

Precious



needs
a school!

The Beloved Missionary School

"Serving Ghana"

***The very best for Ghana`s
children so they can give
the very best to Ghana***

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Mary Smith is the senior teacher in the work of the Serving Africa Mission. (S.A.M.) She is a U.K. state trained teacher. Her experience is a key part of why we are building this school. She writes:-

“One day, I was in our room on the base, when I decided to go to our base church to think and pray. As I was sitting in the church, I heard the sound of little feet scampering around. When I looked, I saw that a little girl had come in and was sitting on a chair close to me. We smiled at each other, and I carried on reading and thinking.

After a few minutes I felt a very light touch on my arm, and when I looked I saw that the child had come up to me, and her hand was stroking me. When she saw that I was looking, the tiny black hand went away. We just smiled at each other again. After a few moments the black hand returned, and began to stroke my arm, very gently, up and down. The little girl took my hands, and kept turning them over. She was fascinated by the whiteness - she had only ever seen or touched black people.

Suddenly, she lay across me, and put her head in my hands, closed her eyes, and lay there, in complete trust and in complete safety. I touched her hair - it was so soft. Then as quickly as she had laid down, she stood up, got down from the seat and bright eyes shining said "I'm Precious, and I am four!"

When she had gone, I sat quietly, thinking about her, and a strange thing happened to me. I seemed to be standing in a place of great light - it felt like it must be the presence of God. By my side, holding my hand, was Precious.

She stepped forward, and asked "Lord, can I have a school?" Back came the reply. "Yes!"

When Mary came back and told the team of her experience, we knew that we had to go ahead with this project.

Background

In 2011, it became clear to Rev. Jim Smith, Executive Director of the Serving Africa Mission, that a school should be part of the work of the Mission.

There were many parents in the area who wanted a specifically Christian school, where the principles of Christianity would form the basis of the school. The Government of Ghana is hard pressed to provide all the schools needed, so offering to build and run a school would be a real help. Even more, it would show our commitment to the children of Ghana, and to the nation - one we in the U.K. have supported for decades. Ghana is very special to us, and this link between us is very precious.

The S.A.M. has been working in Ghana for 20 years. It is totally a faith mission - we continue simply because God provides for us. Our usual pattern is to share our vision and our needs, and leave it to people and groups to decide what they should do. Sometimes the funding comes, and sometimes people are just encouraged by the vision.

This is the way we have worked for twenty years, and we believe that it is the right way for us. As a result of this approach, those who feel led to support us have done so.

The Beloved Missionary School will provide education for 180 pupils, from ages 6 to 15. It will be a high quality building - the Mission always builds to the highest standards. (See examples in Appendix 2) It will employ up to 9 teachers, a Principle and a secretary. All will be properly Ghanaian trained, and have the necessary certificates.

The school will be self funding - pupils in Ghana pay for education, books, and uniform.

We will obtain all the necessary educational and business permits to function within the laws of Ghana. All our staff will be, without exception, Ghanaian. All our supplies will be from Ghanaian sources.

Principles

We have tried to keep our principles simple and clear. The staff, along with the leaders of the S.A.M. will develop and clarify them over the first 5 years of the life of the school.

1. Everything in our school must honour Jesus Christ. As a missionary organisation, this is our founding principle, and will be extended to the Beloved Missionary school.

This principle will cover the teaching and the teachers, the pupils, the lessons and all extra activities. It will cover our choices and our decisions.

Most of all, as a servant mission, it will ensure that every person in the school is loved and valued for who they are. This is a very high standard, and a very big challenge.

2. Every child must feel welcomed, loved and safe.

3. Coming to school must be fun - something to be enjoyed.

4. Every child must be given the opportunity to achieve their potential, leaving the school with a feeling of having something to contribute to the wider life of Ghana. We must make it our aim that no one leaves feeling worthless.

5. Everyone - pupil, teacher, Governor, parent - must be committed to serving Ghana. We want our pupils to ask themselves "What can I give to my nation?" rather than "What can I get from my nation?"

6. The Beloved Missionary school is a Christian foundation, and no other religion will be taught or practised. As long as parents can accept this, children of any religion or none are welcome to join the school.

As we live in Medie, we will give first preference to children who live in our valley. The directors and Principle reserve the right to decide on admissions.

The directors of the school will be:

Apostle Paul Sefa, head of S.A.M. in Africa.

Rev Jim Smith, founder S.A.M.

Mrs Mary Smith, senior teacher S.A.M.

Mr David Smith, Chair of S.A.M. U.K.

Mrs Betty Cooper, senior team member S.A.M.

The acting Principle of the school is Mrs Mary Smith.

A number of Ghanaian educationalists are acting in an advisory capacity. We are in touch with the Ghana Education Authority, and will follow their syllabus. We will, in time, appoint an auditor to oversee our accounts.

It is our intention to appoint only Ghanaians to this group as we get established. It is our intention to appoint a Ghanaian Principle as soon as possible.



The Executive Director comments:-

Many things are tried in Africa, and many things fail! If we are ever going to help a developing country, we have to accept this fact. There can be no absolute guarantee that this project will work.

However, many things fail in Africa because they are badly set up, or because they are set up by well meaning, but inexperienced people in the West.

The S.A.M. has been working in Ghana for 20 years. It has a wide experience of setting up and running projects. It knows what the needs are, what works, and has staff on the ground to oversee all its projects. It keeps a firm hold on finance, and looks to create projects that will be effective and will last.

The Beloved Missionary School is not the work of the S.A.M. but just a part of it. We will take the school into our protection, care for it and its work, and to the best of our ability ensure that the finance we are committing is translated into well educated young people, who will serve the Nation well.

Rev M.J.Smith
Executive Director
S.A.M.



Finance

So far, we have bought 5 plots of land, and commissioned full and complete plans and drawings, including all the technical specifications needed to get our building permit. These plans are available for inspection on request. The project has been professionally costed, and the budget to date is 529,469.00 GBP. The detailed schedule is attached in Appendix 1.

Additions to this figure will be:-

1. Well for fresh water. 5,000.00 GBP
2. Landscaping and creation of playing field. 20,000.00 GBP
3. Pick up truck for the school use. 15,000.00 GBP.
4. Equipping of school— desks, computers, library, Admin office etc. 20,000.00 GBP
5. Start up salaries, until school is self sufficient. 10,000.00 GBP

Any money unused will create a bursary scheme, for children that cannot afford the fees, to help children with their start up costs to University, and for teacher development.

Our total figure at of October 2012 is 600,000.00 GBP

The Takk Trust

The Takk Trust is a registered charity (290753) and can process Gift Aid, CAF, Sovereign Giving and all other registered giving methods. Details are:-

Lloyds TSB
15 West Street, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 1DP
IBAN: GB68 LOYD 3093 4301 6902 94
SWIFT: LOYDGB21310

Sort code 30-93-43: Account 01690294

Address: Freshfields, Mutton Hall Hill, Heathfield East Sussex TNB21 8NL

From the parents



Emmanuel, Anita, Paul, Isha and Charity send this message:-

“We need a school to help build our community. The Government cannot afford one. We want a school built on Christian principles. We want our children to know and live by the principles of this nation.

We want to know that they will have a good education. It's vital for the future of our land. We cannot afford such a school, but when we have it, we will love and cherish it. A school given to us by people that really care about us is such a precious gift. The growth of our children and their future will be our “Thank you.”

The Serving Africa Mission

The S.A.M. has been working in Ghana for about 20 years. It is run by Rev Jim Smith, who has been an Anglican Minister for over 40 years. The church does not fund this work in any way, but is happy to recognise it, and Jim is licensed to the Diocese of Chichester.

All giving is voluntary, and comes by prayer. Fund raising is not part of the concept of the S.A.M.

In Ghana, the Mission owns a large base, on which it has built a Community guest house, a large house for prayer, a Church and a Mission house. It has also built “Joy Chapel” which is about 2Km away, and is currently building 3 other churches.

The Mission focuses on training and teaching the Christian faith, and through its main teacher, Mary Smith, has a strong emphasis on helping women take the lead in the Mission— something at which Ghana has not been very good at in the past.

The Mission employs 4 staff full time in Ghana, and 2 in the U.K.

The finances for the Mission are held in its own Trust “The Takk Trust”, which is a registered charity. (290753) The Takk Trust also supports other work in which Jim and Mary are involved, but its main emphasis for support is the S.A.M.

The Serving Africa Mission is based in the U.K. and in Medie, Ghana. The school will be run and administered from our base in Ghana. It will be subject to Ghana law only, and pay all its taxes in Ghana.

Contact

Rev Jim Smith and other members of the work are always available to speak about this project.

jimsmithghana@yahoo.co.uk

07803 617435

“Freshfields”

Mutton Hall Hill

Heathfield

East Sussex

TN21 8NL

In Ghana Paul Sefa is always available.

kayisefa.gh@gmail.com

0244 292986

www.serving-africa.org



Appendix 1: Cost schedule

Preliminary Estimate		GH¢
Construction Of Proposed 3-Storey School Building		
A	Preliminaries	89,496.11
B	Phase 1 Works - Building Frame & Roofing	799,880.70
	Substructure	
	In situ Concrete / Large Precast Concrete	
	Masonry	
	Structural / Carcassing/Metal/Timber	
	Cladding and Covering	
	Surface Finishes	
	Disposal and Pipe Supply Systems	
C	Phase 2 Works - Finishings	328,484.16
	Linings/Sheathing/Dry Partitioning	
	Windows/ Doors/ Sairs	
	Surface Finishes	
	Sanitary Appliances/Fittings	
	Building Fabric Sundries	
D	External Works	30,000.00
E	Add teacher quarters	69,000.00
	Sub-Total	GH¢ 1,296,860.97
F	Contingencies	7.5% 97,249.57
G	Add VAT	15% 194,489.15
		GH¢ 1,588,409.69
	Date.	
	August, 2012	
	<u>NB: Exclusions</u>	
	Furniture	
	Exchange rate of GHC3.0	
Construction Of Proposed 3-Storey School Building		£ 529,469.90

Appendix 2: Existing buildings



Lydia House



Blessing Church



Beloved House