



Newsletter of the Friends of Ghana

The Talking Drum

Volume 14, Number 1

310 Bloomfield Ct. • Roswell, GA 30075 • (770) 649-0061

John Atta Mills Becomes Ghana's New President

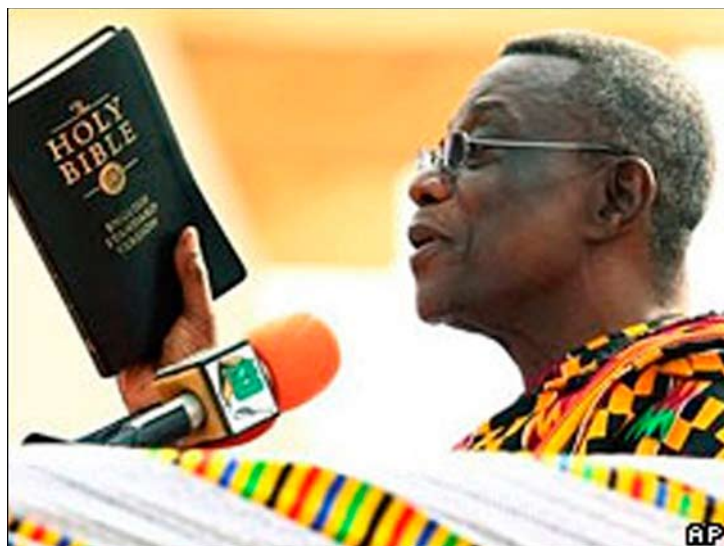
From BBC News reports

On January 7, John Atta Mills, 64, was sworn as Ghana's President after a close runoff election victory over Nana Akufo-Addo on December 28. Mills, of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), succeeds John Kufuor, who served the maximum two terms. Kufuor is the second elected head of state in Ghana's history to hand over power to an opposition politician.

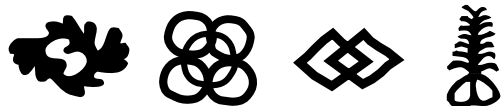
In his inaugural address, Mills stated, "It is a dawn of a new era for Ghana, and I hope to tap the experiences of the two former presidents... to build a better Ghana." The former presidents are Kufuor and Jerry Rawlings.

Ghana's new leader had lost two previous elections to Kufuor. Akufo-Addo won the first round but not by enough to avoid the December 28 run-off. Mills was declared the winner only after a third round of voting in the rural constituency of Tain on January 3.

Mills, formerly a university professor, served as Vice President from 1997 to 2000. ★



John Atta Mills takes the oath of office as Ghana's President



Mike Koffman, new Ghana Country Director

Letter to Ghana RPCVs from New Ghana Country Director

Submitted by Mike Koffman

Akwaaba Ghana RPCVs! I feel privileged to serve as Peace Corps Ghana Country Director. I am excited by the opportunity to build upon the successes that you have achieved and to nurture the relationships that you have developed as PCVs in Ghana during the past 48 years.

Growing up a Boston public school student under the 1970s' Federal Court-ordered busing desegregation policy, I learned at a young age that an effective leader cannot legislate empowerment of individuals or ideas, nor can he mandate acceptance of even the most noble leadership vision. Only when a leader creates an environment of understanding and investment around his leadership vision, can he lead effectively. After all, in order to lead, someone has to follow. Now, more than thirty years later, this lesson continues to gain in relevance as I continue on my Peace Corps journey here in Ghana.

I graduated Brandeis University in 1984, with degrees in English and American Literature and Sociology. I then joined the Marine Corps as an infantry officer. As a lieutenant, I served as a platoon commander in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific. As a Captain, I served as Executive Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV67), where my main task was special weapons security. Many people find it interesting and, in some cases, paradoxical that I served as a Marine and now serve in the Peace Corps. I often joke that I will join any organization with the word "Corps" in its title. Actually, I have found that the skill sets necessary to succeed as a leader in either "Corps" have quite a bit of common ground...but that is another conversation for another time.

In 1990, I became a former Marine (the USMC equivalent of RPCV) and enrolled at Boston College Law School. While in law

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Friends of Ghana (FoGh) access to the NPCA Database for the purpose of sharing the names and contact information of FoGh members. This exchange of data is essential for maintaining a complete, up-to-date database. The information shared include, but is not limited to: full name; country of service; dates of service; home mailing address; email address; phone number; and spouse/partner name. This information is not sold or transferred to any third party by FoGh and has been and will be used strictly for communication purposes with our members.

FoGh will use the shared information received from NPCA and our members for 1) Recruitment and retention of members to FoGh and NPCA; 2) Helping Ghana Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) to organize reunions of their Peace Corps groups; and 3) Assisting requestors to find Ghana RPCVs by sharing the requestor contact information with the Ghana RPCV (allowing the Ghana RPCV to decide whether to make contact with the requestor).

FoGh may be asked to provide the information in our database to NPCA. The use, by NPCA, of the information contained in our

Message from FOG President Frank Yates

Greetings to fellow Friends of Ghana members.

Thanks to our dedicated newsletter team for another great year producing The Talking Drum. Ken Autrey, Editor, has done a great job collecting stories, interviewing members for lead articles, keeping the publication on schedule, and leading the rest of the team. Roger Myers continues to do the layout for the print version and the online version and produces them in a timely manner. Susan Caster receives the print version and orders the required copies, labels and stamps them, and mails them to members who have not requested the online version and to PCVs in Ghana. I receive the online version and post it on the website at <http://www.friendsofghana.org/> and send the link for downloading the newsletter to the members who are receiving the electronic version. Ron Yamamoto keeps the mailing lists up to date for postal delivery and email delivery. Debby Prigal reimburses Susan for her printing and mailing expenses.

The NPCA has been busy these last few months. They organized the Peace Corps Community unit in the Presidential Inaugural Parade. They also have launched a new social networking site at <http://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/>. I invite all of you to join to maintain contacts with other RPCVs who have common interests, such as country of service, geographic location, Peace Corps program, etc. Look for the Friends of Ghana group on this site. You can show brief information about yourself in your profile, post text messages, photos, videos, blogs, and comments to other members. As more of our members join this site, we can provide lists by year of service to facilitate the organization of reunions.

I am continuing to work with a recently returned PCV, Mary Jayne Cassidy on enhancements to the website. Please contact me with your ideas for how to make the website more relevant and useful to you in keeping in contact with what is happening in Ghana. As always, we are looking for pictures and articles from you on Ghana-related activities and trips. Send them in.

Frank M. Yates

Friends of Ghana Privacy Policy

Submitted by President Frank Yates

Annually, the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) provides

database will be governed by the same policy as FoGh. Members of FoGh have the opportunity to decline to have their data shared with NPCA. If you do not wish to have your data shared with NPCA, please email Ron Yamamoto at rkyamamoto@aol.com, or write Ron at 742 Arce Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 to opt out. ★

Friends of Ghana Online Newsletter

Submitted by Ken Autrey

Increasingly, we hope to rely on the online version of our newsletter to stay in touch with Friends of Ghana members. Newsletters will continue to be posted on our website: <http://www.friendsofghana.org>.

Our hope is that as many members as possible will agree to forego the printed newsletter in favor of the online version. There are several advantages of a web-based publication over a printed and mailed newsletter. It saves money that could better be spent supporting projects in Ghana, it provides more possibilities for photos and other graphics, it has the advantage of immediacy, and it is less cumbersome to produce and distribute. We will continue mailing newsletters to those who prefer this format. But if you are willing instead to receive an e-mailed notice with a newsletter link, please e-mail Ron Yamamoto (rkyamamoto@aol.com) if you haven't already done so, and tell him to add you to that list. ★

FOG 2008 Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Debby Prigal, Treasurer

Beginning Balance on 1/1/08		\$4,680.78
INCOME		
Membership Dues	\$1,207.50	
Sale of Ghanaian Bags	\$1,086.50	
	Total Credits	\$2,294.00
OPERATING EXPENSES		
NPCA Affiliation Fee	(\$100.00)	
Winter 2008 Newsletter	(\$158.98)	
Spring 2008 Newsletter	(\$203.37)	
Summer 2008 Newsletter	(\$114.69)	
Fall 2008 Newsletter	(\$109.29)	
Fundraiser/Reunion	(\$733.38)	
PC Partnership Donation	(\$350.00)	
	Total Expenses	(\$1769.71)
Closing Balance as of 12/31/08		\$5,205.07

Koffman: (Cont. from Page 1, Column 2)

school, I co-founded Shelter Legal Services Foundation (SLSF), a pro bono legal services provider to Boston area homeless shelter residents. I am happy to report that true to its vision eighteen years ago, SLSF continues to help Boston's homeless citizens clear legal hurdles, making integration into mainstream society more achievable if and when they become ready to take that step.

From 1993 through 2003, I worked as a trial attorney in and around Boston. Initially, I worked as a litigation associate at a large Boston corporate law firm focusing on environmental litigation. Later, I prosecuted criminal matters as an Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County, where I also was active in a pilot community-based justice (CBJ) program, in which I developed and implemented unique adjudication schemes designed to address the needs of specific youthful offenders.

In 2003 at the age of 41, I decided that I wanted to experience Peace Corps. I was at a point in my life where I wasn't bound by all of the ties that lock us in to a place and situation. I was single, debt-free and ready for a new adventure. If this were a sitcom, we would now cut from the scene where I am sitting in my 34th floor law office in a glass building overlooking Faneuil Hall to the scene where I am sitting in my bamboo hut waiting for the tide to go out so that I can access the underground spring that provides my drinking water. I served as a small business/education Volunteer in Vanuatu, helping a group of eighteen small communities on Epi Island develop and start Mapuna Rural Training Center. Additionally, during my third year of service, I served as advisor to the Vanuatu Rural Development Training Centers Association (VRDTCA), a grassroots NGO serving to promote rural training center development throughout Vanuatu.

At this point, my career path becomes a bit unusual, even for Peace Corps. I finished my Volunteer service in December 2006. I then began serving as Country Director of Peace Corps Kiribati the next month in January 2007. I enjoyed my time as CD in Kiribati.

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Like all posts, it had its own unique set of rewards and challenges. Unfortunately, due to transportation-related safety and security issues, I had the unpleasant task of closing the Peace Corps Kiribati program in November 2008. That program was in its thirty-fifth year at the time of its closing.



New Country Director Hoffman (center right in blue shirt and tie) pictured with PC Ghana staff and PCVs.

As you know, former Peace Corps Ghana Country Director, Bob Golledge, had to return home earlier than expected. His early departure and the closing of my previous Post created an opportunity for me to serve in Ghana. I believe that my recent Volunteer experience and prior Country Director posting have allowed me to "hit the ground running" as we like to say, and I am happy to announce that I have enjoyed each and every day since my arrival in late November 2008. I have especially enjoyed the days where I have taken banku with goat meat and light soup.

ELECTIONS

I am thrilled that the recent Ghanaian elections were peaceful. As a precaution, we placed all Volunteers on standfast for periods surrounding the actual balloting days. It inconvenienced some Volunteers, but it was the right thing to do and everyone remained safe. Former Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter led the United States Presidential Delegation for the purpose of congratulating the outgoing and incoming Ghanaian Presidents, John Kufuor and John Atta Mills and witnessing the inauguration. Based on conversations that I had with the former Director about his conversations with President Atta Mills, I am happy to report that Peace Corps Ghana will remain as significant and relevant as ever despite the change of Ghanaian leadership. Former Director Tschetter also found time to meet with Volunteers and staff at the Peace Corps office. The Volunteers enjoyed meeting the Director and eating every last scrap of cheese in Accra. If Volunteers had been forced to choose between spending time with the Peace Corps Director or eating cheese, it is unclear to me which way the vote would have gone. Fortunately, we avoided that Hobbesian dilemma and provided access to both.

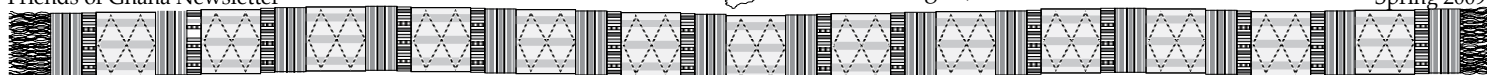
PEACE CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

I have initiated conversations with Peace Corps Headquarters about Ghana's role in the 50th Anniversary celebrations. I would expect Ghana to be featured prominently in the celebration as the very first Peace Corps country. I have shared some of my ideas with Headquarters and will continue to advocate on behalf of Peace Corps Ghana in the upcoming festivities. I encourage Ghana RPCVs to begin thinking about desired roles in the anticipated celebration so that we can have productive discussions later this year. I also invite you to start collecting your stories, pictures and other treasures for future submission to Ghana Country Desk

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Hoffman: Page 4, Column 1.

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Koffman: (Cont. from Page 3, Column 2)

Officer Jennifer Brown for inclusion in the program. I will pass along information about the festivities as it becomes available so that many of you can begin making plans to join us in Ghana for the 50th Anniversary celebration.

CONCLUSION

I am energized and excited by the positive things that I see happening in Peace Corps Ghana. I am mindful that much of our success results from the groundwork that you have put in place over the past forty eight years. I look forward to working together, specifically, on the planning of the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary festivities and, generally, on all things related to the continued success of Peace Corps Ghana.

Until next time, Ayeeko.

Mike Koffman, Country Director, Peace Corps Ghana

mikoffman@gh.peacecorps.gov ★

Interview with Alice O'Grady, Author of Ashanti Saga: The Fort

Submitted by Ken Autrey

Alice O'Grady, a volunteer with Ghana I, the first Peace Corps group, recently published an historical young adult novel set in Kumasi in 1900. The Yaa Asantewa War forms the backdrop for the novel. See O'Grady's blog (<http://aliceogrady.blogspot.com/>) for more information about the book and her book tour. The novel is available from Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com at a cost of \$9.95. Currently on her book tour, she is keeping a travel blog (<http://sites.google.com/site/ashantisaga>).

FOG: It's been 36 years since you lived in Ghana. How long did it take you to write the book, *Ashanti Saga: The Fort*?

AO: At least 15 years. Actually, 15 years of mostly NOT writing it.

FOG: What inspired you to write it after so long away from Africa?

AO: I remember clearly the moment. I had just finished reading a saga set in Hong Kong, and thought, "I really like sagas. I wonder why nobody has written one set in West Africa?" I was completely forgetting Roots, of course. So I decided that I would have to do it.

FOG: Your book is called a saga, but it all takes place in 1900.

Why's that?

AO: I drafted an entire novel that took an African family from 1900 to 2000. But when I decided to write it as a Young Adult (teen) novel, I realized that a teenager wasn't likely to pick up such a thick book. As it had been drafted in five sections, 1900, 1922, 1944, 1964 and 2000, it was fairly easy to divide it into five books. The 1922 episode of Ashanti Saga will be published later this year.

FOG: What prompted you to make this a young adult novel?

AO: Someone in my writing group in Santa Cruz suggested it looked like a young adult novel because it has a single plot line with no side plots. I agreed and adjusted it accordingly, including the division of one long book into five smaller books, taking place in 1900 (already published), 1922, 1944, 1964 and 2000.

FOG: Given that you plan to publish the next segment of the saga later this year, do you plan to publish subsequent segments in the future?

AO: Oh, yes--I hope to publish one each year for four more years.

FOG: Your publisher is iUniverse, a self-publisher. What made you

decide to go with them?

AO: I got tired of being rejected by agents, so decided to do it myself. I'm quite happy with the service iUniverse provided as far as printing, but they don't provide the after-publication services, except for a fee. That's why I organized my book tour and am doing publicity myself.

FOG: Can you give us a preview of what happens in *The Fort*?

AO: Set in West Africa, its three main characters are teens: English and African boys, and a Swiss girl. The background of the book is the 1900 uprising of the Ashanti tribe against the British colonialists. Colliding cultures, loyalty and personal attraction are depicted against an historic conflict and siege. It's the first of a projected series of five books that takes the reader through the 20th Century with an African family.

FOG: How did your previous writing experience prepare you for writing *Ashanti Saga*? Have you written fiction previously?

AO: I never wrote fiction before; I hadn't even had any journalism experience when I started. But I've always enjoyed writing.

FOG: How did you conduct research for the novel? To what extent did you make use of firsthand observation of historical locations in Ghana?

AO: My firsthand observations consisted of my six years of living and teaching there and a 1994 visit to the Kumasi Fort (now a weapons museum) to get the lay of the land. For two months in 1994 I did research using documents and books at the National Archives and the George Padmore Library in Accra. On my way home I utilized the New York Public Library as well.

FOG: What is most challenging about this ambitious project? Most fulfilling?

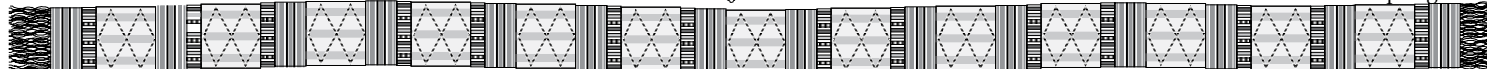
AO: The most difficult thing about the project is making the characters come to life, not just through dialog, but with an understanding of what they want in life and how their minds work. The fulfillment comes when people say they liked the book or learned from it. During the writing, I was delighted to discover that the British governor's wife, who was besieged in the fort, later published a book detailing what went on inside the fort during the siege. This, along with the historians' record of the Africans' formations, weapons, etc., gave me insight into both sides. ★

Book Review: Ashanti Saga: The Fort by Alice R. O'Grady

Submitted by Carolyn K. Kroll

In this little book written for young adult readers, author Alice O'Grady (RPCV in Ghana I) depicts the 1900 Ashanti uprising against the British colonists through the eyes of three adolescents - Kofi, Trudi, and Paul. Kofi Mensah is the gentle, unassuming 17-year-old African boy raised in a small village and about to finish secondary school. Paul is the son of the Colonial Governor assigned to hold the Ashanti Territory fort in the outpost town of Kumasi in the then British colony called Gold Coast. Trudi, the daughter of a Swiss missionary, is a friend and romantic interest to both young men. She has grown up in the Gold Coast colony where her missionary family is stationed and is a classmate of Kofi's at the mission school. She becomes close to Paul, who is visiting his British parents during his school holiday, as they live through the siege of the fort.

Their adolescent struggles, set against the backdrop of the



Ashanti tribe's uprising against the colonizing power of the British, is also the story of the conflicting cultures of traditional Africa, Western religion, and the white man's influence at the turn of the century. Each of the three main characters is an often stereotypical depiction of these three cultures. Kofi is the typical Ghanaian boy – raised in the compound of his extended family, doing chores on his uncle's small farm, listening to women in his village pounding fufu, and walking three miles everyday to the German-Swiss missionary school where he is an avid student. Kofi is catapulted into manhood when he follows his Ashanti elders into battle to "drive the interfering white man (or, Obron)" out of his country".

Paul, the son of the British Governor, gets to know Trudi during the months of the siege. He has a sometimes sympathetic view of the arrogant way in which the British treat the "heathen African" but he quickly acquiesces to the Christianity-is-superior views depicted in the spoiled Trudi. The Kumasi fort in which the British reside is surrounded by the Ashanti under the leadership of a small, feisty Ghanaian woman named Yaa Asantewaa. Long revered in Ghanaian history but little known in Western history, this old woman of about 60-years at the time, commanded one of the most bloody, famous, and decisive of the Anglo-Asante Wars. It marked the end of the stable and prosperous Ashanti culture which had flourished in Kumasi and the surrounding region for centuries.

Ashanti Saga: The Fort is a wonderful read for an American kid interested in learning about Ghana and understanding more of its history. O'Grady weaves the historical events of the final, fateful uprising through the events that the three young people in the book live through. The author first went to Ghana as a Peace Corps teacher and spent the next nine years after that in West Africa. She indicates that further Ashanti Saga books will be published that follow Kofi and his descendents through the 20th century. ★

Like the author of Ashanti Saga: The Fort, Carolyn K. Krull also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana after Alice O'Grady's tenure there. Carolyn was a teacher at the Yaa Asantewaa Secondary School on the outskirts of Kumasi. A statue of the feisty, proud and very short Yaa Asantewaa with one arm raised in defiance still stands outside the Main Administration building of the school that carries her name. — Editor

Profile: Jessica Hancock, Peace Corps Fellow

Submitted by Ken Autrey

Although Jessica Hancock graduated from Wake Forest University in 2005 with a B.S. in Clinical Psychology, two years in Ghana working as a health/water/sanitation volunteer convinced her to shift her career focus to public health. Currently, she's a Peace Corps Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in an accelerated program leading to an R.N. degree.

Peace Corps Fellows/USA offers financial assistance to Returned Volunteers who wish to earn professional certification or advanced degrees. Established in 1985 by former PCV Beryl Levinger, the program now involves some 50 universities and a variety of disciplines. As part of their commitment, Returned Volunteers complete internships in underserved communities where they gain valuable on-the-job training and meet local needs. Over 3,000 RPCVs have participated in this program.

Besides her intensive study and clinical responsibilities,

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Hancock works with seventh- and eighth-grade girls in a leadership club at a community center in East Baltimore. In addition, she runs a drama club for first-graders at the Wolf Street Academy near the Nursing School.

In the coming summer, when she completes the program, Hancock plans to put her skills to use in Boston, where her boyfriend Carl Allen, also a former Ghana volunteer, is working on a Master's Degree in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Hancock began thinking about the Peace Corps the summer after her high school graduation when she spent a month on the island of Morea in French Polynesia. Recalls Hancock, "I lived with the family of a high school friend named Stephen whose mother was Tahitian. We got up early every day to fish and sell fish on the side of the road. I loved the hard work and the island mentality. This planted a seed of doing some sort of rural work with the Peace Corps."

At Wake Forest, she broadened her horizons with two overseas study opportunities. She spent a semester in Venice, Italy, studying comparative politics and art history. "We lived in a house on the Grand Canal right near the Peggy Guggenheim Museum," she says. "I learned that the best way to experience Venetian culture was to allow myself to get lost in the maze of the city."

Then, the summer after her junior year she made plans to go to Nepal and conduct research on anxiety reduction through Buddhist meditation. But she had to change her plans at the last minute because of political turmoil in the country. So she suddenly set her sights on Japan. "I had to fly by the seat of my pants," she says. "I had everything planned for Nepal, but this was a sudden immersion in a culture I knew little about—actually a good preparation for the Peace Corps. I don't know how much I learned about meditation, but I sure learned a lot about myself."

Following her graduation in 2005, she was scheduled to enter the Peace Corps in November. But Hancock was so eager to go that she called Washington and asked to be assigned to a training group immediately. Soon, she was invited to train for Ghana. At first, she was disappointed: "I had worked some with HIV testing and knew that AIDS had reached epidemic proportions in some African countries, so I was committed to that sort of work. But I knew Ghana had relatively low infection rates and assumed there was less to be done there. I waited a full ten days before I finally accepted."

Once in Ghana, she was glad to be there. "It was a fantastic match," she says. "Everyone was warm and welcoming. And there was no shortage of health problems to occupy my time and energy."

She trained at Techiman with a diverse group containing health, business, and environmental planning volunteers. "The homestay was one of the most wonderful parts of training," Hancock remembers. "It was in some ways totally uncomfortable and very crowded. But I was ready for adventure, and it was great." She learned Dagbani, which was essential in her village, where many did not speak English, although she relied on translators for her health teaching.

The first order of business in Dipale was to fix up her house, which had been a mango storage facility. Once that was

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Hancock: Page 6, Column 1.

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Hancock: (Cont. from Page 5, Column 2)

accomplished, she began spending three days a week conducting health training for 150-200 workers on a mango farm owned by South Africans. She explains, "They were motivated to learn basic nutrition, malaria prevention, and sanitation because this instruction was required for the farm to be certified under organic and fair trade regulations. I took the workers in small groups and covered two topics per month with each."

One day a week she traveled to outlying areas to discuss HIV and Guinea Worm prevention to farmers. Also, she taught weekly health prevention at three local elementary schools. In her student profile on the Johns Hopkins website, she states, "I approached my job with the conviction that it was my responsibility to improve the health in the village on as many fronts as possible."



Jessica Hancock with elementary school students

She praises the Peace Corps teaching materials and the level of support provided from Accra, particularly by John Addipa, the ACD for Health, Water, and Sanitation. At one point, Addipa brought a group of new health volunteers up to visit her.

Hancock loved the remoteness of Dipale, although to go the six miles to the main road, Hancock had to ride her bike or hitch a ride with the occasional trucks hauling sand from the nearby White Volta River. She regularly traveled ten miles (usually by bike) out to a health clinic to help another volunteer weigh babies and perform other tasks.

"Actually," she says, "despite my isolation, within two hours I could be in Tamale watching a movie and drinking a beer. But I stuck to my 21-day rule: I'd only allow myself to go every three weeks."

Six months after Hancock settled in, her parents and sister paid her a visit. They were relieved to see how well the community had received her. Her dad had asked about an appropriate gift for the

town's chief, and Hancock had suggested a coffee table book from Kentucky about horses. The chief owned an old horse that he was fond of and might appreciate such a book from her home state. The book was presented during a big welcoming party featuring drums, dancing, and Ghanaian finery. Her dad's presentation was translated through several people to the chief.

Only later, after her family left, did Hancock learn that the chief had misunderstood and concluded that her father was going to send him a horse. She pondered how to handle this mix-up and consulted John Addipa, who arranged for a Peace Corps employee who spoke good Dagbani to explain the mistake to the chief. In the end, it was no problem. Hancock says, "The whole thing seems funny now, but it shows how cross-cultural communication can go wrong. I was still learning the system, trying hard not to offend, but something got lost in translation."

"I never felt safer in my life than in the village of Dipale," she states. Once, though, she did feel genuinely vulnerable. She was staying at a guesthouse in Accra with some friends when at 3 a.m. two men broke down the door and held them at gunpoint, taking money and mobile phones. "We came out of it O.K.," recalls Hancock, "but the thieves were nervous and shaking. We were all afraid they'd panic and shoot us."

Afterwards, they called Madeleine Mader, the Country Director, who came over immediately and set up counseling for the group the next day. Hancock says, "The Peace Corps handled the incident well, and the State Department and police were very attentive. At that point I was committed to my work, and could not be deterred by that sort of isolated crime."

That harrowing event aside, Hancock has few regrets about her work in Ghana. For now, she has her sights set on Boston and perhaps a future master's degree at Johns Hopkins. She would consider working with the Peace Corps again, perhaps as a Medical Officer or Assistant Country Director. "Every day I felt lucky to be there," she says. "I didn't want to waste a minute, so I worked by butt off. I think most successful volunteers have that same approach." ★

Editor Seeks RPCV Writers for Travel Guides

Submitted by Ken Autrey

Chris Beale (RPCV, Eastern Caribbean), Senior Editor of Other Places Publishing, recently posted the announcement below in the Peace Corps Hotline. Other information and details on other OPP books are available at the website listed.

Description: Travel Writers

Other Places Publishing, a start-up publishing house created by RPCVs, is looking for fellow RPCVs to research and write travel guides about their respective countries of service. The guides will offer a local perspective and include practical information geared towards independent travelers.

Qualifications:

Must have unique insight into country of service and be passionate about its history, people and culture. Knowledge of those hidden or "off the beaten path" spots along with staple

Writers Sought: (Cont. from Page 6, Column 2)

tourist attractions. Ability to write with flare and keep the reader engaged. We are particularly interested in PCVs who will COS in the next 6 months but will consider all applicants.

Salary:

Our writers work on a freelance, royalty basis which is nearly double what other publishers pay their authors.

Next Steps:

For more information, please see www.otherplacespublishing.com/writers or email editor@otherplacespublishing.com. ★

**Peace Corps Week:
February 23 – March 2**

The Peace Corps encourages all of us to do what we can during Peace Corps Week to pursue the “third goal” of bringing the Peace Corps home. This may take various forms: displays, presentations or talks at schools, civic organizations, faith-based communities, work, or elsewhere. Others may benefit from our accounts of overseas service; some may be prompted to become volunteers themselves. To request a free activity kit, go to www.peacecorps.gov/thirdgoal or call 202-692-1961. ★



Help Us Find New FOG Members!

(Pass this form on to any Ghana RPCVs you may know.)

Yes! Sign me up in the Friends of Ghana and the National Peace Corps Association

Membership:

- Regular: \$50 (\$35 for NPCA, \$15 for FOG)
- Add \$10 for overseas mail
- Special Donation to FOG \$____ NPCA \$____ (thank you!)

I want to help Friends of Ghana (please mark all that apply)

- Newsletter Membership Projects
- Fund Raising Special Events Big Mailings

Please make check payable to NPCA and mail to:

1900 L Street, N.W., Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

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