

Dear friends of CRAN,

one of the most outstanding - because rare - events of this fall was Doris Agbesinyale's visit to Germany. It had worked out in astonishingly short-term that Doris, deputy director and at present Ghana's acting leader - was able to come to Germany on a business trip. It is especially nice that during the 14 days of her visit various appointments could be met:

- It was the time of our fall meeting. (When invited in our last circular unfortunately her visit was not yet known.) This way especially personal contacts were possible. Personal encounters and the understanding for each other are more valuable than results of work. Thus to learn from each other is a dual experience.
- At the EZE (Protestant Association for Cooperation in Development) there was, after finishing phase I „Duakor" (See below!), a meeting in order to discuss the results and further possibilities.
- The German „Welthungerhilfe" has confirmed interest in the microcredit program. The result of the visit to Bonn was the preparation of a trip of two CRAN members to Mali to a similar project. That way a south-south-cooperation, the learning by doing may enter a constructive phase.
- At KHG (Catholic Student Congregation) Aachen Doris informed about the mills project in Liati-Wote. One woman of the village had been chosen to participate in a training of a few weeks in the district town Hohoe. After that she will take over the running (and the maintenance) of the mill. This again is a novelty in Ghana: traditionally the miller in Ghana is male. All sides have to learn with the new situation; but it is important to proceed like this in order to be able to place a woman at the centre of a women's project.
- At various meetings with church groups she accompanied the CRAN presentation with text and pictures.

We are happy that Doris had the opportunity to get to know our Western culture and our group of friends at least in some proportion. And of course we hope that from this fruitful ideas for the further work will develop.

Almost at the same time again a German trainee has left for Ghana. Her stay will be much longer. She will work in the kindergartens/schools of CRAN. She is writing to us about her so far experiences. (See below!)

We have received more mail from Ghana. We all know Seth Mawuena Adzadi to be a busy volunteer member since the early days of CRAN who is well known to all visitors for his friendly and competent company. After we have mostly heard from full members we now want to read - and learn - from a volunteer; only through both groups together the reality of CRAN can be described sufficiently. His presentation follows below.

Finally a few aspects of CRAN's work have to be remarked. One of which is the opening of a training centre in Duakor. With excerpts from the official final report of the project are being more explicitly shown the items that Wolfgang Bruessler had pointed out in the last newsletter.

Further these are the following news:

1. The microcredit program is being liked very much by the women of the villages. Especially during the fish season in fall. Who has enough capital can of course earn more and thus has a better financial basis for the family for the coming year. Naturally it is a pity that the program in total could not yet gain the capital basis that would have been necessary in this phase, when everybody needed a credit. As long as a final promotion of the project is only in view but not yet realised we have found a temporary remedy on private basis. This way at least certain basic needs are being covered. We hope that this gives the members of the „Savings-and Credit program" the trust and that thus use - humane and in quantity - will be

created.

2. For the school in Shama- Kedzi teachers are still urgently needed. In practice it is more difficult than we thought to find suitable and well trained teachers who are willing to go to the far away village and to teach the children there where it is more vitally needed than in the cities to bring the children education and to sometimes serve their parents as an example.

3. The management has been reinforced by a Canadian volunteer worker. Her main resort will be sponsoring - which means at this point to find financial and material help in Ghana itself. She was before a member in a different organisations in Ghana and therefore we can really hope for success. We value this as an important step to self-sufficiency which of course does not dismiss the necessity of our help.

At the end of the year that brought progress to CRAN made important points and experienced always God's guidance I want to thank again everybody who helps carry this work for sharing their thoughts and time and I hope that we shall walk together - unmistakable - by the blessing that God gives to his people.

Hans Wallhaeuser, Coordinator CRAN Germany

### Opening of Duakor Women's Training Centre

On August 17th, 1999 the Centre was officially opened in the presence of lots of invited guests including our Freundeskreis delegation. The training had taken off some weeks before so that then first working results could be presented to the guests. Some of this have been brought to Germany with Doris' visit (clothes both for ladies and gents, in Ghanaian cloth, colour and style, of a very fine quality). In an address by a Central Regional Minister gave a confession towards rural development: „The Government of Ghana deeply acknowledges and appreciates the immense role and contribution of NGOs towards the national development process. In our pursuit of Vision 2020, Government is under no illusion of the task ahead. (...) Rural development promotion aimed at reducing the skewness and the imbalances towards urban growth, as well as the promotion of equity and social justice is core to Government's development programme, bearing in mind that over 60% of our population live in poor rural communities such as Duakor. the District Assemblies Concept, the Common Fund innovation, Government's aggressive Rural Electrification Programme etc. are but a few of the bold measures adopted over the last one and a half decades to bridge the rural-urban gap so to speak. (...) I deeply appreciate the exemplary efforts of CRAN and their partners in Germany for choosing Duakor as the location for this Women's Resource Centre project. It is most heartening to know that the project is targeted mainly at women within the cluster of village communities around, especially, the small insignificant fishing villages. (...) This has become more crucial as we witness the increasing decline in fish stocks over the last years dimming the prospects for any continuous heavy dependence on fishing as a sustainable source of livelihood in these communities. (...) CRAN and for that matter any genuine NGO pregnant with these noble ideas and programmes as we see being actualised here in Duakor, can count on government support and goodwill. In the same vein, we in the Central Regional Administration pledge to lend our support to all NGOs operating in the Region including CRAN. In doing this, I wish first and foremost to call for more and greater collaboration

between NGOs and the District Assemblies in making the ongoing Government's Decentralisation Programme a real success.”

That means CRAN is known by the officials as an organisation and with the aims and ideas of its work. Will we be able to avoid controversies like about Sanka kindergarten in future? Then we hope for a longer lasting remembrance of these words.

### Practice in Ghana

„By the mercy of God I have landed safely in Accra on October 10th 1999. There I was met by the CRAN member Mr. Eben. In Cape Coast I was received heartily by Doris Agbesinyale

and her family. Since then I am a volunteer worker in the primary school in Abakam, built and sponsored by CRAN. I teach the 2nd class in the kindergarten. I like the work but I also need a lot of patience. A big praise to all Abakam teachers who support me with advice and translations (in local Ewe) or with traditional dance and songs.

What I have noticed immediately is the deep faith. Every Wednesday morning there is a two-hour lasting Bible class for all children of the school. The children learn Christian songs and the gospel is being preached. The children sing full of joy. The gospel music does - so to say - go under the skin. Maybe you too - dear CRAN friends - will one day meet with the children at their Bible class.

Unfortunately there is a shortage of books, exercise books and other materials like e. g. calculators. Therefore the teaching is different from what we know. Before school the kids clean the surroundings and the classes. At 8 am the director or his representative holds a speech, the national anthem is being sung and a common prayer is said. Then at 8.15 the lessons start. Teaching is flexible and also influenced by the climate. Because on some days it is very hot and humid class is held under the palm trees where the heat can be endured. Also the fine sand is great for writing exercises because paper and exercise books are luxury for some of the poorer families. About 1.30 p.m. the lessons are finished with a common prayer of the school staff.

Dear friends of CRAN, thank you very much - in the name of the staff and the children - for all the help and the sponsorship. Unfortunately we will still be needing your help (e. g. for chalk, pencils, children's Bibles in English) so that also the next generation of children will get a school education.

I personally shall probably be in Abakam for a few weeks and then change to the kindergarten in Sanka, to go on to the primary school in Shama-Kedzi to offer the children my help there. May God bless you and protect you."

Nicole Visser

Hi, this is a little dossier on Seth.

Who is Seth?

Seth was born on 3rd September 1964. I finished my 'o' Level in June 1992. I officially got employed in February 1989 and have since been working as an Accounting Officer. I obtained Diploma in Business Studies (Accounting Option) from the Ho Polytechnic in June 1996 where I studied for two years. I also have a certificate in Basic Administration from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in January 1998.

About hobbies?

My major hobby is photography - still and motion pictures. I love reading and driving.

Family life?

I got married in 1998 and have been blessed with a baby girl in June 1999. My wife Eva is a teacher by profession.

Contact with CRAN

I got to know Patrick somewhere in 1992 or 93 thereabout after he had returned to Ghana from Germany. The contact developed into a closer relationship of that of an elder brother and a younger brother. He requested me to be his bestman for his wedding. Within all this time he shared his vision about CRAN with me. Before long we both identified the areas in which I could be of help to CRAN, which roles I gladly play to date.

Seth is by nature a man of many blessed talents - pardon me if I sound a bit awkward here! Patrick identifying these traits had assigned me with various roles which I have accomplished by the grace of God. My area of operation mainly had been the workshops; organisation and reporting. My hobby as a photographer has helped me to present CRAN's programmes and projects in pictures. I should say all these services to my mind were full-hearted job because I earned satisfaction from them. On the other hand it may be voluntary,

which of course is a matter of conception. I feel very much fulfilled each time I am able to successfully complete any assignment at any given time. Then is a full time job done. However where I am not able to work within schedule time then I long to be at full time service for CRAN.

So one may be asked to compare these two sides of a coin, volunteers and paid staff. It may be hard for me. I believe the distinguishing element in this is the level of commitment on either side. For that matter I should say that volunteers for CRAN are needed and shall continue to be needed as long as CRAN maintains this current trend of operation / projects. It would be suicidal to employ a full time camp commandant for our work camps. In the same vein it is naive to think of a voluntary instructor for the Duakor Training Centre. The point I am trying to make is that these two positions are a matter of season and timing, this is relative. In the next 10 - 15 years (should the Lord tarry) most of the voluntary positions could be consolidated into permanent salary earning positions for paid staff! For me however I sometimes wish I were a full-time for CRAN - not for the pay per se but for the singular fact that I shall then be able to devote my time to CRAN. And even then I think these thoughts are generated as a result of distance between Koforidua and the operation areas. To sum up I think CRAN volunteers would continue to be needed since making such positions permanent paid staff to my mind would be constrained by finance.

#### On my gifts

As I tried to explain above I owe the glory to God for anything I am able to do and do well for CRAN. My gifting is identified at the time it is needed. Things like photography, driving and such practical skills are obvious. But maybe sitting down to design a programme, work at the computer etc. are all the doings of the Lord. Things I do not have any previous knowledge about such as trying to fix some fault with the CRAN car could be described as the Holy Spirit at work in me. I pray that in the future we can unearth similar volunteers that can help push CRAN forward!

#### CRAN work and other obligations

The past visit of the Freundeskreis was a real acid test, to think about other obligations and CRAN. In one way I could not have disappointed Patrick, no rather CRAN. It was a call for duty. But then I had to think about my own young family. It would have been really difficult for me if my wife was not Eva but someone else. I had to break into the accepted or approved visit itinerary and divert our course through Koforidua from Volta Region to see my family. So you can agree with me that obligations could sometimes affect the general programme of CRAN. Work for me now has been favourable to CRAN. At least I am entitled to my annual leave, which I have to plan to coincide with our major activities. Other volunteer staff at key positions like George could have problems since their leave roster is serialised sort of. I pray seriously that the Mali trip would be possible for me, otherwise I should have to ask for a leave without pay to make the trip. You see our set-up (work culture) is more flexible than yours. As such I do not see how things like these could fit into your system. Of course there are costs attached to these positions. For me as an example, I am missing a promotion exam I should have sat for at the end of this month, because I was at Cape Coast at the time of registration. And when I go on the trip to Mali there may be other things to miss. I hope you can appreciate these cost with me. I also admit that the distance between Koforidua and Cape Coast affects my services to CRAN and as such I have been considering transferring to Cape Coast or Takoradi (still praying about that). Whichever way it takes, I think we still have to be mindful of our calling - my voluntary work to CRAN is a calling and seeing it as a ministry pushes me on no matter what circumstances that are militating against it. For what at all can separate us from the love of God (our love for CRAN)? Colleagues! Come along, let us go!

#### My words of motivation

When the Freundeskreis were here I tried sharing a few thoughts with them in turns. Bible asks how can two walk together except they agree. I think and believe CRAN is a family and we shall share something in common. It is this common factor concretised in the Lord Jesus

Christ that has brought us this far. So the golden thought I will like to emphasise here is that once we are convinced we are doing what God has called us to do, let us with one heart pursue it. We should not allow anything to distract our attention. Jeff observed that if we see CRAN as a ministry but not a vocation and for that matter working for a pay cheque, then we are at the right place. And I think I agree with him perfectly. I feel fulfilled when my 3 weeks away from my 3-week old baby achieved the purpose for which I left her.

Della is 15 weeks now. Very soon you will have to start gathering some Lego and toys for her. Till then it's bye-for-now,

Seth Mawuena Adzadi