

## **Annual Report 1996**

### **Christian Rural Aid Network**

### **CRAN Friends Circle e.V.**

(March 1997)

Happy is the person who is generous with his loans, who runs his business honestly. A good person will never fail, he will always be remembered. (Psalm 112:5.6)



Construction of Abakam school in good progress



## The general situation in Ghana and Germany

1996 is an electoral year in Ghana. Thus there naturally are lots of speeches and promises concerning development. Nevertheless in some places there is really something happening: Construction work on the road from Golokoati to Liati for example means a great infra structural support for the Wote project. It can however not deceive that the economic situation in the country remains as difficult as in the last years. Inflation rate has reached about 90 % within the last two years. But there is reason for hope. During the electoral preparations it has been shown that never mind the political differences between the parties the wish for peace and development is deeply rooted within the population, and there is an upright readiness to put this above personal interest and thus to build a strong foundation for a maturing democracy well able to survive. So we may assume all the work in the projects can be done in a stable context, which means a remarkable success in present day Africa.

In Germany we see CRAN still is a young organization in the middle of a phase of expansion. Therefore we can compensate the economic context getting more difficult even here. Less easy is winning more people to become sensitive for the situation in Ghana or even getting actively involved in CRAN work. The current involvement as well as the financial development are however a source of big joy. Our thanks are expressed hereby to all those, whether in Ghana or in Germany, who by their work contribute in the success of the aid.



## Project development in Ghana

Filled with thanksgiving we can notice how the projects in Ghana again have experienced fine progress. Let us have a closer look at the several project sites:

In Abakam the development of the school is the main task. For 1996 it was planned to integrate the school into the official Ghanaian Education System (GES), having successfully been operating for three years. This could be achieved in time. The prerequisite was to have permanent and well functioning classrooms available for classes 2 (already running) and 3 (starting with the academic year 96/97). CRAN could come to an agreement with the Presbyterian Church which means they overtake the school into their Educational Unit within GES. At the same time CRAN and the local Town Development Committee keep their influence as parts of the school board. The cost of teachers payment ceases in future. CRAN's obligation, as fixed in the project proposal, to construct further classrooms within the next years until a complete primary school is built is still valid. By the end of the year, three teachers are working in the school, plus two for the kindergarten, about which there are still negotiations how to proceed in its financing. With the integration into GES there came a change of staff in that way that Comfort Tsaku, headmaster for the four year phase of building up the school, went back to her old employer as the time for which she was lent out to CRAN ended. Now there are five teachers and kindergarten staff in the school, educating about 125 children.

The Christian community shows a less rapid growth than in former years, but it has got an important role in the village and takes, by own initiative, action to build a small „church house”, showing how the effort to train impulse and activity on their own has been falling on fertile soil here.

Bantuma is still suffering by missing unity within the village. That means not only any projects, never mind which kind, but also a fruitful work for church growth, are too difficult now. We regret that was last years' stage already.

As to Duakor, we can report with joy about a successful church work.



After small beginnings in 1995, now the Christian community has got a piece of land for permanent use. Here the first ever CRAN training workshop for Cape Coast region took place in August 96. The idea to directly provide the people with know-how for economic enterprise is new here, thus for results we still have to wait. The workshop was a good way to have the several villages of this region in which CRAN is operating coming together and taking part.

CRAN's (consultative and financial) engagement for the *Frami* clinic had to be suspended. Quarrels within the village community about profit disrupted peace and were counter - productive to the idea of a project meant to benefit the villagers as a whole. After several efforts to settle the dispute CRAN saw itself forced to retire - at least without financial loss.

*Liati - Wote* shows first success from the training workshops. As to buildings, the training centre project did not win any substantial progress; there is only limited finance, and a local project co-ordinator is missing. The meaning of the workshops is more and more recognized by the local population, and chances are accepted and put into action by individuals. Bees and snails are gaining first profit. A considerable improvement is marked by Mary Amewuga, who could be employed as project co-ordinator on full-time base, at least limited to a one year period, starting in May 96. Thus CRAN's local presence is better given. Its reputation in the village got a remarkable impetus by winning the Chief's linguist as a Christian and for CRAN activity, who now will use his personality on behalf of the project.

A new project site is *Sanka*, about 15 km from Cape Coast, in some distance to the main road. By the Central Regional division of GAPVOD, the NGO umbrella organization, CRAN came into contact with CEWEFIA, another regional NGO. Now they co-operate to bring forth a reforestation project that is to bring ecological and economical improvement. Part of the grassland leased by the Sanka community has been planted with fast growing trees. CRAN expects some income for its own work by that. This means a first step in the model of income generating projects to reduce the dependence on foreign grants. As a compensation CRAN offers assistance to the village in other questions of



public importance, for example support for the existing kindergarten and consulting concerning the provision of water.

*Shama - Kedzi* school and kindergarten are still operating under makeshift conditions. Though last year right starting the construction of an integrated church and school block, the flood waves during the last two years have clearly shown that in the long term the village will not be able to survive at its present location. So there arose the need for an alternative place where in some distance to the present village a new settlement will be erected and close to where the school should be built. For that engagement CRAN will be dependent on finance donated by some partner organization. Of course the village people are disappointed about the postponement that cannot be avoided. There is, however, no negative effect on the local church work; in the contrary, the peoples' spirit keeps on showing encouragement. By the end of the year kindergarten and school have about 130 children, taught by four teachers.

As to staffing we have to mention that in the person of Mr George Tokpo a new volunteer worker could be won who by profession works in the accountancy sector and thus can improve CRAN's method of financial administration. As to finance, CRAN is still dependent on our friends circle support by more than 95 %.

Without the never ceasing activity of so many of our Ghanaian friends all this work could not be done in the intensity and quality that is to be watched. We take this opportunity to thank them all for their effort, as their engagement in village churches, schools, and the various activities always shows to us they are people with a mission to help their neighbour people and thus demonstrate visible charity.

(For further information about the several projects also see the annual report of CRAN Ghana.)



## Aspects of our work in Germany

The *contact* Ghana - Germany is obtained by at least monthly letters exchanged between the Ghanaian director and the German co-ordinator. Furthermore in 96 we succeeded in establishing an E-mail connection. This gives us the chance for quick and cheap contact. The co-ordinator, Mr Hans Wallhaeuser, spent a visit to the project villages in August. By that personal contact the relationship was deepened and especially some necessary agreements with CRAN Ghana could be achieved concerning future organization of our support.

Within Germany, the main means of information is by newsletters (5 issues in 96). Apart from reports about the project work they regularly contain articles about issues relevantly related to development (in Ghana; for example a preview on the Ghanaian elections, or about the used clothes trade and its effect on the textile industries). The annual meeting took place in November, including a report about the summer's visit. All the other activities have to be co-ordinated by mail and phone because of our regional structure. Wolfgang Bruessler has been (unofficially) appointed as our public relations adviser. As such he has established an Internet homepage that is accepted to our full contentment. Some other public attention was (in vain) searched by a newspaper report in Forum Eine Welt (One World Forum). Participating in the Dresden Christival in June was not made possible by its organizer. Instead CRAN has successfully applied for taking part in Kirchentag (Protestant church conference), Leipzig 97.

New friends more and more are won from „second grade” personal contacts, that means, friends won by the founding members now pass on our mission to their friends. The personal level of contact remains but spreads in the sense of organic growth. With the year ending our newsletter is sent out to 64 members, donors and sympathizers.



## Financial and material support of CRAN Ghana

In the year 96 we have seen a delightful increase of donations up to 39 TDM (previous year: 27 TDM). That gave us the chance to increase our cash transfer and sending of material to Ghana from 19 TDM to 34 TDM. Expenditure on PR material and administration amounts to 2.4 TDM and reaches a reasonable percentage, as everything here is done on voluntary base.

The increased cash transfer especially benefited the Abakam school project. To reach such a state of construction that guaranteed to be taken over into GES considerable investment had to be realized, which by the success is fully justified. Apart from that, as to donations we are full of joy and appreciation that by SMD pupils branch (the German IFES wing) half of the summer camps offering was collected for CRAN, especially for Abakam school. (The transfer of the money however could only be made in 1997).

Besides, for the work of CRAN 15 bicycles (used ones we got as gifts) could be shipped. Now they are in very useful service for church and project work in various villages. On his visit, the co-ordinator took some spare parts for car and computer set with him that were easier to get in Germany than in Ghana.

To bring a further spreading work of CRAN on broader foundation into existence it is necessary to get some institutional support. Therefore project proposals written by CRAN (Abakam, Liati - Wote, Shama - Kedzi) were translated into German and sent out to more than 20 NGOs in Germany. The only positive but encouraging answer is a more detailed check by „Hilfe fuer Brueder“ (Evangelical Assistance Programme).



## Conclusion

Again and again it is exciting to watch growing so much from a very limited start by the help of God. CRAN sees itself confirmed in its call to strengthen that development and to grant the support that cannot be obtained within Ghana, to exercise justice and love. In that way we trust in our Lord Jesus Christ to give his light for an even and consistent path.

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