



# The Olinga Foundation

For Human Development



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## ACTIVITIES IN KWAHU NORTH DISTRICT

### Objectives of the Foundation:

- To release human potential through the promotion of universal education, especially for school leavers, women and girls.
- To build the capacity of community-based organisations for achieving ever higher degrees of human development.
- To assist individuals and organisations to investigate, identify and overcome socio-cultural barriers to development.
- To assist communities to apply moral principles for the solution of socio-economic problems through a process of consultation, action and reflection.

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### Teacher Training Workshop

The yearly teacher training workshop in the local Ghanaian language –Ewe & Twi was held at Donkorkrom in the Eastern Region of Ghana for 32 local language teachers from the 26th-28th Oct 2010. These teachers were drawn from remote, rural and deprived schools in the Kwahu North/Afram Plains district. It is part of the Foundation’s on going work to promote literacy and moral education in both primary and junior high schools in deprived communities in Ghana. The training workshop was launched by Mr Osei Agyemang, the deputy District Director of Education and in attendance were three officers from the GES. The Facilitators, Mr Gbede Mr Asiamah from UEW and Leo took the participants through language acquisition skills and moral education issues. Alternative disciplinary methods were also discussed. Peer teaching amongst the participants was quite commendable. This generated interest in the teachers to use TLMs-teaching and learning materials as well as reminding them to prepare their TLM’s before lesson delivery. The training emphasized the importance and meritorious nature of teaching and the need for skilled moral teachers to develop the country. Classroom management was also introduced to enhance the learning environment of their students.

The then District Chief Executive Mr Evans Apraku and the District Director of Education were at the closing ceremony where 30-40 Enlightening the Hearts Literacy learners book one were distributed to participating schools according to their enrolment. The District Chief Executive pledged support for the program and advised teachers to make their students literate using the language acquisition skills acquired at the training workshop. The District Director assured the teachers of a systematic monitoring and supervision of the program to ensure effective delivery by the circuit supervisors.

### Visit to the Project Site (NAWA)

The north American Women Association which has been funding the printing of EHL

learners books in Twi and Ewe for the past three years, sent a repetitive to the project site during the major three days teacher training workshop held at the Alphose Merten Catholic Centre in Donkorkrom Oct 2010. The purpose is to ascertain how EHL books were distributed to the schools and to see the need for increased funding for the development and printing of the learners books. She actively participated in all activities of the training and discussed the educational system of their Country Mozambique to that of Ghana. We took time off to visit some beneficiary schools in rural remote deprived village where she observed teaching of the languages by program teachers. She lauded the Olinga Foundation for eradicating illiteracy in remote, rural communities and incorporating moral and spiritual aspects in the curriculum, an element that will help mould the lives of children to become better future leaders in the society.

She encouraged constant monitoring visits to the project site by the National Coordinator and the District Education Officials. This will motivate teachers to put in their best.

**Baseline Study** A baseline survey was conducted in 8 program and 8 non program schools to ascertain the literacy levels of pupils before the program began in the schools. The survey was conducted by four (4) circuit Supervisors, one desk officer and one district training officer all from the district Education office in Donkorkrom and the project Coordinator of the Foundation.



Charity is pleasing and praiseworthy in the sight of God and is regarded as a prince among goodly deeds. By Ba-ha’u’llah.

The study revealed interesting academic standard of schools involved in the exercise.

16 schools participated in the exercise and 313 students took part in the survey.

27% of the students are literate or 84 out of 313 students tested are literate, while 61% are non-literate or woeful 191 out of 313 are not literate. Meanwhile 12% or 38 out of 313 are semi-literate.

Monitoring and classroom observations were made by the circuit Supervisors in collaboration with the Project Coordinator, to ascertain whether the literacy methodology acquired during the training workshop was being applied in the classrooms.

Weaknesses of the teachers were also discussed and were encouraged to adopt alternative system of punishment instead of caning and hitting children in the classrooms.

Instead of corporal punishment, alternative measures such as dialogue, counseling, manual labour, withdrawal of privileges etc should be given to disobedient children.

### Baseline Results Program Schools.

8 program schools were involved in the baseline exercise.

A total number of 159(both boys & girls randomly selected) took part in the literacy test.

Are they equal—those who know and those who know not?—

Mohammad.

### Detailed Results of Program Schools

(Detailed Results Chart Here)

#### BASELINE RESULTS PROGRAM SCHOOLS-NOV 2010 AFRAM PLAINS/KWAHU NORTH DISTRICT

NAME OF SCHOOL	CLASS	TOTAL No. OF STUDENT	LITERATE No	%	SEMI-LITERATE No.	%	NON-LITERATE No.	%
Ntonaboma R/C Prim	P5	20	5	25%	3	15%	12	60%
Ntonaboma Presby. Prim	P4	20	—	—	6	30%	14	70%
Mem-chemfre R/C Prim	P5	20	5	25%	1	5%	14	70%
Dedeso D/A JHS	JHS2	20	15	75%	—	—	5	25%
Mem-chemfre D/A JHS	JHS2	20	14	70%	—	—	6	30%
Forifori D/A JHS	JHS1	19	7	37%	3	16%	9	47%
Forifori D/A Prim	P6	20	7	35%	3	15%	10	50%
Tease Presby. JHS	JHS1	20	5	25%	8	40%	7	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>		159	58		24		77	

Number of Schools — 8

Total Number of Students — 159

Number of Students Literate/Percentage—58(37%)

Number of Students Semi-Literate/Percentage— 24(15%)

Number of Students Non-Literate/Percentage—77(48%)

### Findings

37% or 58 out of 159 students are literate whereas 48% or 77 out of 159 are non-literate meanwhile 15% or 24 out of 159 are semi-literate.

### Monitoring of Schools in Kwahu North District

Monitoring experiences in the Kwahu North District as compared to the Wassa Amenfi West District is relatively challenging, in terms of the poor roads, distance of the villages to the district capital and most importantly the security of means of transportation to these remote and rural schools. Program monitoring is as vital as program evaluation, so management can know the state of the program, going? Any challenges? Etc. Notice is not necessarily served on the teacher before visiting the school. This enables the monitoring officer or team to see what is on the ground, what happens in the classroom during the Ghanaian language period. Monitoring is done by Olinga staff in close collaboration with the GES—circuit supervisors. The teacher is observed through the Ghanaian language period, 30-45 minutes, to teach Ghanaian language using Olinga methodology. The monitoring officer sees whether the teacher adheres to the alternative disciplinary measures, he expects the lesson to be a participatory type with each child involved in the lesson. Teachers are taken unawares to see their preparedness for their lessons. You love to see children interact among themselves, contributing to the lesson, asking questions, role playing making the teacher a facilitator of the lesson. We congratulate all our program teachers for their relentless efforts they make in teaming up with the Olinga Foundation fight these courage of illiteracy in the district. We remind our cherished teachers that moral aspect of the lesson is a major component of the methodology hence must be treated as such.

More grease to your elbows

Mr. Leo Nubuasah

O OTUMFOO NO BAI      Maye owuo osomafoo a ode  
anigye bre wo. Aden nti na wodi ho awerehoo? Memaa hann no  
hyeren wo so, aden na wode wo ho resie hann no.    Baha'u'l-  
lah(Twi)

### Evaluation Results in Afram Plains/Kwahu North District July 2010

An evaluation exercise was conducted by the Olinga Foundation in collaboration with the District Education Service (GES) in July 2010 to Provide Feedback to management, donors and sponsors., Provide insight into reason program is effective, to evaluate the progress of the program over the last year, to evaluate on the spot reports from teachers and to evaluate the results of the program for future programming.

Number of Schools —6

Number of Students Tested — 78

Number of Students Literate/Percentage —61(44.5%)

Number of Students Semi-Literate/Percentage —9(6.5%)

Number of Student Non-Literate/Percentage —67(49%)

### Findings

Very interesting results have been revealed by the exercise. The literacy rate increased from 21% in the baseline to 44.5%, while the non-literacy also reduced from 69% in the baseline to 49% in the evaluation.

### Interpretation

literacy has been reduced to 49% and literacy rate has increased tremendously to 44.5% from 21% in the evaluation. This is due to the literacy intervention coupled with the Simple, easy language acquisition skills well delivered by dedicated teachers in the classroom and the preparedness of the students to learn their local mother tongue due to the motivational impulse generated in the classroom by using alternative disciplinary punishments instead canning and hitting children. This undoubtedly influenced the literacy rates.



# GENEROSITY

“The gift which is given without thought of recompense, in the belief that it ought to be made, in a fit place, at an opportune time, and to a deserving person —such a gift is pure.” —BHAGAVAD-GITA 17:20

## What Is Generosity?

Generosity is giving and sharing. It is giving freely because you want to, not with the idea of receiving attention, a reward, or a gift in return. Giving freely also means you give without a concern for what someone does with your gift.

Generosity is a quality of the spirit. It is an awareness that there is plenty for everyone. It is seeing an opportunity to share what you have and then giving just for the joy of giving. It is one of the best ways to show love.

## Why Practice Generosity?

Without generosity the world would be a sad place. People who need help would feel like beggars—without pride or dignity. In a world without generosity, every gift would have a string attached. Every gift would come with conditions that would enable the giver to gain something and to manipulate things for his own advantages. That is not giving.

When people do give freely, especially when there is some sacrifice involved, this is an important way to exercise their spirituality. Giving freely and fully is contagious. When one person is generous, it touches other people's hearts and then they want to be generous too. It just keeps going. Then everyone has more of what they need.

## How Do You Practice It?

Generosity begins by recognizing some person or group that deserves your help. It could be your family. Then think of some way to help or something to give.

Look for things to share that mean something to you. You can share your time, knowledge, things, or money. Look for a way to give what you can—a

Way that gives others the feeling that they deserve what you are giving.

Don't look for anything in return. Don't look at how your gift is used—just give it freely and let it go. You'll feel good because you have given generously!

## What would generosity look like if .....

- A friend comes over to play the day after your birthday and you have a new toy?
- A friend who has broken your toys before wants to play with your favorite one?
- Your father is cooking dinner and needs someone to set the table, and you're watching your favorite TV show?
- A child in your class has forgotten her lunch and doesn't have any money?
- Someone's birthday is coming up and you wonder what to get him?

## Signs of Success

### Congratulations! You are practicing generosity when you. . .

- Are thoughtful about the needs of others
- Notice when someone needs help
- Give freely without hope of reward
- Give fully without holding back
- Are willing to make sacrifices for others
- Use wisdom about sharing treasured belongings.

### Keep trying! You need more practice when you. . .

- Cannot find anyone who deserves your help
- Keep giving to someone who abuses your help
- Give only thing that do not matter to you
- Expect something in return for sharing
- Hold on to the gift after it is given with conditions about how it should be used
- Keep reminding people that you gave

## AFFIRMATION

I am generous. I look for opportunities to give and to share. There is plenty of time for thoughtfulness. I give freely, fully, and joyfully.

I .



## REFRESHER TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP

6th—10th JUNE 2011

The cluster based refresher training workshop was held at three centres on the 6th 8th and 10th June 2011 at Tease, Bruben and Donkorkrom.

The Foundation's purpose for the workshop was to examine the current state of affairs in the program schools, including organization goals, objectives and resources in order to address the concerns of the teachers and pupils alike, to correct mistakes observed during monitoring and to revisit the methodology, as well as discuss challenges and achievements.

Thirty-two teachers three Circuit Supervisors, one district training officer of the GES and the Project Coordinator actively participated.

Participants were taken through the methodological aspects of teaching and learning Twi and Ewe, and the need for teaching the moral content of the lessons. The need to use teaching and learning materials was also stressed.

During the open forum session teachers complained bitterly about absenteeism of pupils from school as a major challenge, hindering their progress. How shall the GES overcome this problem?



..... The tongue is a smouldering fire,  
and excess of speech a deadly poison.

Material fire conumeth the body, whereas the fire  
of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The  
force of the faormer lasteth but for a time, whilst  
the effects of the latter endureth a centary.

By Baha'u'llah.

## POETRY

### Boats Sail On The River

Boats sail on the rivers ,  
And ships sail on the seas;  
But clouds that sail across the sky  
Are prettier far than these  
There are bridges on the rivers,  
As pretty as you please;  
But the bow that bridges heave,  
And overtops the trees,  
And builds a road from earth to sky,  
Is prettier far than these.

Christina Rosselti

***“The education of each child is compulsory.... In addition to this wide – spread education each child must be taught a profession, art or trade, so that every member of the community will be enabled to earn his own livelihood. Work done in the spirit of service is the highest form of worship.” — Bahá’í Holy Writings***

## **Virtue for the Month**

### **CARING**

“Pay homage to God and be good to your parents and relatives, the orphans, the needy, the neighbors who are your relatives, and the neighbors who are strangers and friends by your side.” — AL-QUR’AN, 4:36

#### **What is Caring?**

Caring is giving love and attention to people and things that matter to you. You can show you care about someone by saying and doing things that help them. Caring about something you are doing means giving it your very best.

When you care for someone, you pay a lot of attention to them and take an interest in what is happening to them. Caring shows that something or someone really matters to you. You can care for yourself, for others, for a pet or a special thing. When you care for an animal, you watch over it and take good care of its needs.

When you are careful with something, you treat it gently and respectfully, making sure that you don’t hurt it. When you do a careful job, you give it your very best effort.

Caring comes from within. It is a sign of love, respect, and concern. Caring people take the interests of others as their own. They do all that they can to show people that they are loved and valued.

Caring about yourself means that you treat yourself with the respect and concern that you deserve as a child of God.

#### **Why Practice Caring?**

Caring makes the world a better place to live in. Caring people help others feel less alone. They help people when they are hurt, or sick or weak, not because they have to or it is their job. They care because other people matter to them. Because they care, people trust them. Caring people treat special things with extra concern and attention.

Caring people treat everyone with the love, respect, and concern they deserve. Caring begins by loving and respecting yourself and others.

Without caring, nothing and no one matters. Everyone is alone. If someone is hurt or sick, no one will help unless she can make some money or take advantage of the person. Without caring, people would only do things for others because they expect something in return. People would become suspicious of each other. When people have an attitude of “ I don’t care,” they do a sloppy or incomplete job. Sometimes that can be dangerous for people and the environment.

When you don’t care about yourself, others get the impression that you don’t matter very much. They start being careless with you too.

#### **How do you Practice it?**

When you feel love and concern for others, look for ways to show your interest in them. Ask them questions about how they are, what they think and feel, like “ what did you do today?” “How is your day going?” “Are you feeling better?” and “ How can I help?”

When you are careful, you handle things with control and gentleness. When someone or something is entrusted to your care, you treat their trust as something sacred, giving your best and nothing but your best.

When you care about yourself, you treat your body with respect, wear clean clothes, take a bath, and comb your hair. You take care of your needs. If you are lonely, find a friend and spend some time. If you are hungry, you get something to eat. If you are sad, you have a little cry and then decide how you can make things better.

#### **What would caring look like if.....**

- You are doing a chore for your family?
- You notice that one of your friends looks a bit sad?
- You come in from playing outside and start talking to your mother?
- It is your job to take care of the family pet?
- You feel upset about something that is hard to talk about?

(Adopted from the Family Virtues Guide)

- By: **Linda Kavelin Popov**

## Signs of Success

### Congratulations! You are practicing caring when you...

- Treat others and yourself with care.
- Let people know that what they say is important by looking at them and listening to them.
- Handle things carefully.
- Be gentle and loving with anything or anyone placed in your care.

### Keep trying! You need more practice when you.....

- Act as if you don't care, as if nothing matters to you.
- Ignore other people's needs.
- Give less than your best to a job.
- Ignore your own needs.
- Treat things carelessly

Let things placed in your care fend for themselves, even pets!

### Affirmation

I care for others and myself. I pay loving attention to people and things I care about.... I give my best to every job.

## THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

“But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentiles” —

**Romans 2:10**

“The mercy which God layeth open for man, no one can keep back: and what He said keep back, none can afterwards send forth. And He is the mighty, the wise.”

— **Surra xxxx Verse 45**

“The essence of charity is for the servant to recount the blessings of his Lord, and to render thanks unto Him at all times and under all conditions”.

— **Bahá'í Quotation TB, p. 156**

## POETRY CORNER

### Her Hands...

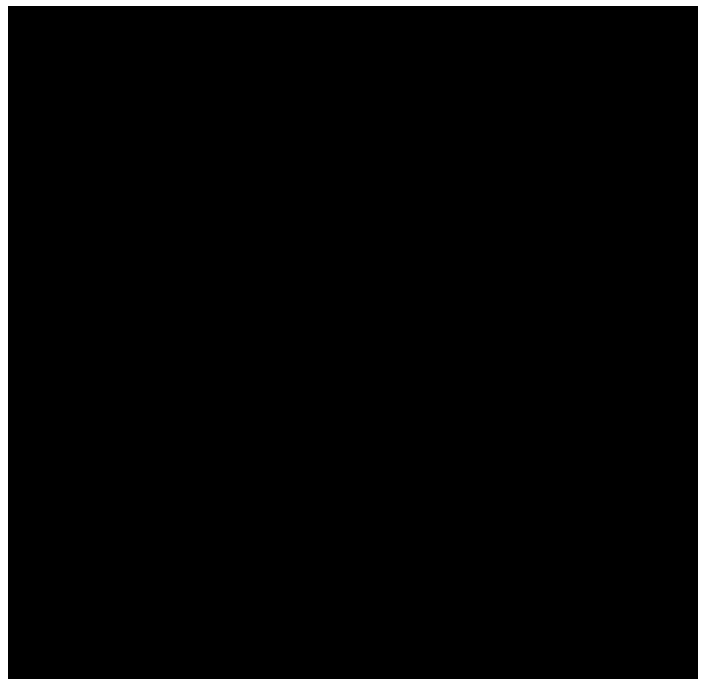
My mother's hands are cool and fair;  
They can do anything  
Delicate mercies hide them there  
Like flowers in the rainy season

When I was small and could not sleep

She use to come to me  
And with my cheek upon her hand  
How sure my rest would be  
For everything she ever touched  
was beautiful or fine

Their memories living in her hands

Would warm that sleep of mine  
All this was very long ago  
And I am grown, but you  
The hand that lured my slumber so  
I can never forget





To:

Four horizontal lines for an address.

The Olinga Foundation for Human Development owes profound gratitude to the Western Regional Director of Education-Sekondi, the Wasa Amenfi District Director of Education, the District Education Officers, the Circuit Supervisors and teachers who actively participate in our programme.

We would also like to thank the Office of Social and Economic Development, at the Bahá'í World Centre, for supporting project activities over the past ten years.

We wish to thank the Ex-Director General of the Ghana Education Service Mr. Michael Nsowah for recommending the programme to all districts in Ghana.

For further Information please contact:

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Greetings from the teachers in the Wasa Amenfi District.

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**Calendar of Events**

**2011/2012 Program**

Planning meeting .....	Sept 2011
Teacher Training Workshop .....	Oct 2011
Baseline Study .....	Nov 2011
Monitoring of New Schools .....	Dec 2011
Monitoring of 2010/2011 Schools .....	Jan 2012
Production of Newsletter .....	Feb 2012
Monitoring of 2009/2010 Schools .....	March 2012
Cluster based Refresher Training Workshop .....	April 2012
Monitoring of Schools (Afram Plains/Wasa Amenfi West District).....	May 2012
Monitoring of Schools (Afram Plains/Wasa Amenfi West District) .....	June 2012
Evaluation .....	July 2012