



CHRISTIAN RURAL AID NETWORK
FREUNDESKREIS e.V.

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Dear CRAN - friends,

for some time children in several places are helped for their going to school. How does this work? And especially: What do such kids mean? For that we now have a special newsletter, in such a way as our Ghanaian friends have written about that. This I just want to add with two other but newly remarks.

CRAN supports school kids from several schools sometimes in their holiday time. How does then develop my personal believing, my knowledge about Lord Jesus Christ? Such a chance is visiting camps of Scripture Union. There kids of rural areas have got fine chances. In August 20 kids from Abakam and Jukwa could go there and learn a bit. We pray that our Lord lets rise this seed.

There is another evaluation what has been learnt - like every year tests at the end of school years (also in our European summertime). Results are not every time „exuberant“ - that is to be wished but not to be guaranteed. (Do we know that by our own childs?) And yet: Felix Dzikunu from Mankessim Central Region was the best school kid when preparing for further education and so was accepted in the high Aggrey Memorial College in Cape Coast. And among the 13 children who finished Abakam JSS school, 12 have been accepted by schools carrying on. In Shama Kedzi only 6 of 24 children could do so. In other schools (where CRAN does not run but supports some of the kids), it is similar to Abakam.

A good time of Christmas and new year I wish to CRAN friends. What in Germany with snow and coldness is quite different than in Ghana. Also for children on their daily way to school, with Christmas holidays, but then characterized by celebration and joy. May thinking about that accompany us.

Hans Wallhaeuser

ABOUT CRAN'S CHILD EDUCATION SUPPORT SCHEME (CESS)

CRAN's Child Education Support Scheme (CESS) is a child aid and development project initiated by CRAN with the overall goal to facilitate access to basic education for disadvantaged and needy children in rural communities mainly, who for reasons of poverty and other related factors are denied the opportunity to obtain basic formal education at their formative stages. The scheme is also aimed at bridging urban – rural and the gender gaps in education in parts of Ghana. It is designed to provide both financial and material support for very disadvantaged and needy children living within distressed rural and peri-urban communities in order to enable such children obtain a minimum level of formal education. CESS for CRAN remains one of our long-term strategies to alleviate rural poverty and also to bridge the ever-widening urban-rural gap in formal education in Ghana.

In more specific terms, CESS aims among other things to:

- * Solicit for and provide financial support and sponsorship (in the form of bursaries and scholarships) for target children in order to carry such children through at least nine years of basic education in Ghana;
- * Provide access to formal education for very needy but brainy children in the rural areas who otherwise would not have had any such opportunity;
- * Help stem the upsurge in the phenomenon of "street children" in our cities and large towns by putting needy children in school through financial sponsorships;
- * Contribute towards the reduction in the problem of child neglect and abuse, child labor and exploitation and child delinquency in Ghana;
- * Support children orphaned through HIV/AIDS through school;
- * Reverse the high incidence of illiteracy most prevalent in the rural areas and to encourage child-to-mother education among target rural communities;
- * Raise funds both locally and internationally in support of the scheme.

CRAN TO THE RESCUE (GEORGE ATINYO)

George Atinyo is my name. I am a boy of 18 years. My mother is Mrs. Atinyo. She is a fishmonger in the migrant fishing village of Abakam near Elmina in the Central Region.

My father died when I was a baby. The tragic death of my father has been the beginning of my woes before CRAN came in. My father was a native of Tegbi in the Volta Region and my mother comes from Anloga also in the Volta Region. My family migrated from Tegbi and settled in a fishing community called Abakam in the KEEA district of the Central Region in Ghana. So this place has become our home and that is where I live currently with my mom and others.

Apart from my mother, I have five other siblings- two brothers and three sisters. My other siblings have completed the elementary school with distinction but could not further their education due to financial constraints. I could have been one of them but thanks to God for CRAN.

When I was in Primary Class 2 in 1995, CRAN extended a scholarship package to me under their CESS programme. This scholarship package takes care of my school fees, books, bags, school uniform, lunch subsidy and other incidentals. This kind gesture has extended to the senior secondary school, which I still benefit from.

I am now in the second year of the senior secondary school and CRAN is still taking full responsibility for my schooling at this stage and also for my sister by name Dora Atinyo. The name of my school is Ghana National College (in Cape Coast) where I am offering General Arts. I could never have reached where I am now on the educational ladder without the kind and sustained support of CRAN.

I am therefore grateful to CRAN Ghana and my sponsors for the wonderful job they are doing in my life. Once again I say God bless CRAN.

George Atinyo (SSS 2, Arts), Ghana National College, Cape Coast, Ghana

WHERE CRAN MEANS HOPE

I am Daniel Kponorvi, a Ghanaian boy of seventeen years old and a native of Srogboe a fishing town in the Volta Region. My parents migrated from Srogboe and settled in another fishing village community near Elmina in the Central Region called Abakam where we currently reside.

My father is called Mr. Edward Kwaku Kponorvi also popularly known as “Jaga” within the village and beyond. His main occupation is fishing. However, he cultivates some crops during the rainy season as a means of supplementing his income against the high cost of living and also to boost our living standard. Fish stocks appear to have declined considerably making it very difficult for my father to live off fishing. My mother on the other hand is called Salomey Esi Kponorvi, a food vendor. I have two sisters and three brothers. We are all Christians and live together at the Abakam fishing village. My parents I must say are very poor making it quite difficult for them to meet our needs as children, even our educational needs.

It was in 1997 when I was in primary four that my name was mentioned as one of the proud beneficiaries of CRAN’s sponsorship scheme (CESS). We were supplied with books, rulers, school uniforms, school bags, pens just to mention but a few. Our fees were also paid and we were given some daily money as lunch subsidy.

CRAN has being of tremendous help to me, my family and my village in general. CRAN has built a school in my village for the first time ever – the school which myself and several children in the village have attended and many are still attending.

Indeed without CRAN’s intervention, my parents could not have afforded the huge financial burden that my academic pursuit imposes. It was through CRAN’s sponsorship (under their CESS scheme) that has made me reach this level in my educational career. Currently, I am in the second year in one of the best secondary schools in Ghana - Mfamtsipim School, the school every Ghanaian is proud of because the current UN Secretary General in the person of Mr. Kofi Annan had attended the same school. What an honour! As a matter of fact, my dream of being in the secondary school could never have been realized if CRAN had not intervened in my life along the way.

I therefore cannot conclude justifiably this account of mine without expressing tonnes of thanks to CRAN and its management for their support extended to me in financial and material terms.

I wish to thank and congratulate CRAN for the yeoman’s job they are doing for me and several others who have a similar story and background like me. At this stage, I wish to assure CRAN that, their efforts will not go waste.

My family and the entire Abakam community join our voices to say a big Ayekooo to CRAN.

May God richly bless you.
Thank you.

Daniel Kponorvi (SSS 2, Arts), Mfamtsipim School, Cape Coast.

Who can be a Beneficiary of CESS?

The specific category of needy children who constitutes the target of CESS are principally orphans including children orphaned through HIV/AIDS; abandoned children; children suffering neglect and abuse; children of overburdened single parents and children with very poor and impoverished parents; and generally needy but brainy children drawn mainly from the rural areas including also 'street children' from urban and peri-urban slums.

CRAN collaborates with local and traditional community organizations, village development committees, assembly members, churches, women's groups, local leaders, social workers, teachers and other NGOs in identifying such very needy children eligible for support under the scheme. CRAN intends also to collaborate with the Department of Social Welfare and the Ghana National Commission on Children in this direction. The selection of beneficiary-children is done through well structured interviews administered by CRAN's field workers. This is to ensure that only children in genuine need receive the assistance.

How is CESS Administered?

The CESS project is administered by CRAN-Ghana. Once selected, recent passport photographs of the prospective beneficiary children are taken and their profiles written specifying their age, records of their parents and the story/reason behind their need for CESS assistance. These profiles are then processed at the CRAN office and are subsequently sent out to be advertised mainly in Germany (by our support group based there – *CRAN Freundeskreis*, e.V.) in order to attract direct long-term sponsorship from public-spirited individuals, philanthropists, Christian brethren and families, churches and charitable organizations both from within and outside Ghana. CRAN is making strenuous efforts to expand the support base for the CESS by finding other partner organisations in other western countries that can help advertise and raise funding support for needy children under the CESS programme.

Individuals or groups / organizations may offer to "adopt" a needy child / children by making regular financial and material contributions towards such a child's or children's education until the child / children obtain at least nine years of basic schooling (Class One to JSS Three) in Ghana.

The Nature of Sponsorship

The CESS programme is built on the philosophy that each benefactor would support a child through at least basic education in Ghana. In some cases benefactors have supporting their kids beyond basic school i.e. through secondary school especially where the children have done quite well at the JSS stage. What this means in practical terms is that each benefactor or sponsor who selects a needy child to sponsor would contribute a minimum of €10 (Euros) per month for the beneficiary-child's support in school. This cash will be sent to the CRAN CESS Fund in Ghana from where it shall be administered to the beneficiary child. This money is used to provide all the school needs of the beneficiary child including school fees, text books, stationery, school uniform, footwear, school bag etc. and other incidentals including a daily school lunch subsidy. In some cases, excess CESS funds are used to provide common facilities like classrooms, school kits, and teaching-learning materials; or provide a teacher and/or locally support other children in a particular village community. Both teachers in the various schools and CRAN field staff assist in implementing the CESS facility to each child within a particular school. Normally, local teachers, heads of schools, local religious leaders, community leaders and parents / guardians cooperate as partners with CRAN in the day-to-day implementation of the scheme at the village community level.

From Despair to Hope (Cynthia Tumawu)

My name is Cynthia Tumawu and I hail from a small farming village of Tove close to Hohoe in the Volta Region. Last two years, I was about to write my BECE when my father died suddenly. In spite of this, I excelled marvelously when the BECE results were released. My mother could not provide the wherewithal for me to go to my dream school, Ho Mawuli Secondary School where I was offered Science, a course I always longed for.

My encounter with the Christian Rural Aid Network (CRAN) came into being on a day almost two years back when I had gathered some children in the Tove village and was teaching them as kind of informal kindergarten. Two men approached me and interrogated me whether I was a teacher or not. I narrated my plight to them and there and then they promised to assist me. Unknown to me, one of them was the Volta Regional Director of CRAN, Mr. Cosmos Abiwu. They did their best to secure admission for me but it proved futile. So I could not go to Mawuli School because my place by then had already been offered to someone else. Rather I was admitted later into Tema Presby Secondary school to offer Business. I was however advised not to lose hope so as to finish the first academic year before going into the boarding house. To my surprise, CRAN people did as they promised. I'm now in Awudome Secondary School (Awusco) offering Science.

My academic pursuit and carrier will now be achieved. I will forever be grateful to CRAN for coming to my rescue and pulling me back from the brink. My responsibility is to learn hard and keep myself chaste so that at the end, success will be mine. I had almost given up all hope and so I must say that CRAN's coming into my life has brought positive change and has revived my spirit. It's only God who can reward CRAN and all the people who work in this wonderful organisation.

So may God richly bless the staff of CRAN in all their endeavours.

Cynthia Marvelous Tumawu (SSS 1, Science)

Awudome Secondary School (Awusco), Awudome Tsito (VR)

Nature and Length of Commitment on the part of the Benefactor

CRAN desires and indeed encourages long-term commitment towards the needy child by a prospective benefactor in which case we expect the latter to contribute a minimum of 10 Euro per month towards the schooling needs of the child over a period until the child completes at least JSS Three. The benefactor can choose to have some relationship with the child or not. In any case however, we encourage the beneficiary-children and their teachers to send regular information to their respective benefactors about their performance in school and also the exchange of seasonal greetings.

One time donation towards the CESS Pool Fund

In order to provide opportunity for one-time donors who may want to contribute towards CESS, CRAN has created what it is known as a CESS Pool Fund into which one-time donations to CESS can be made. Out of this CESS pool fund we are able to support a number of selected needy children in school.

Current state and coverage of the scheme

Currently, about 150 children are receiving sponsorship through schooling at various levels in Ghana under the CESS. These children are found in several communities mainly in the three regions of Ghana where we work. A number of the children are in private schools while the rest - mainly the bulk, is in public schools. Also a few of them are in second cycle schools. In terms of the source of the sponsorships, most of them are coming from individuals and families living in Germany as shown in

the table below. Many of these benefactors have made long-term commitments towards supporting the children at least through basic education in Ghana.

