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**CHRISTIAN RURAL AID NETWORK
FREUNDESKREIS e.V.**

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Dear CRAN friends,

This autumn Ghana began a special co-operation with North Rhine-Westphalia. Or was it the other way round? Anyway cooperation may help. At the end you will find some impressions. At least we can wish that it will be helpful.

Here a statement of a Ghanaian woman (see eed article Page 6):

“The common faith in Christ unites many Ghanaians and Germans. We thank God for the stable democracy in Ghana and for the economical growth there. We are grateful for growing churches and strong ecumenical Christianity. The faith of Germans is calmer, that of Ghanaians louder – so we can learn from each other.

All men are meant, black or white, rich or poor. Before God all men have equal rights. He wants us to look at each other that way. This equality means that everybody has a talent, gift or present. Nobody is empty-handed. How can we share these gifts? (...)

A Ghanaian proverb says: It is important that we share who we are before we share what we have.”

As to CRAN-Ghana we have added several points from the annual report 2006. This is in the „centre“ of this newsletter.

We thank everybody for the various kinds of help this year and we wish that the common concern remains active and understandable, also in this new year.

Hans Wallhaeuser



From CRAN Ghana Report 2006

Relentlessly, CRAN has been in the forefront of the struggle against rural literacy.

The promotion of basic education in rural and peri-urban communities has been an integral part of CRAN's activities. Since its inception more than thirteen years ago, many communities have witnessed the promotion of basic education.

This transformation that this laudable venture has brought to the beneficiary communities is quite significant. The joy of seeing many communities with otherwise very high rate of illiteracy among children of school going age embracing the idea of sending their children to school has been the main motivating factor that has urged CRAN to this level.

What is more? Many of these children have finished the Senior Secondary School (SSS) and are getting ready to enter the tertiary institutions, while many more are gunning strongly to achieve more laurels for themselves. The serene atmosphere on the school campuses characterised by the seriousness of both teachers and pupils is evident.

Much more refreshing is the fact that communities which once opposed the establishment of schools for fear of turning their children away from their farms and worst of all their idols are now leading the crusade of child education. With the help of the Almighty God and with continuous support from our sponsors, the sky is the limit.

1) Construction of KG Blocks

As part of our activities towards the improvement of basic school promotion, a number of Kindergarten blocks have been constructed in some communities in the Central Region of Ghana. These projects took place at the request of the communities, whose children were having classes under tree and dilapidated structures.

A two classroom block with an office for teachers and a store room has been constructed for the people of Ekon near Cape Coast. Ekon is a fishing community with a population of about 3,000 people and has a large number of children of school going age. At the moment the block constructed by CRAN is housing the 'A' stream of the children while the old structure is housing the 'B' stream. This project was supported by the UBS Bank of the UK.

The people of Musumkwa have also benefited from the provision of a three classroom block with an office and a storeroom. Musumkwa is located in the district north of Cape Coast with a population of below 1,000 inhabitants. This project was funded by Noble Friends Charity, an organisation based in the UK.

In another development, a three classroom block is under construction with a two-seater KVIP for the people of Ohiaba in the district north of Cape Coast. With a population of about 2,000 people, the Ohiaba community needs a good structure to accommodate its numerous children who are learning under a poor structure. Also a ten-seater water closet toilet facility has been constructed for the Asebu community.

Again through the assistance of the Alavanyo Freunde Bochum in Germany, CRAN have been able to construct a modern KG complex at Alavanyo Deme in the Volta Region of Ghana for the Alavanyo and its surrounding communities.

An average of 115 million (former) cedis has been spent on each of these projects. Mr. Tutu Agyare Mensah of UBS Investment Bank played an instrumental role in accessing all the funding support for the various KG projects.

2) Construction of Teacher's Bungalows

CRAN's teachers' bungalow project has begun in full force. CRAN plans to construct some teachers' bungalows to enable teachers have easy access to decent accommodation in the Shama-Kedzi community.

Shama-Kedzi, situated in the east of Western Region, is a remote rural community without electricity and pipe borne water. It also lacks decent accommodation for teachers most of whom come from outside of the community. This is due to the fact that most of the houses are made of mud and thatch. These factors have become disincentive to many teachers to accept posting to the area.

To mitigate this odious situation, CRAN has embarked on the construction of the bungalow to serve as a decent accommodation for the teachers. So far two of the bungalows have been completed. It is hoped that later CRAN will be able to provide accommodation for all the teachers in the school. This will not only encourage teachers to accept posting to the school but also help them to be more regular in school.

To ease the water situation for the teachers, a very big underground well has been constructed into which rain water is harvested. This facility will enable the occupants to obtain water for domestic use. Drinking water is obtained from other towns though a bit far.



3) Provision of School Furniture and other Materials

CRAN has been at the forefront of promotion of early childhood development education in many rural communities in the main regions in which we operate. Many activities have been undertaken to support pre-school programme in several rural areas including construction of KG blocks, provision of furniture, books, teaching aids, etc.

CRAN has been able to provide sixty tables and sixty chairs for the Junior Secondary School children at Shama-Kedzi. The provision of the furniture became necessary as the old tables and chairs for the children which were provided long ago had become out of use. As a result, some of the children were not able to sit in school while others had to sit on the broken chairs and tables, others still carry their own tables and chairs from the house to the school and back each day. The provision of the new furniture has gone a long way to help solve the sitting problem at the school while creating a congenial atmosphere for teaching and learning in the school.

4) HIV/AIDS Education

To render a lasting service to its clients, CRAN has fully integrated HIV/AIDS education into all of its programmes.

Working with the voice of the Youth Committee (which is a very vibrant youth group based in Hohoe), CRAN has embarked on a very aggressive educational campaign on HIV/AIDS in all of its catchment areas. The aim is to educate the clients on the reality of this disease and how to avoid it.



It also aims at educating people on how to relate with people living with the disease so that they will not feel neglected by the community. In this way, it is hoped that they will open up and this will reduce the spread of the disease in CRAN's catchments areas.

Some of the avenues through which the educational campaigns are carried out are; communal fora, training sessions for clients, the media (especially radio) etc.

Slowly but surely, the educational campaign is going down well with the people. This is manifested in the fact that many people are now aware of the disease, which has led to changes in the behaviour of some of them.

5) Village Church Growth Support

In 2006 CRAN sponsored different student groups to do church growth work at various places under the "Students in Church Evangelism" programmes. In pursuit of our aims and objectives, CRAN in diverse ways supports pupils in various schools. They sponsor them to develop personal faith in the Lord and also have some level of exposure. One of such activities is to sponsor pupils in one CRAN school or the other to attend annual Scripture Union camps. So CRAN was able to sponsor 20 children in all from Abakam and Jukwa basic schools to the camp. To the kids, they have learnt a lot and it is our prayer that the good Lord showers his blessings on the seed sown.

6) Mushroom Project - A Step towards Commercialisation

Following CRAN's continuous and persistent efforts at educating the general public with emphasis on the nutritional and medicinal value of mushrooms, the responses as to its patronage, and the demand for training has hit an acme level.

The high level of demand has compelled CRAN to take some positive measures towards satisfying the demands of the public. For instance, CRAN has employed a full time Production Manager to have an oversight responsibility over the full cycle of operations in the production chain. There is a complete division of labour now as regards acquisition of raw materials, spawn production, composting, bagging, sterilization, inoculation, incubation, transportation and marketing linkages, all of which have also expanded. One resultant effort is job creation and reduction in malnutrition. The limitation now is a larger space to meet training needs of consumers.

7) Beekeeping

Apart from integrating beekeeping into the oil palm project, CRAN had already begun to train more than 30 participants to become formidable beekeepers in the Hohoe district. The participants have formed an association and it behoves on CRAN to strengthen them. The strategy adopted is: "pass on the gift". Each client who benefited will pay back in kind after sale of honey and out of this more hives will be constructed to be given to other farmers. In order to be able to achieve this, we need to equip with bee suits (that is, overall, pairs of Wellington boots, harvest containers, smoker and touch light to use for training clients on bee harvesting).

Cooperation North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) <-> Ghana

Since 05.11.2007 NRW practices an unusual form of development aid. In the Post Tower in Bonn minister-president (leader of a German state) Juegen Ruetters and Ghana's foreign minister Akwasi Osei-Adjei signed a document of cooperation.

To the minister of integration Armin Laschet it is obvious that the state with the highest population and Ghana with regard to its 20 million inhabitants almost of the same size intend a partnership at eye level. The government does not seek the cooperation „for only humanitarian reasons, but also for own interest in the future market Africa.“ As a „country of energy“ NRW will contribute its competences in climate protection and in wind and solar energy.

For 25 years the catholic diocese Muenster has been maintaining a partnership with five dioceses in the north of Ghana.. There the building of hospitals, schools, agriculture and irrigation projects are supported. Minister Laschet wants to integrate the „Ghanaian diaspora“ in Germany into the partnership. According to the minister about 9.000 Ghanaians live in NRW.

There is a great density of development organisations at the Rhine. From the Ministry of Development to Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action) and from DED (German Development Aid) to the great church organisations Adveniat, Misereor and missio more than 3.000 initiatives are located in NRW.

(source: kirchensite.de)

At the end of 2007 a body of 20 delegates returned from the West African country impressed by the African hospitality and with many ideas for deepening Muenster's diocesan partnership with five dioceses.

Reason for the visit were the begin of Catholic Christian mission in the north of Ghana 100 years ago and the 25 years existing partnership. One of the highlights was a service lasting several hours under the open sky in Bolgatanga.

(source: kirchensite.de)

Foreign Minister Akwasi Osei-Adjei from Ghana travelled to the Rhine to sign the treaty. He also is convinced that the agreement will give momentum to the cooperation with Germany. In this partnership Ghana does not appear as a beggar, so that both nations might benefit stresses Osei-Adjei. "It is not a question that one side comes with the only target to get most profit in the end and then leave again", he said. "I expect a lasting relationship. Ghana and Germany have been friends for a very long time. This is a unique opportunity."

(source: www.deutsche-welle.de)

We are about to enter an official partnership of the state NRW with Ghana. We do this exactly 50 years after the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Ghana established diplomatic relations.

It is our firm conviction that Ghana is the ideal partner for many reasons. The first is: the political circumstances in Ghana are exemplary. A difficult political transition in the year 2001 took place founded on the rule of law and without violence - and based on free and fair elections.

This is a great achievement that is still serving as an example in Africa. Today Ghana is one of the stablest countries in sub-Saharan Africa – with a trustworthy democratic government and a corresponding radiance for the surrounding countries.

We testify: "Ghana successfully pursues a policy of good neighborhood and subregional integration and lives in peace with all neighbors."

These are arguments why Ghana was the first choice when the state government decided to initiate a partnership with an African state.

That is fundamentally new in the development policy of the state government.

(from the speech of Minister Armin Laschet on the occasion of the public discussion NRW – Ghana)

Globalisation began at that time: Economical and trade relations between Africa and Europe have become increasingly closer.

When we drink cacao or coffee the beans may have ripened in Ghana, cotton for our jeans was perhaps picked in Ghana, fish in tins may have been caught at Ghana's coast. People in Ghana can read "Made in Germany " on goods like cars, machines or chemical products. But the Europeans have even managed to sell agricultural products in West Africa in great numbers: chicken parts, tomatoes

or onions find their way into Ghanaian cooking pots – a tremendous problem for many small farmers in the country, who can no longer bring their own products to the consumers.

As the state NRW now enters a partnership with Ghana the people in Ghana come even closer. We must be interested whether the people in our partner country benefit from trade and economic relations.

We as Christians will engage ourselves so that the partnership of the countries will help to develop possibilities for better life.

The churches in Ghana and Germany are bound together by the common faith in the god of life. In services and personal prayers we in Ghana and NRW should therefore support each other. It would be good if you could start with this after this ceremony. For information and action, prayer and celebration our little brochure may be helpful.

(www.eed.de)

In this report CRAN is mentioned as an example.

It is good to have common targets and implementations.

On request we will send more detailed copies.