

Ghana 2007



Greetings from Ghana Travelers

Elza and John Garnett and Susie and Dick Kiphart



We are happy to report that the wells, which have been funded by donations from KUC members and built in the villages and schools, are still working and providing clean water to the people of Manhyia, Krapa, the Krapa school area, Abesua, Atimatim, Bonwire School, and Christ Church School. The Mountain Water Project has been expanded and serves more communities. RUCNET now has two trucks and a borehole that supplies water for mountain villages. We visited many places and were thrilled with what we saw. We did not see every site from past projects, but we are assured and confident by our inquiries and our sampling that all of the wells are still working and in very good condition. The well in Abesua has been in service for almost two years and the people reported to us that they are feeling very healthy. They no longer have the illnesses that once were prevalent. They spoke specifically of the absence of Yaws (a skin disease), Cholera, Bilharzia (a terrible condition causing bladder bleeding and eventually cancer), and other bacterial and fungal problems. We were overjoyed to hear them speak of their improved health and we could see that their lives and the overall welfare of their village has improved because of clean water. In Abesua and Bonkwaso we are building additions to their schools. Now more children can attend school rather than travel distances to collect water. We met the children, their teachers, the elders and chiefs of the villages. They were very gracious and our time together was heart-warming to say the least.



On this trip, we also visited areas where there are new wells and we can report that clean water is flowing. We visited Nsemie where a well is finished even though the funds only arrived this past spring. In Okorasi, Afraku, Juabenmba, and Boatenkrom we saw the new wells and we met the people. In each village, we exchanged gifts and greetings on your behalf. In Afraku, a very poor village, we received the very generous gift of a live sheep! In other villages, we received pineapples, a live chicken and special clothing. Their warmth, generosity, hope and faith were the greatest gifts to us. One of the villages, called Bredi, we did not actually visit. This village consists of a number of cocoa farms and the new well is located in the center of the area. It is very remote and time did not permit us to go there. It was becoming dusk and the mosquitoes are heavy in these areas. There is no light other than the sun, which was setting, and so we opted out. We hope you will forgive us for that. We will receive pictures of that well. We can all thank Peter Eduful for being our on-the-ground leader. It is his effort, he would say *Nyame N'adom*—by God's Grace—that makes all of this possible.



We also visited very remote areas where Dr. Addai is building wells in villages where he is also developing a health clinic. One clinic is up and running with a mid-wife named Vivian, and a small staff. The other two clinics are in the development stage. The wells in these three villages are running and providing water to the people. One generator has been a problem and we are working with him to make sure it is adequate. These villages are Adumasa, Anyanso and Tebeso.

One of the mountain communities is called Womo/Kumauu. There are many people in the mountains because it is cooler there. The villages are identified as separate and have different names but seem to run together. We are pleased with both the clinic areas and the mountain areas and know that the people's lives have improved dramatically because of clean water.

Our focus has been clean water because we have believed from the beginning that all people need and deserve access to the good water from God's earth. It is up to us to share our resources so they may also have this gift. Water wells have for the most part, been the destination of the funds that church members have provided and will continue to be a vital way that members can participate if and when they are inspired to do so. It is, however, impossible to meet the people and not be touched by their other needs. The desire for better education is impossible to ignore. This is how the interest in the school in Krapa developed and grew into a remarkable story.

And this is where the Kenilworth Union Church Faith Family enters in? We are pleased to announce that the Ghana Project has been embraced as an official ministry of our church. This has been decided with the generosity of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. We are happy to invite you to participate with us in forming a fund for the continued success of the school in Krapa. The school is called the Kenilworth Union Church Junior School because of the funds which some of you very generously gave to build the school. (You may call us directly if you have questions.)



One of the first nights of our visit included a memorable dinner with the chiefs of Krapa. We had a very interesting conversation about their dreams for the new school. They have donated a large portion of tribal land for this school and it is very progressive of them to do so. It will serve the children of Krapa and other nearby villages. They do not want this school to be mediocre. They see an opportunity to have a special place for the children so they will continue their education. (Many students drop out by Junior School.) They want the children to be engaged by better programs and to stay in school. Indeed, there should be some leadership and examples of good education in the seemingly endless sea of little schools along the way that are barely surviving and not funded to serve the children adequately. It is not really the fault of the government. Ghana has a good democratic government that is pro-education. The District Assemblies try to serve the schools but there is very little tax base and not enough money to get beyond the status quo. We have an opportunity to make a difference for these children to grow and learn and thus achieve a better situation for themselves and their country. There have been meetings and we will report and tell you what kinds of things are needed in the future. The possibilities are to assist with such things as adequate room for future classes, computers,(Yes, there is some access to electricity and generators), a library and hopefully a science lab. We are also interested in making sure the teachers are adequately trained and prepared. The school will begin with the equivalent of a sixth grade class and add a class each year until they have all three junior level classes. Our goal is always to provide some specific resources so that the people can rise to the occasion and take on the challenges of their own lives. We believe in the humanity of aid that leads to sustainability.



There will be much more to tell and we hope that you will come to our program this fall (TBA) and learn more about this project. Thank you for your support. Someone asked us if this was like Missionary work for the church and for us. We would answer, "Yes" with a twist. We are the ones with the material resources, and they are the true missionaries who have changed and deepened our Faith and commitment to God and to God's work in our world.

God bless, from the Ghana Travelers!