
**Ashanti Development Distributes Mango Tree Clinic
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By Y. Bill Kim and Jonathan C. Yu

Bill Kim recently completed a Ph.D at Harvard and then made his second trip as a volunteer for Ashanti. This time, he was accompanied by his friend Jonathan Yu.

In May, 2018, we successfully distributed optical microscopes to three senior high schools in the Ashanti Region in Ghana. The optical microscopes were a generous donation from Icknield Community College. We thank them for providing valuable teaching equipment to schools in the region.

Several high schools were inspected prior to the donation. Because microscopes are fragile and expensive, most students do not have an opportunity to operate one during the entirety of their education. One of the schools had a single microscope already, but it was only used for visual inspection - it was impractical for everyone in the class to use it within a reasonable amount of time without risking it being mishandled and breaking. Other schools had none. We expect that the distribution of microscopes to these schools will



The headmaster and science teachers are delighted to receive microscopes from Jonathan Yu, on the far left.

allow for students to obtain practical training in microscope usage during class.

The microscopes were enthusiastically received by each school. We ensured that the microscopes will be kept in a secure room or a closet. We encouraged their frequent use, and each school promised to use them regularly throughout the semester. Science teachers were briefed on the importance of students being able to handle scientific equipment like a microscope to fortify

their learning and to introduce them to the practical aspect of science education.

Some of the teachers have not used a microscope themselves during their education, or it has been several years since they had a chance to operate one, or they weren't familiar with the specific model of the microscope that we donated.



A ceremony was held to celebrate the donation of microscopes. Bill Kim is second from the right.

Therefore, we also trained the teachers on how to actually use the microscope, to ensure that the

microscopes will be used safely and effectively during class.

Ashanti Development provided consumable accessories (glass slides and cover slips, plastic bags, and plastic tweezers) required for proper handling and preparation of specimens for viewing with the donated microscopes. Ashanti Development will regularly follow up with the schools to ensure that the microscopes are used regularly and that they do not run out of consumable supplies.



Students learning to operate the microscopes.

Aside from microscopes, Ghanaian schools lack many pieces of scientific equipment that are routinely used in developed countries. Nevertheless, these donated microscopes will go a long way towards enriching science education in Ghana. Science is meant to be experimental – trial and error is the foundational concept of science itself. Indeed, to handle a tool such as a microscope is to practise scientific discovery. For young scientists in Ghana, this can be transformative, and in my opinion well worth the investment.

Acknowledgements:

This was done with the help of a Ghanaian school district supervisor, Samuel Bediako, who has been in close contact with Ashanti Development. He coordinated with the schools to facilitate the microscope distribution. We are grateful for his help. We thank Ickniel Community College for providing the microscopes.

The Mango Tree Clinic

By Ruth Simpson

Ruth once once worked as a nurse quite near Gyetiasse, our Ashanti headquarters. Nowadays she often goes back as a volunteer to run the Mango Tree Clinic.

The Mango Tree Clinic was started in 2012, when young children were walking about a mile to the river before and after school to collect water. At that time we had some dreadfully infected injuries - burns, cuts from cutlasses and badly scuffed toes.

When I visited recently, the Clinic was busy as usual, with lots of minor cuts, bites, sores etc. A few injuries were more serious and needed stitching. These included, Kofe the kente cloth maker who cut his leg. I sent him to the nearby government clinic for the doctor to stitch.

I also sent a little girl with a strange rash on her feet. She was having great difficulty walking. A few other children and teenagers should have gone to the government clinic but they didn't have health insurance or the money to pay for treatment, so I did my best using plasters as steristitches and they did eventually heal.

As well as the Mango Tree Clinic, Ashanti Development built a large purpose-designed clinic in 2010 but, despite all our best efforts, we haven't been able to get it state registered yet. In the meantime, the local authority is using it to house a small medical team.

As a result, the baby clinic now takes place inside the AD Clinic, instead of outside in the village square with the baby scales hanging from a tree. It's such a good improvement. SpecSavers have organised a wonderful eye clinic there too, and other clinics also take place.

There is a nurse and doctor on hand from 8am-6pm every day except Sunday. The AD Clinic can now deal with any serious injuries or health problems. The only problem is that many people can't afford to pay for treatment, and nor can they afford health insurance.

When I first organised the Mango Tree Clinic, the children always looked tired, but in 2015 water Ashanti Development was able to pipe water from a borehole in the next village, Tadiasa, up to Gyetiase. This clean water has made all the difference to the children. The infection in bites and cuts has dramatically decreased, on top of which not having to carry water from the river has given the children more energy. They all now look much healthier.

This is one of over fifty villages that Ashanti Development has helped with clean water and latrines. It's such a privilege to be able to help improve the lives of these children particularly when we have so much in the UK.



Ruth treating children at the Mango Tree Clinic

News In Brief

The Adontenhene of Gyetiase, our headquarters village, recently told us he was going deaf. He said it was a great problem, as indeed it must be for a Chief whose work includes judging disputes.

So last December volunteer Mark gave Nana Adu an on-line hearing test, using his laptop. And in February, volunteer Elisabeth delivered them. They are obviously rather hit-and-miss, but Nana Adu says he's delighted and his life is much easier now he's got them.



Nana Adu, Adontenhene of Gyetiase

Congratulations to Mame Martha Arko, who has just won the prize for having the best kept la...
in Gyetiase, beating the likes of Opanin Mobe, Amazon Gyambia and Opanin Yaw Adu.

She has won a small cash prize, and the runners up have won even smaller sums, all to be presented at the next village meeting.



Mame Martha Arko

The photo shows shop quality Ashanti Development honey making its first sales.

Congratulations to Dawn and Paul for working out a terrific project, which is seriously increasing the income of local people. Honey is now produced from 102 hives across sixteen Ashanti villages.



Ashanti honey

And congratulations too to Bobin village, which is the tenth village to have found a sponsor under our Develop A Village project this year. It will take some of the sponsors some time to save enough money, but Bobin's money has already arrived.

The village can now look forward to a healthier, more energetic future, with diarrhoea and infant deaths becoming things of the past.



Bobin village

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Taste of Ghana

Our annual summer party will take place on:

**Saturday 21st July, from:
4pm to 7pm at:
Tenants Hall,
Underneath Tresham,
Lambs Conduit Passage,
London WC1R 4RE.**

We'd be delighted if you could join us.

There will be Ghanaian food, music, gifts and souvenirs, with tables outside in the sun. You will also meet our amazing, cosmopolitan community and many of Ashanti Development's volunteers.



Tickets: £15 at the door
Concessions: £12
Eventbrite £12
at <https://goo.gl/gesPDg>