

July 2014

Memorial Service for Steve Farwell

As many of you know, Steve Farwell, father of M.O.P.'s co-director Renee Farwell, died suddenly on September 27th, 2013. At the time, Renee flew home to as soon as was possible to grieve with family and attend her father's funeral services. She then remained in the U.S. to be nearer her mother and sister during a difficult period of adjustment in the following months.

Due to Renee's sudden leaving and her being away for an extended time, her family and friends in Ghana were not able to have a funeral or related services for Steve—affectionately known as Dad to many at M.O.P. So, this month a memorial service was held for Steve, in true Ghanaian fashion.

The festivities began with the first annual Steve Farwell Memorial Quiz at the end of the school day on Friday, July 4th. This was a scholastic bowl of sorts. Two students represented each class (classes two to five)—with one student from each class on either team. M.O.P. teachers provided questions pertaining to the subjects of science, math, English, and general knowledge. Score was kept, and the winning team was awarded with pizza at the shopping mall in Accra.

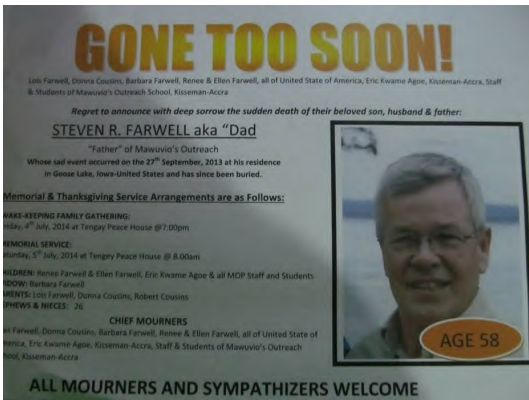


Following the memorial quizzing, wake keeping was kept from approximately 8pm until 2am. (It's not uncommon for wake-keeping to last late into, or sometimes all, night in Ghana.) At midnight, a sky lantern was released in memory of Dad (Steve).



On Saturday, a funeral service started at 10am. Many attended and words and prayers were spoken in remembrance.

(Continued on pg. 2)



SPECIAL
EDITION



M.O.P. News

Also at the Saturday service, students performed both a traditional dance called Borborbor, and a modern dance choreographed by class three teacher Sir Austine. M.O.P.'s faithful cook, Cici, prepared rice and banku for guests. Co-director Kwame also slaughtered two goats for the occasion. The students hung around and danced until approximately 7pm Saturday night, when they were politely asked to return to their homes. A small adult meeting was held again on Sunday to polish off some libations which were gifted for the funeral, but overlooked on Friday and Saturday.



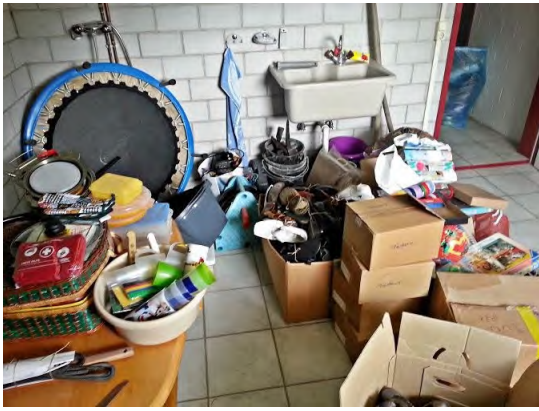
It's safe to say the funeral, related activities, and the celebration of an amazing life were all successes. The special weekend did and will continue to provide students, teachers, friends, and community members with the kind of comfort and closure that is customary in West Africa.

School Happenings:

A TON of great stuff is happening now and in coming months for M.O.P. Check it out!

- Third term has come to an end. Students sat for exams July 19th –July 22nd. Vacation began on Wednesday July 28th, and school will resume again on September 16th (IN THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING in Ayikuma!!!) Which brings us to our next great thing...
- The roof has been finished on the new school building, as well as on the summer hut. (The summer hut was built using contributions made at Steve Farwell's U.S. funeral last year.) The finished roofing projects are pictured on the right. The summer hut(*top*) will remain without walls, as is the nature of such shelters. The second floor of the school building (*bottom*) will remain as is for now, but the roof was built higher to allow for expansion in the future.
- A giant shipment of furniture and supplies is now on it's way to Ghana from Austria. (See the article on pg. 3 for more details!)





Flo is At It Again!

Faithful M.O.P. volunteer, Florian Bernhart, and many M.O.P. supporters and friends from his community have come together to arrange for a large shipping container—40feet in length—to be filled with supplies and furniture for the new school and sent to Ghana.

“Six schools donated desks, chairs, benches, overhead projectors, and some other things. Also, a lot of my friends and family donated clothes, shoes, cutlery, plates, cups, towels, bed sheets, and so on,” says Flo, of the container’s contents. “During the last few months, my family and I were collecting all of these things and stored them at home” (above.)

Though collecting the items to fill the container took months, the packing (with a lot of teamwork and careful planning) happened in less



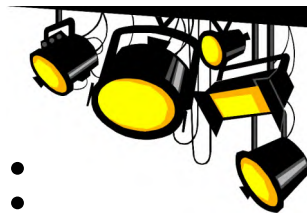
than 4 days. The container arrived in Flo’s hometown, Frastanz on July 18th. It was packed up and began it’s journey on the 21st.



The container is expected to arrive in Ghana on August 18th. Flo has marked the container’s extensive route on the map pictured. (right, bottom.)



Student Spotlights:



Patricia
Avoryi:

Favorites:

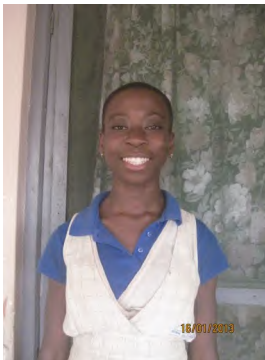
Subjects—
Math and
Science

Food—Fried
Rice

Sport—
Football

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Nurse



Peter
Addah:

Favorites:

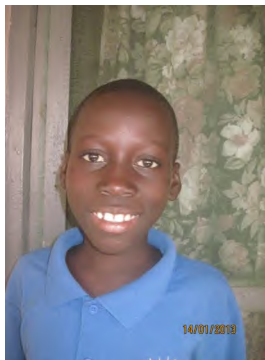
Subjects—
English and
Science

Food—Fried
Rice

Sport—Football

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Teacher





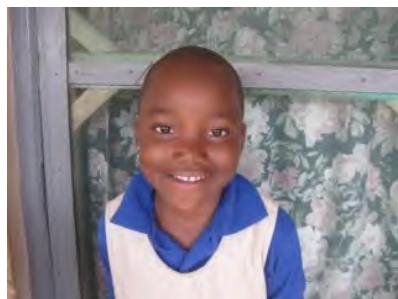
STUDENT BIRTHDAYS!

July 7th: Mubarak Bello



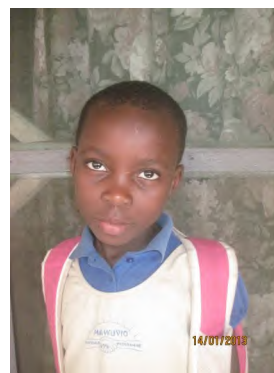
**Mubarak is 13
this year.**

July 7th: Tafikat Lawla



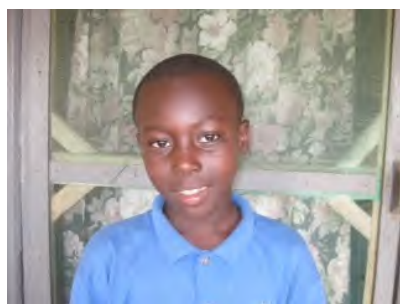
Tafikat is 7 this year.

July 9th: Alice Afi



**Alice is 10
this year.**

July 14th: Kennedy Nsoh



Kennedy is 9 this year.

July 18th: Matilda Otubi



**Matilda is 10
this year.**

July 18th: Dora Ampasah



**Dora is 7 this
year.**

July 27th: Michael Logoh



**Michael is 12
this year.**

July 28th: Princilla Mensah



**Princilla is 12
this year.**

July 28th: Akos Oko



**Akos is 10
this year.**

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