

# FRIENDS OF AHOTOKUROM NEWSLETTER

December 2012 Edition 26

Registered Charity DMJ 232421

*Everybody at Ahotokurom wishes to say a big 'THANK YOU' to each one of you for your continued support – Happy Christmas!*

## Francis Forson RIP

Many of you will have read hopeful stories in previous newsletters from Francis Forson. As a child he suffered with Buruli ulcer and spent 3 years of his younger life in the Leprosy hospital with only the occasional terminal Aids patient for company. Ahotokurom took him into the childcare centre and sent him to school where he thrived! Eventually he gained a place at one of the top schools in Ghana and got such good grades he was accepted into University. His story was a story of hope, Francis was a symbol of hope and ambition for all the children in Childcare and so his sudden death at the age of 22 years was a devastating shock. His funeral was huge; he was such a popular young man. His fellow students at University said *"He brought light to our darkest place and generated the spark of friendship. Life is not about duration but about donation. Life is not about how long you have lived on this earth, but about how well you have served your generation and indeed Francis impacted on us all in a very unique way"*. **Rest in Peace Francis**, you will be sadly missed.

## Kadisah – helping across the generations!

Kadisah was one of the Rainham scholars and initially studied Home Economics under the scheme. However, it became clear that she was bright and motivated, so following this she gained a place to complete her basic training as an Enrolled Nurse and commenced her nursing career. She continued to push herself and eventually raised sufficient funds to upgrade her qualification to State Registered Nurse. Now that she is an independent adult she takes a keen

role supporting her family. Recently she has invested in a fridge for her parent's house in Enyindakurom (the first fridge in the village) and set up a little shop /kiosk outside their home so that they can sit outside and trade. By selling basic provisions and cool drinks her parents are able to live independent lives without resorting to begging or handouts.



**Kadisah's Mother - proud outside her shop - business is good & stocks are getting low!**

To see the children of those with leprosy, making their own way in life and ensuring that their parents can live decent and comfortable lives in their advancing years is a great joy. Signs of hope that have come through the scholarship scheme!

**Thank You, Rainham**

## Solomon Adjei

Solomon, now completing his Rainham Scholarship programme has written as follows:-

"I am an only child, 20 years old, and as a young boy my mother suffered from leprosy. Then when I was 6 years old it was discovered that I had it too, so we both came to the Leprosarium and I spent three years there with my mother. Whilst there my father died in a road accident and I became totally dependant on my mother.

My leprosy was cured after 3 years and I was then discharged into the care of Ahoto, so I could become stronger and go to school.

My mother was still being treated so she was sometimes in the hospital and sometimes staying with other ex leprosy sufferers at Ankaful Camp. When she was well she helped at the childcare centre in Ahoto so I saw her everyday after school.

When I was 11 years my mother also died suddenly and Ahoto became my home. They cared for me and sent me to St Anne's School.

By the time I was 17 I decided I wanted to be a motor mechanic so I applied to Don Bosco Technical Institute for Auto Engineering. Thanks to people of Rainham my school fees were paid and I did two years in the school, followed by a driving course. .

As I passed the driving course, I now have a driving licence and I can help at Ahoto by doing transport jobs for the Sisters and looking after the car.

The final year of my training is the practical placement and I am with Ghana Water Company. I am a trainee auto mechanic.



**Solomon in his new position**

I like it and have learnt how to trace a fault in car engines and fix it! I am hoping to get a permanent job in this company; please God by next year.

**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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Then I will be able to move out from Childcare at Ahoto and set up in my own place. If I get a job, my dream is eventually to set up my own garage. I will then be able to help others.

I want to thank you (Rainham Parish) for helping me in my education. I am very happy that I could go to school, that I got this great opportunity. I am always grateful for the people who are taking care of me. I keep you in my prayers as I hope you too will remember me. May God bless you all".

## Ghanaian Election

Ghana is busy preparing for an election on December 7<sup>th</sup>. All the parties are electioneering at a pace. Politicians are visiting villages, listening to people, outlining their vision, promising projects and making donations for development! The excitement is almost fever pitch!

Since 1982 Ghana has held democratic and peaceful elections. It is the shining light in Africa; one of only 2 African countries who have managed peaceful and democratic elections. The current party - NDC are looking for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term but it could be close! Rising prices, unemployment, the widening gap between rich and poor, combined with a lack of trust in politicians make it all sound exactly like the sorts of issues we face in western politics!

More than anything the people want peace; all the parties are represented at a special mass to celebrate Corpus Christi and all had to publicly pledge for a peaceful election.

Let us join with them; for it is only in peace that you can truly see development.

## Sister Louise - A Profile

Sister Louise is known as the "KEEP FIT" Sister. Not only does she cycle daily from Ahoto to her work in Endinyakurom (a journey of about 6 miles) - but in the evening she can be seen jogging around the local roads!



Sister Louise 'on yer bike'.

Sister Louise Kwizera was born in Burundi in 1979. She has 4 brothers and is the eldest child in the family. She was educated in a government school and majored in Accounting. She worked in a bank for a year before joining the DMJ Sisters in Burundi. After a year she was posted to Uganda to learn English. Following this she moved to Cameroon where she stayed for 2 years before coming to join the Ahoto team - October 2010. Since moving to Ahoto she has provided considerable help with the accounts making use of her computer skills. However her big achievement has been setting up the new Computer Training Centre to train youngsters in computer skills. This Centre is the only one of its kind in the area and currently has 9 enthusiastic young students with a waiting list of others wishing to enroll.

## Latest News - Sister Alice

Sister Alice, whom we profiled in our last edition is to move to Uganda to serve the DMJ community there as part of her vocational development. This will be a sad loss to Ahoto. She has had a massive impact in the three and a half years that she has been at Ahoto and made many friends!

We wish you all the best Sr Alice as you move on to new service – **Do come back sometime!**

## Happy Christmas

2012 has been a challenging year. There has been a long run of sad funerals; both of the children and the older people. There has also been the absence of Sr Monica following the death of her father, and then departure of Sr Alice. All this has all left pressure on Sisters Pat and Louise to plan the Christmas celebrations!

Rising prices and the election make shopping trips extremely difficult and so it is with great gratitude that through the generosity of various friends and the parishioners of Holy Cross parish – we were able to get **144kgs** of luggage through on a recent trip! That means piles of new clothing and Christmas gifts to ensure that everyone gets at least one present this Christmas. We are sure there will be a lot of happy faces this Christmas! Thank you to all for your great generosity – may you share in that happiness.

**There are many more stories of activities at Ahotokurom on our website Please take the time to look at [www.ahoto.org](http://www.ahoto.org)**

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

*Wishing you all Peace and Happiness this Christmas*

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