



## PPRC Newsletter – Volume 17 – June-2021

We send you warm greetings from PPRC in Ahotokurom, Ghana, and we hope you are keeping safe and well?

To date, 2021 has been challenging, with Covid-related issues and temporary layoffs of some of our staff. But God continues to show his blessings, with many people still believing in us and supporting us.

Covid-19 has changed our world forever, but we're managing to cope in many ways, and hopefully, we have learned some valuable lessons.

Thankfully, the current level of Covid-19 infection in Ghana is relatively low. Still, the level of vaccination is also relatively low, and we've just heard that the 'delta' variant has been detected in Ghana. So, we must remain vigilant and continue to strictly enforce our 'Infection Prevention Measures'. This is especially important as we gradually reopen St Elizabeth's Special Needs Day-Care and admit new clients into St. Clare's Nursing Home.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends, supporters, benefactors, and volunteers for your commitment and dedication to the work of PPRC and especially for the support and contributions you have given this year.

There are so many people working diligently for us behind the scenes, in the UK, Ireland, USA, and across the globe, and we must applaud them all. In particular, I'd like to thank the Friends of Ahotokurom in the UK and Ireland.

We are most grateful to all of you for your ongoing support and friendship.

With your help, we will continuously strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our clients within the constraints of our financial and human resources

We have updates on St. Elizabeth's, St. Clare's, St. Joseph's, the Quads, Enyinndakurom, Covid-19, fundraising, the farm, and plenty of lovely photos.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Mark Mantey, CEO



Flame Tree in bloom in Ahotokurom





### Table of Contents:

1. Covid-19 Update
2. Outreach Services during Covid-19
3. St. Elizabeth's Special Needs
4. St. Clare's Nursing Home
5. St. Joseph's Residential Care
6. Enyinndakurom Village
7. DMJ – Special Event
8. Local Support
9. Volunteer's Corner
10. Student Placement
11. Buildings Maintenance & Repairs
12. Solar Plant
13. Hostel Project
14. Borehole Project
15. The Farm, Mangoes, and Charcoal
16. Fundraising and Donations

### 1. Covid-19 Update:

- It's more than a year since the start of the global pandemic, and here in Ghana, we've had our share of the crisis
- The current level of infection in Ghana (1,413 active cases) is low relative to Europe, India, and the Americas, but the level of vaccination is also relatively low
- Therefore, we need to continue to enforce our 'Infection Prevention Measures' strictly
- In Ahotokurom, the Infection Prevention Measures we put in place have had a big impact on our lives, and it has been a challenging year for our clients, their families, and our employees.
- Even though the current number of infections is relatively low, we must remain vigilant with our 'prevention measures'
- We are delighted to report that since 6 April-21, more than 40 people at the centre have received their first vaccination, including the elderly residents at St. Clare's

### 2. Outreach Services during Covid-19:

- As part of the St. Elizabeth's and St. Joseph's Outreach Services, we've provided food parcels to a total of 84 deserving cases, including special needs clients and other disadvantaged and vulnerable children

- We've also provided food parcels to 25 older people as part of our St. Clare's Outreach Services
- With great generosity from many people, we were able to support more than 100 families who were struggling
- We are most grateful for this help and support



**Vaccination Centre in the Pavilion**

### 3. St. Elizabeth's Special Needs Day-Care

- We are now planning to reopen St. Elizabeth's, having been solely in outreach mode for the past year
- This will require implementing strict infection prevention and social-distancing measures to protect all our clients and our staff
- It will also require the re-training of replacement staff.
- We plan to have consultations with parents and guardians to discuss the way forward and how best to control the spread of Covid-19
- We are happy to report that all our carers have received their first dose of the vaccine
- Our policy and our primary focus is to strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for all of our clients
- We took the opportunity, when things were quiet, to make some structural and painting improvements
- We are delighted to report that Grace Amankwandoh will complete her studies in Winneba in September







**St. Elizabeth's freshly re-painted door**



**St. Elizabeth's freshly re-painted gate**

- We are looking forward to Grace resuming her responsibilities as manager of St. Elizabeth's, and we know she'll make a significant contribution to our work and the many families we serve
- We are most grateful to the Bexley Deanery Developing World Group for giving Grace this fantastic education opportunity
- A Fanti/Ghana Proverb says: "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family (nation)"



**Vaccinations in St. Clare's**

#### **4. St. Clare's Nursing Home:**

- We have started to reopen St. Clare's for new admissions
- We urgently needed to offer accommodation to some of the people on our waiting list, who were in desperate need
- As these new admissions are coming in from outside, we need to manage this introduction carefully
- We had to rearrange our accommodation to meet quarantine, isolation, and infection-prevention requirements





- Janet and Seth from Enyinnda are our most recent admissions, and they are responding well to care

#### 5. St. Joseph's Residential Care:

- We are delighted to report that the quads have reached several important milestones in their young lives
- They recently turned fifteen, graduated from Junior High School, and were accepted as boarders at Edinaman Senior High School, Elmina
- Kwame is reading science, while the three girls are reading Home Economics
- We are fortunate that the quads are availing of the free Senior High School program
- This program provides equal opportunity to children who otherwise could not afford to pursue their education after Junior High School



**Nellie, Kwame, Rose, and Doris at the Edinaman Senior High School, Elmina**

- The quads have effectively 'graduated' from St. Joseph's Residential Care Unit and will now reside with their family in their home village (Moree) during school holidays
- We pray for their success and the beginning of their independence
- Kojo Gabriel is now 14 years old and has been staying with the Mantey Family in Peace Avenue for the past 2+ years
- Kojo recently embarked on a big adventure



**Kojo packing for his big adventure**

- He travelled on his own for the first time to visit his grandparents near Obuasi-Junction - a round-trip of ~230 miles (370 km)
- We now have only two residents left in St. Joseph's, the twins, aged 18, and we are working on their 'graduation plan'
- After that, St. Joseph's will focus exclusively on outreach services/support for children and families in need

#### 6. Enyinndakurom Village:

- Enyinnda is getting more of our attention these days due to Covid-19
- Our outreach team is supporting the daily dressing of ulcers, which was previously done in partnership with a charity called 'Projects-Aboard,' using nurses from Europe
- However, because of Covid-19 travel restrictions, they don't have enough volunteers, so PPRC is supporting this activity
- Our 'Endorphin Release' team is also providing weekly therapy for residents who need the treatment



Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre, PO Box 766, Cape Coast, Ghana

[infoahotokurom@gmail.com](mailto:infoahotokurom@gmail.com)

[www.padrepio-rehab.com](http://www.padrepio-rehab.com)

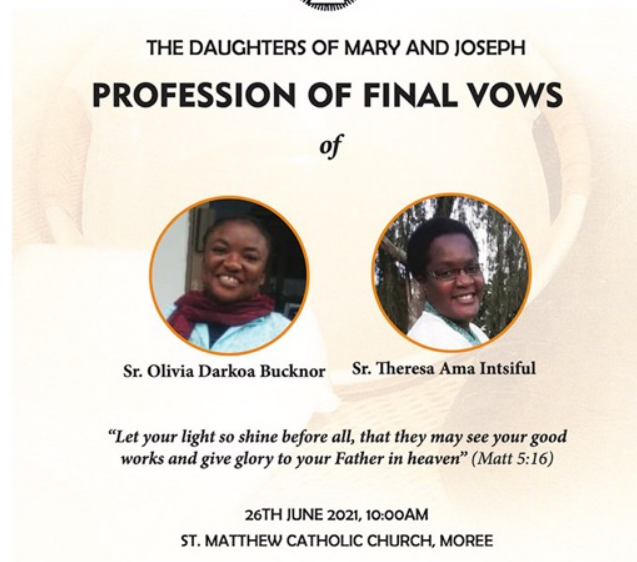
+233-502-584-297





### 7. DMJ – Special Event:

- We are delighted to report that the Daughters of Mary and Joseph (DMJ) had a special event on 26-June: the 'Profession of Final Vows' for two Ghanaian sisters
- This was a first for any Ghanaian DMJ sister
- Please see the announcement below for more details



### DMJ Profession of Final Vows

### 8. Local Support:

- This year we've been blessed with donations in cash and in-kind from more than 50 individual local donors
- These were wonderful surprises, and we are most grateful
- We're very much aware of the challenging times we live in and how hard it is to mobilise financial and other resources to continue God's work for the vulnerable and marginalised



After the ceremony - with the Archbishop – outside Moree Church



DMJ Sisters



Donations in-kind arriving at PPRC







- It's very encouraging that here in Ghana, ordinary people are making time and providing support for those for whom society says there is no place

#### 9. Volunteer's Corner:

- Our "hands-on" volunteering had to be suspended, which was unfortunate but the only option available
- However, many volunteers continued doing what they've always done, offering support from afar
- We were delighted that so many volunteers got in touch to check that things were OK
- Donations kept coming to PPRC to help pay for the supplies and restructuring caused by the pandemic
- Some online help, in the form of music therapy, was put in place
- Hopefully, "hands-on" volunteering will start again this autumn when we have three new volunteers arriving for a three-month visit
- Another volunteer is preparing for a visit early in the New Year

#### 10. Student Placement:

- Three local Ghanaian students were assigned to us for three months earlier this year
- They were final year students pursuing the community-based Rehabilitation and Disability Studies program in Winneba
- We were pleased with the extra help for our ongoing outreach services, and we were sad to say goodbye to these three young ladies

#### 11. Buildings Maintenance & Essential Repairs:

- We've been conducting essential maintenance and repairs of roofs, walls, and gutters within the PPRC main compound
- Some of our buildings are more than 30 years old and urgently needed repairs to counteract wear and tear and recent storm damage
- We are happy to report that, with funding from Adjoa Foundation, we were able to fully refurbish one of our old buildings, giving it a new roof, ceilings, and rain gutters



Re-roofing – work-in-progress



New roof installed

- This renovated building is already looking good; it provides us with two additional separate apartments on the compound, which allows us to increase our income

#### 12. Solar Project:

- It's 27 months since the plant went live, and it's still running well
- We've generated 47,000+ units (47 MWh) of electricity, and our carbon offset is 47 tons
- In Nov-2020, we installed a phase re-balance cable, and this is working as planned
- We are now generating more power than we are using, and our bills have gone to zero, and we're saving about GHS 13,000 each year







- This project has generated a lot of local interest and is seen as an excellent example of sustainability

- We are delighted with the number of our mango trees that have borne fruit this year

### 13. Hostel Project:

- We are beginning to see increased demand for the hostel
- The Covid-19 situation slowed things down due to restrictions imposed on some service industries and the closure of schools
- We are hopeful that things will improve for the rest of the year

### 14. Borehole Project:

- With funding from a UK charity, we sank a new borehole on the compound in May-2021
- We are working with our local 'Subject-Matter Experts' to complete the project



Sampling the new borehole water



Drilling the borehole

### 15. The Farm, Mangoes, and Charcoal:

- The rains were slow to appear, but we have made good progress with our planting
- Charcoal making involves burning wood while limiting the amount of oxygen present
- This results in a product that burns at high temperatures and produces very little smoke
- To augment our income, we are making and selling charcoal, and we're starting another charcoal kiln
- 'A penny earned is a penny saved'



Mangoes grown on our farm

- Almost everyone enjoyed the mangoes, especially the few children in St. Elizabeth's, our staff, visitors, and even local villagers







**Coconut Seedlings arriving for planting**

- Our new grafted mango plantation is also doing well
- The benefits of mangoes are plentiful; they are low in calories yet high in nutrients, particularly vitamin C, which aids immunity, iron absorption and helps reduce blood pressure



**Charcoal production in Ahoto**

#### **16. Fundraising and Donations:**

- There are always more deserving cases than there are funds available
- We continue to search for new sources of funding to avoid over-reliance on our existing generous donors
- In the last few months, we have applied to two different agencies for funding and have identified several other potential donors
- If you'd like to donate in the UK, please use this link: <https://www.ahoto.org/support>
- For other donations, please use the Irish Friends of Ahotokurom (IFOA) account. IFOA is a registered charity and was recently granted 'Tax Exemption Status,' which means that your donations will now go even further

#### **Irish Friends of Ahotokurom - Bank Details**

Bank	Bank of Ireland
Branch Address	University of Limerick
Sort Code (NSC)	90-59-50
Account No.	6638 9119
IBAN No.	IE31 BOFI 9059 5066 3891 19
BIC No.	IE31 BOFI
Registered Charity No.	2014 4869



**Aerial view of Ahoto main compound**

