



**PPRC Newsletter
Volume 20 – March 2023**

Dear Friends,
I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are pleased to update you on recent events in PPRC.

2022 was a difficult year with many challenges. But God continues to help us, and we're happy to report that our work is positively impacting the lives of many disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adults, including many leprosy survivors.

Sadly, Ghana's current financial situation and outlook are grim, with recent inflation at over 50%. We are working hard to identify new funding sources to sustain our work and would be delighted to hear from anyone who could assist us.

The highlight of the year was our traditional nativity play in December. It was a joyful moment for the children, parents, and staff.

Our morale was significantly boosted by the arrival in late 2022 of five national service personnel and five new interns. They are tremendous assets to the centre.

We are also thrilled with the recent funding from Irish Aid via the Irish Embassy in Abuja to renovate St Clare's and St Elizabeth's roofs.

We have updates on St. Elizabeth's, St. Clare's, St. Joseph's, Enyinndakurom, DMJ, Kojo Gabriel, the Twins, new staff, water, solar, hostel, and renovation projects, and many lovely photos.

On behalf of PPRC, I want to express our thanks and appreciation for all our friends and supporters. Without you, we could not continue the work we do.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Mark Mantey, CEO



PPRC Staff & Interns – Day out





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1. Ghana Financial Crisis

The average inflation rate in Ghana in 2022 was 31.5%, peaking at 54.1% in Dec-2022. It dropped marginally to 53.6% in Jan-2023 and is forecast to average ~33% for the entire year. We have adjusted staff salaries to reflect this. The Ghana Cedi has fallen by ~50% against Sterling and other

major currencies. The only good news is that foreign donations now go further than before.

2. Leprosy in Ghana

According to the Ghana Health Service (GHS), over the last five years, the country has detected at least 200 new cases of leprosy annually, indicating ongoing transmission. A total of 221 new cases of leprosy were recorded across the country last year, of which seven were children. GHS aims by 2030 to reduce new cases by 70% and child cases by 90%.

3. Donations

A big 'Thank You' to our many local and international friends, who continue to make generous donations to support our efforts. In these hard times, when many people worldwide suffer, we are grateful for your support.



Cabo Corsa Youth Project Donations





Annan-Baidoo Family Donations

4. St Elizabeth's

We are delighted to report a breakthrough with music therapy in St Elizabeth's. The children respond very well to music, which both soothes them and gives them expression, with the result that they are much happier. Our links with the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance at the University of Limerick and the Department of Music and Dance at the University of Cape Coast make a huge difference. We are most appreciative of this exciting initiative and say thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

St Elizabeth's has once again performed the 'best-ever' nativity play along with cultural dance and songs, this time from the Volta Region. The

spirit of Christmas is a source of joy for our special needs children.

From September onwards, everyone on the compound could hear the rehearsal of the songs and carols, especially the twelve days of Christmas. Every child and young person from three to 21 years managed to partake in this beautiful event, marking the beginning of our Christmas season for the past twenty years!



Music Therapy Delegation to PPRC

We have been blessed with four extra pairs of hands from two new interns (Dorcas and Johnson) and two national service personnel (Rashida and Portia). This makes life easier for clients and staff. We are very grateful.





Nativity Play Dec-2022

5. St Clare’s

St. Clare’s has fourteen residents, mostly leprosy survivors and a few young adults needing medical support. Our staff are working hard to provide them with quality nursing care. The residents are committed to their Saturday health walk and aerobics sessions. They recently had an informative and interactive workshop on “Loneliness, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The staff have also organised a movie night for the residents and the playing of games such as Ludo and Oware.

6. St Joseph’s Outreach

We provide outreach services to disadvantaged and vulnerable children (up to age 18) and their families. We also work with our clients/families to

ensure they have a viable plan for sustainable living when they 'graduate' at or before age 18.



Outreach Visit

We support families with food, educational needs, and sometimes medical needs. In 2022, we provided outreach services to 25 clients twice monthly. Our clients are happy to accept the outreach support due to Ghana’s ongoing hardship and high inflation. At least they had some food for the Christmas period—our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us with this.

7. Enyinndakurom

Improving the digital skills of the children of Enyinndakurom is one of our key focus areas. There is much





interest in this training, and nine children aged 8 to 14 are currently participating in our ICT programme.



Outreach Visit – The Triplets

The main objective is to provide them with growth and development opportunities. The results of practical tests conducted on Dec-2022 show that the children have learned much about ICT. In the past few months, they’ve learned typing skills using the Mavis Beacon application, basic knowledge of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint applications, online safety measures and basic facts about the internet.

We have 36 families on our list at Enyinndakurom. At Christmas, we

provided food to ensure all those under our care were provided for. We are living in a challenging time and are profoundly thankful to all those who have supported us in supporting the Leprosy survivors.

8. DMJ Sisters

The DMJ Sisters have informed us that their involvement with PPRC in Ghana will finish in June-2023. The DMJ have actively supported PPRC for the past 44 years since they started work in Camp in 1979. They have done outstanding work, improved many lives, and will be sorely missed.

9. National Service & Interns

We are delighted to welcome five National Service Scheme (NSS) personnel to work at PPRC over the next year. This is a precedent. We also have five intern students with us for six months from Nov-2022. These ten young people are a remarkable addition to our workforce.

Our excellent working relationship with the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem (KEEA) Municipal Assembly helped us with this. But the most significant part of the breakthrough





came from our ongoing collaboration with the University of Education, Winneba. We will continue carefully managing the relationships with all our key partners to ensure a sustainable workforce for PPRC.



PPRC Interns & Staff

10. Kojo Gabriel – School

Kojo is 18 years old and recently got his school exam results. They were better than expected, and we were all pleasantly surprised and delighted. Kojo has secured a place as a boarder in the New Edubiase Senior High School (SHS), Adansi South District, Ashanti Region.

He started SHS on 27-Feb-2023. The school is located ~1.5 hours’ drive (83 km) south of Kumasi, ~1.5 hours from Kojo’s home village, and ~5 hours

from Ahotokurom. We wish him well and hope he works hard.



Kojo + Grandfather – New School



Kojo at his new school

11. The Twins House

Michael & Miguel are now almost 20 years old and were in residential care at St. Joseph’s (PPRC) for seven years. In Feb-2022, Michael and Miguel graduated from St Joseph’s and





relocated to Breman Asikuma, their adopted hometown.



Twins' House under Construction



Twins' House – Nearing Completion

They are in temporary accommodation, attending senior high school, and undertaking electrical and block laying programmes. PPRC has bought them a plot of land in Bremen Asikuma, and construction of a two-bedroom house for them began in Oct-2022. We hope to complete this

project by late Jan-2023. The DMJ funded this project, and we are thankful for their support.

12. IDPD Celebrations

It is an annual PPRC tradition to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), which was recently held on 3 Dec 2022. The IDPD aims to “promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities”. The 2022 theme was “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world”.



IDPD Celebrations in Ahoto

As in previous years, we embarked on educational and fun activities and advocacy promotions to





commemorate the day. The highlight was the football match between Ahotokurom and Koful, our neighbouring village. Events like these offer opportunities for community sensitisation on disability issues. Capacity-building on ethics was also made available to PPRC caregivers, and there was an aerobics session with the residents at St. Clare's to celebrate the day.

13. Visitors from UL

We were delighted to welcome Dr Sandra Joyce, Executive Dean and Dr Angela Farrell, Assistant Dean International, from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Services at UL. They visited PPRC together with the Music Therapy delegation. This visit has rekindled the relationship between PPRC, UL and the University of Cape Coast. We look forward to strengthening this relationship.

14. Visit to UL

Dr Mantey was invited to participate in a UL alumni ceremony in Limerick on 19-Nov as part of UL's 50-year celebrations. UL very kindly paid for his flights and accommodation.

Thanks to the Irish Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria, for efficiently processing the visa application.

Mark was also invited to a lunch held in his honour in UL on 21-Nov, attended by ~20 people. This was an excellent opportunity to renew links with the many UL people who have helped PPRC in so many ways over the past 20 years.



Dr Mantey at UL Alumni Ceremony

15. Friends of Ahotokurom

Dr Mantey attended an FOA meeting in the UK on 27-Nov. This was an excellent opportunity to meet in person with the FOA members and some of the younger people who are getting involved.

16. Farm

Output from our organic farm was excellent in 2022. We produced many





tomatoes, plantain, watermelons, pineapples, and coconuts. Each month we sell about 150 coconuts to an unemployed young man, which helps him make a living. We anticipate a significant increase in coconut output with our new three-acre plantation. We recently started harvesting our organic pineapples, which we've worked on for three years. We harvested over 50 pineapples each month in December, January, and February. We contribute to food security in PPRC and our locality through the sale of produce by the unemployed.



Pineapples from the Farm

After 35 years, our two-acre palm plantation is reaching the end of its natural life. We've decided to replace it with a range of fruit trees, including

oranges and soursop. We are working with the local Department of Agriculture to ensure that our new plantation is an eco-friendly showcase.

Farming is hard work, but we are surviving. In addition to foodstuffs, we recently engaged in charcoal and broom production. The brooms are made from palm nut trees, and charcoal is made from numerous trees growing in the forest on our compound.



Palm Plantation Clearance

Using local resources helps reduce our dependency on human, financial and material resources from external sources and helps ensure greater sustainability.





Plantain Plantation

17. Renovations Project

We were delighted to receive substantial funding for renovating the roofs of St Clare’s and St Elizabeth’s. The funding came from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland (Irish Aid) via the Irish Embassy in Abuja. This is the first phase of the work, and we are seeking funding for the second phase, which entails tiling, painting and water storage at St Clare's.



Roofing Sheets Arriving

18. Water / Borehole

We’ve made good progress with our sustainable water project. We are now working on the project's last stage, water purification. Once this is done, we expect to see a significant decrease in our water bills.

19. Solar

Our solar project is approaching its fourth anniversary since ‘go-live’ on 18 March 2019. We are happy to report that it is still going strong. We have generated >70,000 units (KWh), and our electricity costs are down >90%.



St Clare’s New Roof





Roofing Project Meeting

20. Hostel

Thankfully the hostel was busy in 2022 after two lean years. So far, in 2023, demand is great, and we're getting lots of positive feedback about the facility.



ICT Classes in Enyinndakurom

21. Elsa Mensah, RIP

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of the youngest of our special needs children Elsa Mensah. She returned to God on the 6th of March. Elsa had multiple challenges and came to us for respite care enabling her grandparents to continue farming. Her parents are teachers in the Ashanti region, and her medical treatment meant they both needed to work to cover the costs. Eighteen months ago, they were told nothing else could be done for Elsa, so they returned to their village. Elsa's grandparents asked Sr Pat and the team if Elsa could attend St Elizabeth's. We all said yes. Elsa's needs were simple; massage, feeding and music therapy. She got everything she needed. We know all her suffering is over; she is at peace. Nante yie Elsa

