

CARE FOR KALEO GETS CHARITY STATUS

On 24th May 2007 Care for Kaleo received a letter from the Charity Commission confirming that it has received Registered Charity Status. The Objectives of the charity are: To advance the Christian religion in particular but not exclusively by the provision of a church in Kaleo, Ghana. To advance the education of young people in Kaleo, Ghana, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of a school. To relieve financial hardship in Kaleo, Ghana. The Charity Trustees are; Christine Empson, Jenny Capper, Barry Empson and Tony Capper. Andrew Empson is also a consultant of the charity. The charity is now listed on the Charity Commission website www.charitycommission.gov.uk under Care for Kaleo.



From left: Tony, Christine, Andrew, Barry, Jenny.

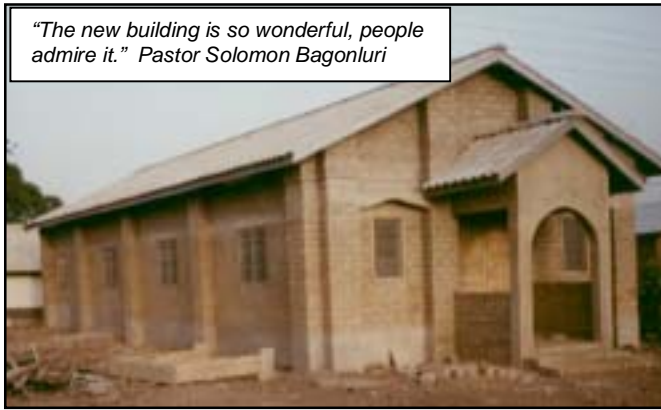
CHURCH BUILDING ALMOST FINISHED

Almost three years to the day after a storm blew the roof off the old crumbling church the new building is almost complete. In total six church members worked permanently on the project as well as the specialist

carpenters and electricians that were used. Thanks to your generous donations these six workers were trained in the use of the specialist building machinery we sent in 2004 and have been paid a salary for working on the building project. The project brought out the best in all the church members and when needed, such as during the digging of the foundations, everyone gave their time to help, from mixing the concrete by hand to fetching water from the dam to cooking lunch for the workers, young and old all contributed.

At present the Sunday school is completed and both buildings are in use. The main church building just requires a lick of paint and some groundwork outside to add the finishing touches.

"The new building is so wonderful, people admire it." Pastor Solomon Bagonluri



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

by Andrew Empson

In September 2003 I went to work in Ghana, West Africa, with the British charity Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). I was sent to teach maths in a secondary school in the small, remote village of Kaleo, situated in the Upper West Region of Ghana, a 10 hour bus journey from the nearest city. On my arrival I found the people of Kaleo to be extremely friendly and kind, but also very poor. On my first Sunday in the village I followed the signs to Kaleo Regular

Baptist Church and sat down with my colleague, Richard, two white faces in a church of Ghanaians. After the service Pastor Solomon was keen to welcome us and my friendship with him began. In May 2004 a large storm broke out in the night directly over Kaleo tearing the roof from the church and damaging the walls. When Pastor Solomon showed me the remains of the church the next day I had peace in my heart and told him that God would use this for good. I contacted my parents here in UK which led to Willow Green Church, Horsforth fund raising and sending out some machinery designed specifically for use in developing countries, all hand powered, to produce bricks, roofing tiles and floor tiles. After a six month delay trying to get the machinery released from the port in Ghana, I travelled to the capital Accra for five weeks until we finally satisfied customs. A technician, Abou Manneh, was sent from the Gambia for one month to train a group of four church members in using the machines and building skills, who since then have trained a further two people themselves. Since then the team has produced over 10,000 blocks and 1,000 roofing tiles and built two wonderful buildings. As a point of interest it was during the same storm that I first spoke to a young lady called Modesta as we sheltered from the rain, in August 2006 we had a traditional Ghanaian wedding in Kaleo!

AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION

In 2003 Pastor Johnson and his wife, missionaries from USA, came to visit Kaleo Baptist Church and commented that "this building needs replacing not just fixing." Since then they have contributed generously to the project, donating \$1,000 from their church in USA and providing many bags of cement and the paint to finish the church. Pastor Johnson has also offered to pay for and build the pews for the church himself.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Care for Kaleo plans to fund a nursery in Kaleo

In August 2004 Barry and Christine travelled to Ghana to visit Andrew in Kaleo. Whilst there they saw the young children playing in the streets with sticks or old tin cans, having nothing else to do. Ever since then it has been on our hearts to help the people in Kaleo to set up a nursery where the children can receive a basic education. It is evident in the Primary schools which children have

had no basic education as they often cannot do the most basic of tasks. Members of Kaleo Baptist Church recently held a meeting to discuss the creation of a nursery and are extremely enthusiastic about it. We all want the nursery to be free to attend and so available to all, to



The children came to greet us

provide a basic education and skills by learning through play and to share teaching skills and ideas with skilled people here in UK. We aim to fully fund the nursery with your support, providing all the money for equipment and materials, as well as sending over specialist items from UK and paying the teachers a good local wage. As we now have two good buildings in the church and Sunday school these will be used for the nursery. After hearing about the problems faced in the Ghanaian classroom by both Andrew and his wife Modesta, a trainee Primary teacher, it is so important to build a strong foundation of skills and education for the children of Kaleo.

A BUSINESS OF THEIR OWN

From the beginning of the building project in Kaleo we have always intended that the builders use their new skills to earn a living once the church was completed. On his last visit to Ghana Andrew helped the building team leader, Prosper,



Roofing Tile machine

calculate the production costs of the blocks, roofing tiles and floor tiles. They found that they will be able to sell the products cheaper than the normal market price whilst still making a good profit. The market for roofing tiles seems especially promising as they are much cheaper and more desirable than the current zinc roofing sheets. Initially two members of the team will start

The building team: Sallah, Noah, Prosper, Isaac, Emmanuel, David



up the business providing materials and offering skilled labour, other members of the team will work when required. Prosper is planning to bring some of the local radio presenters to Kaleo to see the building and advertise it to the whole region, but there has already been interest from churches and businesses in Wa and the surrounding areas.

WHERE IS KALEO?



Kaleo is a village situated nine miles north of the Regional Capital Wa in the Upper West Region of Ghana. The only way to get there is by road, of which almost 100 miles is un-surfaced.

There is a large north – south divide in Ghana and whilst the southern cities enjoy mains water the northern regions still rely on Bore –holes. There are two Primary schools, two Junior Secondary schools and one Senior Secondary school in Kaleo. Unfortunately, only Primary education is free (with some “hidden charges”) so many children cannot attend school. There is also a serious shortage of teachers, leading to class sizes of over 80 and many classes having no teacher at all. The pupils either teach themselves or go work on the family farm. The people of Kaleo are very generous and friendly, they just need a level playing field with the rest of us.



LET THERE BE MUSIC

By Andrew Empson

I once asked Pastor Solomon why the church was called Kaleo *Regular* Baptist Church. He explained that the church has no drums or instruments so people can come and worship God instead of watching other people's bottoms wiggling when they dance, that's what the *Regular* means! Well it seems the new building has brought about a change of heart as I was asked if we can provide a keyboard for the church. In my enthusiasm I said I was sure that could be managed, so we are hoping to either send a keyboard or the money to buy one in the near future.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

None of the work in Kaleo is possible without your support. Every penny we receive goes directly to Kaleo, the only overhead we have is the small fee on money transfers to Ghana. If you would like to help please send cash or cheques made payable to “Care for Kaleo” to the address below. If you are a UK tax payer please Gift Aid your donation using the Gift Aid form, then we can claim back an extra 28p for every £1 you donate. If you would like to Sponsor the Nursery by making a regular donation every month please fill in a “Friends of Kaleo” slip and return it to Christine Empson at the address below. The sponsorship money received will be spent exclusively on the Nursery, the staff and children. Thank you so much for your support.

Care for Kaleo

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