



# Mawuvio's Outreach Programme

February 2015

## Meet Kwame Ametonu

Prior to 2009 Kwame Ametonu, then 8 years old, had never sat in a classroom before. He could not read, write or make use of numbers; he was one of many lost children roaming the streets of Kissemah Village.

Kwame, his mother and his siblings have all been a part of Mawuvio's Outreach since its origin in August of 2009. His younger brother Godsway, age 10 is in Class 2 and also stays at the Ayikuma boarding school while sister Saviour is in Kindergarten at Mawuvio's Outreach in Kissemah. Five years later, Kwame, now 13 years old is a proud member of the eldest class at Mawuvio's Outreach, Primary 6. He loves playing football (soccer) with his friends, reading, and is learning to play the trumpet. Kwame would not be where he is today without the loving support of his mother Grace Ametonu. Although Grace has no formal education herself, she understands that she needs to make a better future for her children and is doing that with the help of Mawuvio's Outreach. She supports Kwame by making sure he attends school everyday with his homework done. Hats off to Kwame and his mother Grace!



## The Container Has Finally Arrived!

After many months and several frustrations, we are ecstatic to announce that the container shipped from Frastanz Austria to Mawuvio's Outreach in Ghana has finally been delivered to the Ayikuma boarding school!

The container was shipped by MOP board member Florian Bernhart who grew up in the Austrian town of Frastanz.



Bernhart spent many hours in spring and summer of 2014 collecting donated supplies and goods from schools, organizations and individuals in and around Frastanz. Goods ranged from bed sheets, pillows, shoes, clothing and school desks. All the supplies needed to outfit the new boarding school Mawuvio's Outreach planned to open in September 2014.

By mid – July, Bernhart shipped the 40 foot container. Shortly after the container was shipped, MOP directors Eric Kwame Agoe and Renee Farwell began the process of getting tax exemption for the items inside the container. Unlike the United States, where 501(c)3 organizations have tax exemption upon becoming 501(c)3 organizations as recognized by the IRS, Ghana law requires Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to seek tax exemption for every donation coming into their organization. Once the container was shipped and Agoe and Farwell had all the necessary forms from the shipping agency they could start fighting for tax exemption of the container through the legal channels in Ghana. This meant that to gain tax exemption for the 40 foot container, the documents must pass through and be approved by four governmental ministries in Ghana; 1 - the Ministry of Social Welfare, 2 – The Ministry of Gender and Children's Services, 3- The Ministry of Trade and 4 - The Ministry of Finance.

Agoe and Farwell spent two to three days a week for approximately three months visiting the ministries to put pressure on each respective minister to grant MOP tax exemption of the container. Eventually in early November 2014 MOP had word that tax exemption was granted for the container. A four month process of seeking tax exemption was finally complete.

However, the container shipped from Frastanz had arrived in Tema, Ghana's port town, by late August 2014. Upon arrival, MOP had three weeks to clear the container from Tema before a demurrage (late charges) began to be applied to the container. This demurrage is a weekly fee that increases each week that the container is left sitting in the harbor.

So, why did MOP simply forgo the tax exemption process and clear the container within this three week window? When a container arrives in Tema, it is processed by harbor workers. Each and every item is documented and given an import fee. MOP's import fee ranged from 1USD for each pencil (there were over 1,000 pencils in the container) to \$500 for a twenty five year old used lawnmower. The amount totaling to approximately 30,000 USD for import fees alone; something MOP could

not afford. By November 2014, the demurrage penalty fees were approaching 7,000 USD. School had been in session for two months already at the new Ayikuma boarding facility. Students were using mattresses as desks waiting patiently for the container to be cleared. MOP directors and Bernhart made the disheartening decision to abandon the container and use some of the funds Bernhart raised to construct local wooden desks for the students to use. In December 2014, Bernhart was notified by the Hapag-Lloyd shipping company of another fee that would be coming his way. Even if the decision to abandon the container was made, the shipper, Bernhart would be still be charged the fee of the container because he rented the container and did not purchase it.

Bernhart then reached out to the MOP board members to see what could be done. Board members decided MOP should not abandon the container and instead, they reached out to the Hapag-Lloyd shipping company in the US and in Germany. They succeeded in getting shipping officials to lower the demurrage to an amount MOP could afford. So, in late January 2015, MOP director Eric Kwame Agoe and board member Innocent Nikoi spent days at Tema getting the container cleared and to MOP's Ayikuma boarding school. Finally, on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, the container arrived at Mawuvio's Outreach, was unpacked and supplies organized into classrooms, dormitories and offices. Mawuvio's Outreach extends a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to and helped the container reach MOP!



getting ready to help unpack the container



unpacking the tables and chairs



Organizing supplies under the summer hut



Students in Class 3 enjoy their new desks

## Thanks to All in Frastanz!

### Items donated to MOP

Tables	Chairs
Overhead Projector	Books
Rulers	Pens
Pencils	Notebooks
Socks	Shoes
Wash Cloths	Towels
Bowls	Plates
Bicycles	Swings
Forks	Knives
Spoons	Underwear
Sewing Machine	Lawn Mower
Shirts	Trousers
Skirts	Dresses
Underwear	Bags
Gardening Shears	Pitchfork
School Bags	Bed Sheets
Pillows	Mattresses
Blankets	Toothbrushes
Files	Calculators
Bras	Blender
Lamps	Compasses
Suitcases	Cooking Pots
Frying Pans	Jackets
Tights	Hats
Ping Pong Table	Jump Ropes
Glue	Paint
Paint Brushes	First Aid Kits
Board Games	Belts
Frisbees	Television
Drilling Machine	Cupboards
Shelves	Rakes
Saws	Sofas
Buckets	Pick Axe
Hammer	Brooms
Shovels	Curtains
Mirrors	Mops
Clocks	CD Player
Toolbox	Mugs
Cups	Iron
Buckets	Wheelbarrow
Washing Machine	Watering Can
Welding Machine	Water Hose
Containers	Earrings
Bandages	Crayons
Pliers	Stickers

## Teacher Spotlight: Madam Bernice

### **Where do you come from?**

Ayikuma Township, Ghana

### **Where did you attend school?**

Ningo Senior High School, Ghana

### **How long have you taught at MOP?**

1 year

### **Why do you like Teaching?**

I have the passion for teaching.

### **What do you like best about teaching?**

The best things I like about teaching is that it enables you to advance your learning, to help fulfill the ambition of others

### **What is difficult about teaching?**

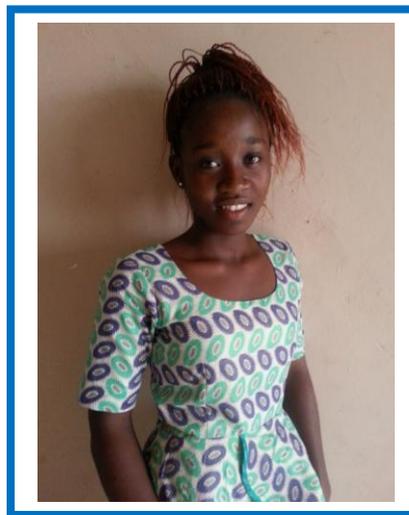
The difficult situations about teaching are when you don't have patience, when you don't advance your learning and when you are not prepared for lessons.

### **Why do you like teaching at MOP?**

I choose MOP because their goal is to help the needy but brilliant, to make the future true and also the impossible possible for others.

### **What do you hope your students will say about you, their teacher, 10 years from now?**

In 10 years from now, my students will say; by the grace and favour of the Lord through MOP and with the help of my teacher I have achieved my future.



### **Where do you hope your students are 10-20 years from now?**

I hope my students will be working at their prospective office's, responsible for their family and also supporting the needy.

### **What do you hope to be doing 10 years from now?**

In 10 years from now, I will become a teacher by profession and also support MOP.

### **What advantages, in your opinion, do MOP boarding students have?**

MOP boarding students have access to the necessary educational materials and facilities to equip them and also the care of their welfare.

### **In your opinion, is MOP more than just a school?**

YES. MOP is more like a family and is responsible for the welfare of the individuals. It supports the needy with the necessary educational materials and facilities.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



Madam Abigail

Abigail teaches Primary 1 at Mawuvio's Outreach in Kissemah.



Auntie Renee

Renee is Co-Founder of Mawuvio's Outreach.