

A WONDERFUL RETURN TO GHANA

On 11th March 2013, Barry and Christine Empson along with their son Andy, daughter in law Modesta and grandson Joshua, set out on their journey to Kaleo. The trustees to review progress with the charity work and Andy, Modesta and Joshua to visit their family. It was an exciting adventure which culminated in the success of the charity work being recognized by the District Director of Education and the chief of Kaleo. The charity in the UK, the coordinator in Kaleo, Pastor Solomon, and Becky, the Head teacher of the Kindergarten, have gained the confidence and trust both of the local community and the education authorities. This meant that whilst in the Upper West Region we were able to hold frank and fruitful talks.

A very positive time was spent in Kaleo with real blessing being seen. The children in the Kindergarten are very happy and are keen to learn. The first year children, when they commence, only speak the local language, Dagaree, yet soon they are speaking English as they learn the letters of the alphabet and numbers. By the time they reach the primary school

many are immediately progressed to year 2. During our visit we travelled an hour further north to the District Assembly in Nadowli to meet with the District Director of Education. The Director was incredibly positive about the Kindergarten and told us that it is used as a model school to show ministers and other visiting dignitaries who come from the capital, Accra. The school is of a standard to which all other Kindergartens and Primary schools should aspire. The chief of Kaleo said that he could testify to the quality of education as his grandson had attended the Kindergarten. Whilst in Ghana Andy delivered a one day seminar aimed at equipping people to lift themselves out of poverty by starting their own income generation projects. He did this after receiving training from the Baildon based charity 5000plus. For more information go to www.5000plus.info. If you would like to read more about our visit to Ghana including terrifying journeys, beautiful landscapes and amazing people, contact Chris and ask for a copy of her journal.



DEDICATION

The church building in Kaleo was completed in 2007 but the church members refused to have the dedication service until we could be there to take part. So it was on a hot Saturday that a gathering of about two hundred people

came together and celebrated God's blessings with music, dance, food, drink and long speeches. It was wonderful to be part of the celebrations and we received beautiful gifts of matching smocks and dresses.



NEW KINDERGARTEN BUILDING

Due to two serious road traffic accidents, involving Pastor Solomon and Prosper's son, work on the kindergarten building was put on hold for a time in 2012. The construction had reached roof level but unfortunately got no further. During the time of inactivity inflation has increased and further money is needed to

continue the work. Whilst we were in Kaleo we had some long meetings with the building committee in which we discussed the problems and agreed that further money would be sent, but that we hoped for the work to move forward speedily. The money has now been sent but of course has made a larger hole in

our finances than was anticipated.

The building work should now progress at a pace and we hope that the new Kindergarten will be ready to be furnished before the end of the year. The Kindergarten staff are eager to move to the new premises which will give them far more space and

much better facilities. When it is finished the building will house two classrooms, an office, a storeroom, toilets, a kitchen and will be surrounded by a wall making a secure compound. Children will learn in a challenging atmosphere within a safe environment.



PRAYER

Please pray for: Pastor Solomon and Shadrak (Prosper's son) - that the injuries they received in the accidents will continue to heal. Rebecca, the head teacher - that her deteriorating eyesight will be healed. Medical staff can do nothing. Paul, a

little boy of 6 years who was badly burned when a kerosene lamp set his bed clothes on fire when he was a baby. He lives in constant pain, his right hand is badly deformed and he is too weak to go to school. Please pray for him to get well.

THANK YOU

This year has been another brilliant year for people's generosity both in monthly giving and one off donations. As treasurer I would like to thank all who have contributed to the charity this year and of course previous years. Tremendous thanks for your unfailing support because without you none of this would be possible. The total income for the financial year just ended was £10590.05 of this £2000 was raised at last years fund raising day which again was a record and was just incredible. The monies sent to Kaleo in the year totalled £6818.44

which included £5000.00 for building materials and wages for the construction of the Kindergarten building. In addition we gave a small bonus to the teachers last Christmas as they have not had an increase in wages for several years; they enjoyed a meal together. We sent money to help the 3 trainee teachers with some of the cost of their studies. A further amount in excess of £4000.00 will need to be sent shortly to pay for the coming year's wages; uniforms etc. so please continue your very generous giving. Again many thanks.