduced a new initiative to Ahoto - teaching French to the children on Saturday mornings - which they all seem to love!

We have previously covered the profiles of Sisters Monica and Louise so in our next edition we will cover Sister Gladys!

Sight Tests

Problems with sight are rampant in Africa as a whole - including Ghana; therefore the team at Ahoto was delighted to host a group of Doctors from The University of Cape Coast, in conjunction with the local Lions

Crystal Club, who provided each youngster with a free eye test. All those with sight problems were referred for extra help.

One of the Doctors explained "*What we are endeavouring to do is create awareness about problems with vision. Some visual problems can lead to blindness and this is especially the case with those less privileged*". "*The patient - doctor ratio in Ghana is far too high and there are not enough eye professionals in the country. People just aren't aware. Another problem is the herbal drugs used by many often don't work. We are here to educate the people in these issues.*"

The harsh sun and dusty climate combined with poor nutrition contributes to a huge problem with eye sight in Africa. It was therefore great to see a local initiative to help people who may be at risk of eye sight problems.

The Holy 'X' Factor!

Well done to Holy Cross, Catford who put their talents to good use in order to raise funds for the assessment unit at St Elizabeth's Special Needs School.

The parishioners pulled the stops out with singing, dancing, acting and poetry from all over the world!

The grand finale raised the roof (and a few eyebrows) as the 'Three Little Maids from School' sang and danced across the stage...was it really Fr. Doug in that pinafore dress?

Ah well, raised roof, raised eyebrows and raised nearly £1400. Very well done.

Thank you to all who so generously gave their time and their talent as an expression of love to our friends in Ahoto!

To make a donation please send a cheque (payable to DMJ Friends of Ahotokurom) to:
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