

Note to Shirenewton Parish Charity Committee

March 18th 2014

Progress in Bongo, Upper East Ghana.

I thought I would keep you informed about progress with the Bongo Development Trust water projects.

This last January has been an active one for Faustina, at home from her studies in the Southern town of Kumasi. Faustina is on study leave from her job at the Ghana Department of Water and Sanitation (DWST), in order to complete her degree in environmental, water and sanitation engineering. This holiday is thus a time once again to put the theory into practice.

One of the other supporting charities is Project Bongo, a family in Shetland, who focus only upon potable water boreholes for schools. I'd have to check on 2013 works but in 2012 Project Bongo provided the funds for two new boreholes, at Feo Awisi Primary school and at Feo St John Bosco Primary school.

The region of Feo comprises 5 spread-out communities, Akunka, Asabagaisi (Awabisi), Asebre, Asimbisi, and Ayelbia, having a total; population of 4084 (in 2000) about 5.7% of the Bongo District, and I understand that the schools' catchment is these 5 communities.

Our Web site is in beta and is available through <http://crgamble.wix.com/bondotrust#>

On 22nd January Fausty arranged for the borehole drilling rig to turn up at Bongo Secondary School, after having held all the community-ownership and participation meetings beforehand. She dowsed the area, said 'drill here' and indeed they struck water that day. Water tests were carried out to determine the levels of fluoride and other problematic contaminants, and it was declared fit to drink. Soon the base and pump will be installed. As Fausty will be back at Uni, her volunteer Richard will supervise. This is a picture of a drilling rig at work.



The story this last few months does not end there; as a separate family – founded UK Charity based in Southampton Living Water Africa, had provided funds for the replacement of a number of old, broken pumps in other village communities. One community qualified by Faustina is the Awabisi community who have been on the waiting list. Faustina has held community meetings, taught water and sanitation (WATSAN) education from DWST materials; caused the formation of a community WATSAN committee; caused them to open a bank account for spares and maintenance costs; and obtained the commitment of the community to provide labour and local materials (basically sand and gravel dug from the river).

With all this in place, on Saturday 25th she supervised a work party in breaking up the old cement base and taking out the old pump rods, cylinder, etc from the borehole. Then formwork was placed and new concrete mixed and poured by the community to make a new base, run-off area and cattle trough. This was cured for a week, and last Friday 30th the new Afridev deep-well hand pump, procured from Accra, was fitted, tested and handed over to the community. This is the concrete being poured into the formwork, and the working area being screeded with the new pump installed.



The donation from Shirenewton Parish Church when combined with funds from St Peter's and St Columba's in West Lothian will repeat this work at a further community, or be used to mechanise the pump at the Bongo Junior High School.

I hope in due course to report in detail upon work enabled by the application of your funds, and to supply pictures. As a side note, getting internet data including pictures is extremely difficult with the networks and bandwidth available. If anyone has a good idea to help in this regard then communication and reporting will be eased dramatically.

Thank you and God Bless,

Charles & Faustina