

GOOD NEWS - FROM ANANDA MARGA - W. AFRICA

Dear sister/brother,

Namaskar and greetings. Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and blissful New Year.

I hope you find inspiration in this update of 'recent' activities and news from Ghana and neighboring countries.

With brotherly affection,
Dada Pramananda

MADHU SHYAM (Sweet Green Abode – Marga Guru Quarters, Accra)

Continuous efforts to improve our facilities received a boost in the form of two donations (from USA) that provided funds for major renovation. The rear bath house was tiled and hand-washing sinks were connected. The front entrance was transformed with aluminum doors and windows that additionally created a new reception area. Outer ceilings were installed to help prevent mosquitoes and the outside washing area was renewed with tiles and terrazzo.



Towards attracting more people we've adopted the project name Ananda Marga Holistic Health and Lifestyle Centre. A new color brochure and sign board is under preparation along with banners and ads. In addition to meditation, yoga classes and general guidance on diet and natural health, we also offer massage, reflexology, homeopathy, reiki, and pranic healing. Future plans include a new kitchen/dining area and additional rooms for accommodation of guests and visitors.

HO KINDERGARTEN & JAGRITI (spiritual centre)

Construction of a new building in Ho, Volta Region started this summer. Support came from AMURT Portugal and sister Shantiji in S. Korea. With very limited funds, the work continued up to the foundation level. More funds are required to put up walls and complete the building.

This project was the long time vision and wish of our senior brother Kamal (Eck Kuewor), who graciously donated the land many years ago. We just received the sad news that Kamalji left his mortal frame this week at 4.30pm on Tuesday, 29th December, 2009. He was 78 years old. We convey our condolences to his family and friends and we are glad that he could witness the work begin before his departure.



Ho KG / Jagrti Construction

DABOYA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

AMURT is assisting the community of Daboya (in W. Gonja District, Northern Region, Ghana) to establish a weekly market centre and a community library / computer centre. Dada Pramananda visited the community for the fourth time in September. Meetings were held with the Chiefs, both committees (market and library) as well as the District Chief Executive (DCE) in Damongo, seat of the District Assembly (DA; the local government).

A Memorandum of Understanding / Agreement was signed between AMURT and the DCE / DA. The DA has given a long-unutilized and perfectly suitable building for the library / computer centre, and will discuss with community leaders how they can best support the market centre. We will now seek sponsors to help refurbish the building and obtain books and office equipment.

The DCE and DA leadership were ready to sign after hearing a positive report on AMURT from their counterparts in the Volta Region district where Dada Daneshanandaji has worked the past 9 years with water supply and community health promotion projects

Additional documents stating support for the Daboya projects and AMURT's role as partner NGO were circulated and signed by twenty officials and traditional leaders on the local, district and regional levels including the King of Gonjaland and the Regional Minister (Governor).

Budgets are under preparation so that proposals can be completed and forwarded to potential sponsors.



Committee Chairmen



Library / Computer Centre Building

POPULARISATION OF YOGA

A yoga class with Ananda Marga members and instructors was filmed as a pilot TV program. Once edited, it will be used to approach major networks in Ghana and potential sponsors (for the TV broadcast).

Yoga Teacher Training will be arranged in Ghana in 2010. Experienced margii trainers from USA and Europe have been invited to conduct this program.

HOMEOPATHY IN GHANA

The Ghana Centre for Homeopathy and Natural Health started in 2005 with sister Radha (Linda Shannon) and later Didi Ananda Rucira (Abha Light, Nairobi) and other senior practitioners in the UK. Since then our partner and sponsoring organisation Ghana Homeopathy Project (UK) has registered as a charity and enlists volunteers. Richard Pitt, a new full-time volunteer arrived in October. Richard has nearly 25 years of experience and administered a homeopathic college in Oakland, California, USA. Radha also returned in October together with two senior mentors from India, Drs. Kalyan and Kalisankar Bhattacharya. Training programs for local practitioners were conducted in Accra and Kumasi; charitable clinics were held in villages of Volta Region. Discussions were held on establishing a diploma course with representatives from the Ministry of Health.

UKK (Summer Conference)

The annual summer conference of Ananda Marga was held near Kpalime in Togo this past August. Approximately 100 people from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo enjoyed 4 days of uplifting kiirtans (devotional song and dance), meditations, cultural performances, classes and workshops. The host country won first place in the annual competitions of asanas (yoga postures), philosophy & conduct rules, and Koasikii and Tandava (yogic dances).

ECOLE NEOHUMANISTE

The Ananda Marga school in Lome, Togo is steadily improving. With help from AMURT Italy and private sponsors we now have six classrooms, one for each primary class. KG classes are still held in the jagrti hall. Recent funding has helped to complete the classroom floors and plastering of walls.

Many other wonderful projects and activities are underway in W. Africa and all of Nairobi Sector (Sub-Saharan Africa). For more information please visit: www.amurt.net, www.anandamarga.org, <http://nbi.amps.org>

All the above activities and projects, as well as day to day support of the Acaryas (spiritual teachers) & full time volunteer workers, require your generous support. If you wish to contribute please contact:

dadapramananda@anandamarga.net or call me on: +1 (718) 801 3934 or (718) 898 1603 (through February), or +233 21 501370 or +233 20 861 0043 (from 28th February onwards).

Donations sent through Ananda Marga or AMURT (for the Daboya project) in USA are tax deductible.