

**THE LOTUS CHILDREN'S CENTER
DECEMBER, 2007 NEWSLETTER**

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It is once again the end of another wonderful and fruitful year at the Lotus Children Centre and once again we are going to read about our progress and achievements.

Our girls as usual did marvelously well in their end of the 3rd term examinations. They also had the opportunity to attend the annual retreat of Ananda Marga (UKK) but this time at Kumasi of which you are going to be reading about very soon. We also had some birthday celebrations and competitions here and there. Penny Briggs our 60 year old but strong volunteer from England thought the girls could use some entertainment in the house, so she decided they have competitions like dancing, singing, and others which the girls enjoyed very much.

Some of the girls were chosen in their various schools as prefects. Mukti the sports prefect of their school and Ambhiiii and Laskmii as school compound prefect and school prefect respectively.

During the year Penny Briggs (volunteer) donated \$2000 for the construction our new school which will be in Kasoa (a suburb of Accra).

For our Nursery school we had 38 children of which 10 of them were transferred to primary one and now we have 28 students. The school was fortunate to have new educational toys donated by Penny Briggs. They also have yoga exercise every morning and have a new teacher (Gloria one of the girls in home) helping out in the school. 4 of the students in the school have free education from us.



Teacher Penny and Teacher Angela with Students from the Nursery School.



Get serious while others look into the camera.

My experience in Lotus Children Centre by teacher Angela

I have been in lotus children centre for four years now and my greatest experience in the school this term was quiet satisfactory.

During this term a lot things have change in the school. We now have new teaching aids for the school and text books, playing materials e.g. Lego, dolls, etc. I also experience a lot from miss penny Briggs a volunteer who came to the school. She helps a lot in the school. She taught me a number of rhymes and some other nice things like to smile to the children, praise them, and give them stickers for good work done.

She also taught me to differentiate between colors, crayons, number books, English reading activities. We also had new washing bowls for washing hands after eating and also after visiting the toilet. We also have new towels. The school has changed a lot in many ways.

I want to express my profound gratitude to Miss Briggs, who has helped a lot in the developing of the school.

Thank you
Angela Baddoo.



WHY THE TONGUE IS NEVER SATISFIED

Many, many years ago in a village called Kwami Anum; a man lived with his lovely wife called Adofo. Life at the village was very difficult for them. What to eat was sometimes a problem for them. And because of their situation many people in Kwami Anum made

fun of the couples. They got fed up and wanted to leave the village.

One day Antei (the man) called Adofo his wife and said. “My lovely wife you know we are poor. What to eat is sometimes a problem fro us in this village. If we continue to live here we may starve to death”. “That is true but what are going to do about it” said Adofo.

Antei answered and said, unless we leave this village and settle at another village may be life there would be better. Adofo who was listening to her husband with rat attention answered and said “everywhere you go I shall go with you”.

One week later the couple left Kwami Anum and settled in Obaakrowa. Life in Obaakrowa was better for the couples. Antei was given a land to farm on. Moreover he was a hunter so getting meat for their soup was not a problem.

Although Antei and Adofo lived happily in Obaakrowa one problem worried them a lot. They had no children.

One day when Antei went for hunting he found three eggs on the ground on his way back. He wanted to take them but he had killed enough so he decided to take them the next day. The next day he found two eggs on the ground, with that too he had killed enough so he decided to leave them so that the next day he come to take them home. On the third day he found only an egg on the ground. He took it and put it in his sack. A few minutes later he heard the cry of child but he did not know where it was coming from. He later realized that the crying was coming from this sack. He opened the sack and to surprise there was a baby boy in the sack. He was very happy. Since he had no child he decided to take the child home.

When he got home he told Adofo what happened in the forest. Adofo was very happy because at long last she also has a child. She bath the child and put him to bed. Just as Adofo got up she heard a voice saying “Mammy, Koo is hungry”. Adofo was surprised, how can a baby talk! She gave Koo a banana. In a second the banana was gone. When Koo realized that Adofo was not giving him any more bananas he began to cry saying “when I was in the forest I eat more than this. You have brought me here to starve me.” Adofo gave her dinner to Koo but as soon as he finished eating he began to cry again. Antei also gave his food to him but he finished eating and began to cry again.

The behavior of Koo made the couples worried. They therefore decided to seek the help of the king of their village. After Antei has narrated the story to the king, the king decided to seek the view of the member of the village. He therefore asked the gongon beater (one who sends messages to people in a community) to call all the members of the village. When they came the king narrated the story to them and they all decided to cook different food for the boy to eat. All they thought was that he won't be able to eat the food. In about an hour foods were ready.

People brought all sort of food. Some brought fufu, banku, omotuo among others. As soon as Koo saw the food he became happy. He sat behind the foods and began to eat. In an hour Koo has finished eating all the food. Just then he began to cry again.

The king called his council members to seek their views on the matter. They all agreed to kill Koo since if he remains in the village he will make them starve. When Koo heard the decision they had taken he began to run. The villagers run after him. The people followed him until Koo was tired and did not where to go. If he stop the people will kill him. He came to a place where a group of children were playing; one of them said “look at the boy who likes food”. As

soon as the boy opened his mouth, Koo jumped into his mouth and changed himself. He turned into the tongue. At this point the villagers did not know where to find Koo.

The boy Koo likes food that is how the tongue also likes food. You would notice sometimes that you may be satisfied but to you tongue you need something more just for the taste of it. That is why in Ghana we have this proverb that says 'the tongue never gets satisfied and the ear never gets full hearing things.' In Ga: "lile too ke ni yeli ni tuwe ye ke ninumo". I hope you enjoy reading this lovely story.

We wish you all the best and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Story by Aruna.
Edited by Aratii.



How I spent my long vacation at Kumasi.

School closed for the vacation on 2nd August 2007. the next day, which was a Friday, I went to the riverside and washed all my things. The following day which was 8th august, we traveled to kumasi to spend the holidays with my friend who is a farmer.

On the way to kumasi, I saw so many towns and rivers. When we arrived at the transport station, my friend was waiting to take me home. My friend took us to some important places in kumasi. The place I visited include the Konfo Anokye memorial hospital, the Kumasi Zoo, Kumasi museum where you find great history of our ancestors and how they fought for their land. I even saw of the clothes of Yaa Asantewaa (the brave woman who fought for her land in the colonial days), this and many other interesting places. Apart from visiting these places I also got to know about their culture and how they do their things. For example, the food the people of the Ashanti Region (kumasi) eat is totally different from what a Ga man in Accra would eat. The Ashanti man would want to eat Fufu and may be groundnut soup for breakfast while the Ga man would want to eat Banku and Okro soup with goat meat for breakfast. In Ghana we believe in eating heavy breakfast so as to take you through the day. I believe in your place no one takes a heavy breakfast right!

During my long stay in kumasi, I helped my friend in her house chores and we most of the time chat a long side our duty. By so doing we learnt a lot from each other.

Very soon it was already time for me to leave. I went back a day before my school re-opened.

I really enjoyed life in kumasi and I learnt a lot from my friend and the people there.

Enjoy reading my little article.

By Mukti.



My first day at the National Theatre



1st December was a Saturday. I went with my friends to a place which I later learnt was the National Theatre. That was my first day there. I was surprised at how big the place was. I have never seen anything like it.

When we got there the program had already started. There were a lot of musicians there. Some of them include the famous Esther Smith, Tik Tak, Castro among others. After the program we took pictures and ate our snacks. After that we went to other places like the Independence Square, the Ghana museum,

Parliament House just to mention a few.

On that day we enjoyed ourselves. I got home late in the evening around 8.pm.

I was so tired that I quickly took my bath and went straight to my lovely laid bed waiting just for me to sleep on it.

Hope you enjoy reading.

By Ashiima.



Farmer's Day holiday.

7th December was farmer's holiday that is the day the best farmer will be awarded for a good job done.

On that special Friday I woke up early in the morning and I did my regular duties, after that I took my bath within two minutes.

After everything was done, we took car and left the house for the newly opened supermarket called Accra Mall. We got there around 9.30 am and I was even shocked to the place already busy with shoppers but was not only because of the people but also how beautiful the place was. For me it was just like being in small London.

We went inside to look around the place; the place was sparkling light with a lot of Christmas decorations everywhere. In the supermarket we bought some items like ice cream, vegetarian sausage, chips, cookies, French loves etc.

At 12.00 noon we went to Shangri-La Hotel and restaurant. We ordered for pizza with cheese and vegetables on it. We also took some pictures. We went home around 5.pm in the evening. I thank Didi for taking us there and shopping for us.
By Laksmii.

The children's park

On the 7th of December 2007 which was a holiday, I went to the children's park with my school mates; both boys and girls. We went with our school bus around 9. am then got there at 10.30 am.



When we got there, there were a lot of children, some of our age and others younger than us. There were a lot of games to be played. Among them was what we call the musical chair. That is when the music will be playing and you'll be going round some arranged chairs and soon as the music stops, no matter where you are you have to get yourself a seat other than that you would be out of the game. It goes on until there is only one chair left with about two or three people to fight for it and the persons who gets to seat down first will be the winner.

After the musical chair there was also the horse race. In the horse race the winner was from my school. He was given an award of 10 cedi (new currency).

After the games we got to dance and got dusty. Soon it was time to go home. I really had fun at the park I hope to go next time.

Thanks for taking sometime off to read my boring article.

By Ambhini.

THE NEW EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN GHANA

My name is Gloria, one of the girls in the Lotus Children Centre. I am glad to be given this opportunity to tell you a few things about the new educational system in Ghana.

The government of Ghana has taken a bold step in introducing a new system by changing the schools syllabus and other things.

In Ghana, we have the primary school for six years and after that, one has to go for three years of Junior Secondary, after the Junior Secondary, there is the Senior Secondary School for another three years.

However the Junior Secondary School is now changed the Junior High School and the Senior Secondary now the Senior High School. Apart from the new names, some of the subjects that were taught has been changed and other totally wiped out of the system. Also the big High



school exams has been changed from Senior Secondary School Examination (SSSCE) to West African Certificate Examination (WASEC) which is written by all West African countries.

Among some of the subjects changed is the Religious and Moral Education which teaches a lot about morals and Ghanaian culture. In place of this they are now studying French. For me I don't agree to the change of the Religious and Moral Education because I believe it teaches a lot and that it should remain in the syllabus of the school. They have also introduced a new subject known as Citizenship. In fact I don't even know what entails (I'm yet to find out). The subject that I'm glad they introduced is the ICT in all schools be it government or private. I glad for that because that is what we need most in this technological world that we live in.

Although there have been initial problems as regards it implementation, Ghanaians have embraced it because of it numerous advantages to the youth.

I strongly stand by the government for introducing the four years term in the school because this will enable the youth to come out as mature students after their High school and work hard for development of the nation.

By Gloria.

Retreat at Kumasi.

My name is Eunice. I'm going to tell you about my trip to the retreat in Kumasi.



On August 5th 2007 I and the other girls went to Kumasi for our yearly church retreat.

Kumasi is in the Ashanti Region.

We woke up early, took our bath, packed our things, eat breakfast and got ready to go. I was so excited because that was my first time traveling to Kumasi. The journey from Accra to Kumasi took about 5 hours. We had our retreat in the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. We went to the reception to register our names and get our rooms. After registration, we collected the key to room and went to unpack our things.

The retreat was for five days. The first two days was not that interesting. It only got interesting on the third day when performed our play. I said a recital and we also sang and danced.

Although I enjoyed myself, my sisters we complaining that there were other groups who were disturbing.

It did not bother me since I was looking forward to having a great time. And a great time is what I had. I'm really happy went. I hope next time I get to go since I behaved myself.

Thank you Didi Shanta for taking me.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By Eunice.

Teacher Penny

July 25 – September 2nd 2007

Penny Briggs (aged 60 years). Devon England.

I have been staying with Didi and the girls at the Lotus Centre for the past 6 weeks. My arrival at midnight, exhausted etc was frightening: Didi said 'the mosquitoes will bite your feet and legs'!! and then I'm facing 38 children to teach all day – Hell can I go home?!!! This is too much.

However by the 2nd day I was loving my time here and not homesick at all. The children are beautiful, gorgeous, and adorable and I loved being their teacher. I taught them songs, told stories bought them reading books and had a really great time. I have re-organized the classroom, put the children into ability groups and shown the teacher (Angela), how important it is to like children and to smile and praise – if you want to teach. I hope she will try to be better teacher next term. Sister Doris the cleaner was much more helpful and helped the children in a more positive way. Once I explained things and told her I would take her little girl Dorcas for her learning experience in the classroom, before she tended to chase Dorcas around the classroom with a stick if she was naughty.

Dorcas is cheeky little 5 years old but absolutely lovely.

I have had a really brilliant time, I love Didi and all the girls and Eunice is my special little darling, we had such fun, playing games, telling her stories, washing clothes, trying on all my shoes etc, etc!!

I will miss them all so much but 'I'LL BE BACK'



Penny Briggs (volunteer from England)

THANKS TO ALL DONORS AND SPONSORS. WITHOUT YOU FOR US WE WOULDN'T HAVE
REACHED THIS FAR
MERRY X'MAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR