



Keeping  
The Flame of Hope  
Burning for  
Future Generations  
of Achimotans



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Volume 2, Issue 6

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**VOICES**

*It is my honor. Congratulations for all the hardwork and effort put in by you and the AC2010 group. There are more silent partners cheering you on than you know, and hopefully we will all contribute to make this a success. I shall certainly pass the word around. – John Laryea 1985*

**All that Achimota Can Be - ASF President's Report**

This month represents the second anniversary of the launching of the AC2010, our predecessor organization. The work of so many has brought us to this point and we are truly delighted with the progress made. Our fundraising total now stands at just over \$110,000. Tempting as it is to look back and bask in our collective achievement we must continue to work towards meeting our 2008 fundraising target of raising \$150,000, a very ambitious target.

There are two competing strands as we embark upon this year's work. First is the need to raise substantial funds by considerably broadening

our donor base. Second, and more challenging, is the need to be very prudent in our spending while helping to meet some of the more critical needs of today.

Some have asked about specific projects and when we intend to start implementing them. So great are the school's needs that to really embark upon meaningful, transformative, and long-lasting change and restoration, we will need to be at about 80% of our two year target of \$1 million. For it is not simply about restoring buildings or making purchases, it is about creating a sustainable model for Achimota that will last well into

We are fortunate to live in a time when technology has made it possible for hundreds of modest donations to create a substantial fund. Each donation, from the most modest to the largest of several thousand dollars is a vote of confidence in that vision of an Achimota that will continue to serve generations to come.

2008 will be a busy one for the ASF as we better streamline our structures, broaden our governing authority and engage you in our most ambitious fundraising effort yet. We are incredibly excited at the prospect and look forward to celebrating our collective successes in the year ahead.

*Warmest Regards,  
Sam Kofi Darfoor (1980)  
President, Achimota School  
Foundation*

**Aggrey Quill Winning Essay -by Diana Efuwa A. Acquah**

Ghana, the land of gold, in my opinion is indeed a country flowing with milk and honey. I say this because we have a lot of resources, both natural and man made, as well as human resources. Unfortunately, over the years, we have not been able to effectively manage these resources to their maximum best. Sad to say, this is mainly due to lack of innovation, negative comparison with the Western world, lack of pride for our cultural heritage as well as feelings of insecurity and mediocrity. In ten years' time, I would like to see a change in the way Gha-

naians perceive themselves.

First and foremost, we must change our attitude to work, be it public or private work. Most Ghanaians working in the public sectors waste resources meant to enhance productivity. They also report to their workplaces very late and even when they are early, they rather engage in other forms of work meant for selfish gains. However, interesting to say, when working in the private sector and foreign countries, Ghanaians work to their maximum best. The lack of supervision in the public sector does not give anyone the license to act in an undisciplined man-

ner to the detriment of the nation's resources and economy. It is my hope and prayer that in the next ten years, Ghanaians would have developed a stronger sense of loyalty and commitment towards the nation...

Another major change I would like to see in Ghana is the patronage of locally manufactured goods. Ghanaians in general prefer foreign goods to local goods. For example, though we have fabrics such as kente and tie-and-dye, people still prefer to buy those imported from Dubai and Holland. **(cont. on P2)**

**Aggrey Quill Competition**

**1ST Place Winner —  
Diana Efuwa A. Acquah  
3 Science 3  
Sponsor: Mrs Lydia Asare**

**2ND Place Winner —  
Albert Osei-Owusu  
2 Arts 2, Gyamfi House**

**3rd Place Winner —  
Emefa Agordoh  
3 Arts 1, OAA House**

# Living Waters

*Spotlight on Akoras who are changing the World around them...*



**Akora Yvonne Kumoji-Darko,**  
Class of 1979, Kingsley House

## Akora Yvonne Kumoji-Darko: Straight from her heart

When she got fed up with having to chase off wind-screen washers and having dog-chains, pure water and menthos shoved in her face at almost every traffic light and junction in the city, Akora Yvonne decided to do something about it.

What started in her lounge as a lazy Saturday afternoon discussion with a friend, Thyron Adusu, on street selling in Accra, has quickly mushroomed into a huge NGO with over 100 kids already beneficiaries. Together, the two friends founded The Hope For Kids Club (HFK), a non-profit organization of concerned, caring and vibrant people totally committed to helping underprivileged children in society.

The goal of HFK is to offer a complete package of financial assistance for a child's education, namely

school fees, PTA dues, examination fees, and any other related charges. Intake into the program begins at age 12, the beginning of JSS, through SSS and on to vocational, polytechnic, technical or university. In addition HFK provides each child, as and when required, with school uniforms, comfortable shoes, exercise books, other educational tools and a satchel.

With the help of an entirely volunteer staff of retired educationalists, judges, medical staff, civil servants and other professionals who scout the villages and surrounding communities for possible beneficiaries, the selected kids are then personally vetted by HFK staff and if successful, integrated into the program.

While at Achimota, Akora

Yvonne set herself apart right from the get-go as a team player and a leader. She was on the school sports teams in Athletics, basketball, volleyball, hockey, rounders and netball. Not surprisingly, as a senior she became Kingsley House Sports Monitor. She was also a cadet, and along with her identical twin Evelyn, had a vocals stint with the Blue Shirted Boys (BSB) Shimaa, B-Dor, Pax and Wini.

This amazing athlete, not surprisingly, is also juggling a successful career as property developer, which she began in 1987, along with her private life as wife and mother --she is married to T.R. Darko and has two kids, Kalysta and TJ.

**(cont. on P4.)**

"Life is a collective effort by all who live, and its challenges can only be overcome by the contribution of all.

Sometimes the light goes out in us humans, and it is rekindled by a spark from another. What better legacy to leave than to relight the flame within those lost."

— Yvonne Kumoji-Darko

## Aggrey Quill — continued from P1

I hope and believe that by the year 2017, the government would be investing more money in local industries so they can in turn reduce their selling prices for consumption.

Ghanaians must also be more environmentally friendly by the year 2017. At that time, I hope Ghanaians would have put a stop to practices that degrade the environment, such as the use of DDT in fishing, bush-burning and indiscriminate felling of trees. All these activities go a long way to cause great harm to humans and their environment.

These activities bring about a high concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, thereby causing global warming and greenhouse effect. Importation of second hand electrical gadgets, especially fridges, must cease by year 2017. This is because these fridges use coolants that contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The presence of CFCs in the atmos-

phere results in diseases such as skin cancer and is therefore not suitable for use in the tropics. In ten years' time, Ghanaians would hopefully be using less harmful chemicals as coolants.

Finally, by 2017, we should have made great improvement in our Agricultural sector. Instead of importing tinned tomatoes, rice, fish, poultry products and the like, we should be spending more money on developing our local industries...For all these to be achieved by 2017, Ghanaians must change their perceptions and develop a sense of innovation. We must tap into our resources in order to develop our nation, rather than seeking greener pastures elsewhere. When we develop a sense of loyalty and commitment to our motherland, I believe that Ghana will be the hope of Africa and indeed a land flowing with milk and honey.

- The next Essay Title is:

**"Describe in not more than 1,000 words, the boarding experience at Achimota School. Your audience is someone who has never traveled to the Continent of Africa."**

- Essays submitted should be preferably **TYPED** and not handwritten. Due date is **February 29th, 2008.**

- For more on the Aggrey Quill Essay Contest, visit the ASF website.

**[www.AC2010.Org](http://www.AC2010.Org)**



# True Tales & Toli

*From The Outlaws' Hill*

## The Return of Mr. Papin: A True Tale – by Raymond Akwayena

### Part 1

One day in the early part of 1979, after an absence of several weeks, an American Peace Corps volunteer walked back into Form 3C and a kind of pandemonium occurred. The entry of one man, a mere mathematics teacher, sent a class into a spontaneous outburst of unbridled joy and had other people coming out of nearby classrooms to see what the noise was all about. It is a long story, but worth remembering in detail.

Every individual in the course of his or her schooling will encounter at least one teacher who is uniquely qualified in communicating the subject they teach and who, more importantly, can make or break a student's approach to the subject and in some cases shape or even change a student's destiny. Make no assumptions; almost all the Teachers in Achimota School in my day were outstanding, dedicated and often went beyond the call of duty. To single out one person may appear unfair and biased on my part but if you honestly consider the circumstances surrounding this event, you may just begin to understand what I mean.

Within the old General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary/Advanced Level system that was followed in our time, long before the introduction of the Junior and Senior Secondary School system, Form 3 was the Asikuma junction, the fork in the road, so to speak. Students were selected to take up science subjects (including math) or arts subjects based on their performance in Form 3. Career guidance counselors did not exist. The idea was that the smartest kids, based on examination testing, had to go into science. I do recall that even then, there were a few



*Akora Raymond Akwayena*  
*Class of 1981, House 18*

kids who, though selected to do science by the powers that be, were clued up enough to go along with what their heart told them and chose the arts, but that is another story.

For me personally, math was and remains a difficult subject to this present day. From the safe and humble waters of Form 3C, I assumed that calculus and its wicked step-brother, algebra, were reserved for the Form 3A guys and the few people in 3B who were spillovers and were only in 3B because 3A could only take 35 people. If this sounds confusing, it is only because you are unfamiliar with the time when someone thought the best way to educate us was to put us in six streams, A to F, based on academic merit derived from testing. All the "smart" boys and girls, the first 35 in any given year, were in the A class; the B class was respectable and after that take your pick, it was "as is, where is and no guarantees provided". Oh Form 3A! You walked along the corridor by that class and stole a few glances through the windows while avoiding any direct eye contact with the individuals within, lest

they exposed the inadequacy of your general knowledge simply by glaring back at you. Even after so many years you wish you could go back and explode a stink bomb in front of their cherubic faces.

It all changed in September 1978 when Mr. Papin was first assigned responsibility for math in Form 3C. On the very first day, he told us that we should prepare to carefully take notes during class because that was the only way to learn the subject. Mathematics notes...? I wondered. I mean, you take notes in history, geography and agricultural science. The majority view in Form 3C was that when it comes to math, "you either get it or you don't" but we humbly followed his advice and started taking notes.

At the beginning of each chapter in the textbook, usually on a Monday, Mr. Papin would give us several problems to solve, based on the subject matter, as homework or prep for the week. He assured us that by the end of the week we would be able to solve all the problems and hand in the prep on Friday. It was amazing. Within a month, kids who previously couldn't solve  $2x + 3 = 9$ , **what is x** were now defining the equation  $\rho^3 \sqrt{(2x-x^2mc^2)}$  and within a couple of weeks Pythagoras had nothing on me. The man was right. Pay attention, take notes and you could do it. Mathematics was logic, plain and simple; it was not a mystery kept through the ages and revealed only to some pretty faces in Form 3A.

### Begin Part 2

In the subsequent weeks, the realization dawned that form 3C was heading for a cakewalk in the pending **mini-promo** and **promo** examinations and that some of us might even end up in nose-bleed territory, the deep end, the dizzy heights of form 4S1 (4Science1), the premier science class. Actually, it took more than math to get into 4S1 but form 3 biology and chemistry were basically **chew and pour** and as for physics, well we could always scale that wall when we got to it.

The darkest hour, they say, comes before dawn and I guess the reciprocal of this statement is also true; the brightest hour of the day occurs just before darkness sets in. If you happen to live near the Equator you will know that the transition from light to darkness often occurs in minutes. Events completely out of our control resulted in Mr. Papin being taken away from 3C, and very suddenly.

He broke the news to us gently at the end of a math period one day in early December. This was the situation; the Form 5 guys comprising the hapless OAA 1979 year group were struggling with ad-math (additional mathematics) as the GCE-O-Levels approached and the authorities decided to send Mr. Papin to their rescue at our expense. When the news sunk in, a collective sigh of "ooooooooohhhhh" echoed around 3C, and darkness fell. In my own mind I analyzed the unfairness of the situation. Why spoil a good thing for 3C because some Form 5 guys, who by now should have grasped enough math to face the West African Examinations Council, were mixing up their x and y axes?

- (cont. on P6)

### GLOSSARY

**mini-promo** mid-year examinations

**promo** year-end examinations

**chew and pour** to memorize a subject and regurgitate it in an examination

**allow** to accommodate for another's shortcomings

**motorway** a bald patch in one's hair

# Apagyaf0 Chopbox



Updates on The Foundation and Piggy

## VOICES

*Wow! This looks great!  
There's a lot of work going  
on behind the scenes --it's  
awesome!*

*The drops of water are  
gradually turning into a  
stream. Hopefully, they will  
become an ocean soon.*

*Thank you so much for your  
commitment -- you are a true  
gem!*

**Abigail Tamakloe , 1978**

## ASF Christens Newsletter -by Maria Kwami Gwira

### New Look and Feel of Your Newsletter

Yes, you noticed it. The newsletter looks different and it sounds different too. That's because it finally has a real name, its own identity, as it were.

After a year of keeping you updated on the fundraising effort, and in an attempt to embrace the ever-expanding array of views you have been expressing behind the scenes, it's now official: **CommonRoom Updates** will continue to wow you with details of the ongoing campaign,

profiles of Akoras who are making a difference in our world, your Toli and recollections of the good old days, and feedback (Voices) from YOU, Akoras and Friends of Achimota, on whose behalf this dedicated team of trustees goes to bat everyday to create a lasting legacy for tomorrow's Achimotans.

Along with a real name of its own, the newsletter is also displaying for the first time (yes, you saw it here first!), the new ASF logo, complete with appropriate tagline that captures the very essence of the work that is being done by the foundation:

**"Keeping the flame of hope burning for future generations of Achimotans."**

This striking emblem was designed by a talented young artist, the daughter of an Akora.

Continue to keep the funds flowing and the feedback pouring in so that together we may achieve the goal of restoring Achimota School to her former glory.

UT OMNES UNUM SINT!!

*Maria Kwami Gwira is a trustee and Editor-in-Chief and of the Achimota School Foundation.*

## Akora Yvonne Kumoji-Darko -cont.

These days, Akora Yvonne can be found traveling to some of the most remote places in the country, up hills, down valleys, through giant-sized craters, multiple pot-holes and waterlogged terrain to reach some of these communities. Her motivation and the source of greatest joy and satisfaction have stemmed from the astonishing performance of these kids who now approach education with much more enthusiasm. Within only two years of going national, the organization has put five kids into university (three in medical school, one studying Business Admin at Legon, and the fifth, Management at Cape Coast University.) "These are kids who, a couple of years ago were weeding in the villages for a pittance!!! They owned no shoes! I am so proud of my team, and the excellent results raked up by our chosen beneficiaries tells us all that we are making the right choices and our sponsors are sowing in good soil!"

Of any lessons or memories from her Achimota years that inspired her to be doing what she does, she says that she learned to be independent at

the early age of six and to be responsible for everyday stuff which most kids of today take for granted. Living in a community with children from all over the world instills tolerance and respect for different cultures and ways of life. "That All May Be One - so appropriate don't you think?" She vividly recalls an example of this unifying school spirit, an incident in which 'Terror!' (Adrian Sherwood), was seated in the middle of the sports pavilion -- the only teacher to be brave enough to do that - surrounded by cheering students chanting in vernacular the most foul-mouthed songs one could imagine, as they all spurred on their house athletes. He was as red as a beetroot and she wondered if he understood it all.

Akora Yvonne continues to give of herself for the upliftment of children because "I believe education is so important... It's humbling to see the difference a good education makes to a family, which is why I and a group of like-minded thinkers decided to take our charitable cause to a national level. We cannot all simply sit back and hope that

our problems will be solved by others without our input. Life is a collective effort by all who live, and its challenges can only be overcome by the contribution of all. Sometimes the light goes out in us humans, and it is rekindled by a spark from another. What better legacy to leave than to relight the flame within those lost."

*For more on Akora Yvonne's travels and on the work being done by her organization, complete with pictures, please visit:*

[www.TheHopeForKidsClub.org](http://www.TheHopeForKidsClub.org)

*and search under the 'From the Founders Desk' icon.*

## Roll Call - departures

**Dr. Alexander Apau Dadey** - Oct. 6, 2007

Alias Kwaku Dadey, aged 75)

Former Headmaster, Achimota School;  
Former Headmaster, Okuapemman Secondary School;  
Former Assistant Headmaster, Prempeh College.

**Mrs. Lilly Nketia**, - Jan. 12, 2008

Alias "Auntie Lilly" Wife of Prof. J. H. Kwabena Nketia;  
Mother of Akora Akosua Perbi (nee Nketia) and the late Akora Kwabena Nketia.

**Mr. B.A. Quarcoo aged 104**

Oldest living Akora, First Senior Prefect of Achimota School

**Akora Emmanuel Quartey**

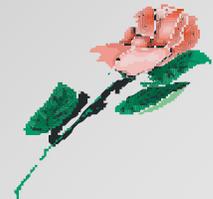
Class of 1965, Aggrey House

**Akora James Quaye-Foli**

Alias Fuzie, Class of 1969

**Dr. Kobina Arba Taylor** - September 30, 2007

A founder pupil of Achimota School.





# Tsoo Bwei ! -- Updates on Projects & Initiatives

## Achimota School Foundation Equips School with New Photo-Copier

### ASF Treasurer, Mina Darfoor, has filed this report –

Last year, the Headmistress informed us that there was not a copier in sight at Achimota School.

"How could this be possible?" we asked ourselves. Then we remembered that earlier that year, when a former student needed a copy of his transcript rather urgently for admission to a US college, we had faced the stark truth that indeed, the School did not have a copier or fax machine.

We listened in amazement at how attempts would have to be made by a dispatcher to fax the transcript from University of Ghana, Legon, or how a trip to a service center near the Achimota Police Station *might* find a working copier or fax machine --assuming there were no power outages.

### We were dumbfounded. Achimota School?

Then we launched the Aggrey Quill Essay Competition, and you may remember that in the last edition of the Newsletter, the 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to the author's plea to bring Achimota into the technology age and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



### Pictures from top to bottom:

- New Copier arrives at Administration Block.
- Headmistress, Mrs. Beatrice Adom accepts delivery from Mr. Lieben Atsou.
- Student, staff and suppliers posing by the new copier.

**Left:** Mrs. Adom strikes a pose by new copier

**Right:** All assembled, tested and ready to go, the new **Kyocera KM-2050**

**Pictures Courtesy of Akora Fred Engmann**

In December 2007, the Foundation trustees reviewed the school's needs and in line with our mission to restore the School in all aspects, approved the purchase of a heavy-duty copier for the School.

Throughout the process, coordinated by Akora George Kingsley-Agbley and OAA UK Achimota Trust Treasurer Akora Ken Agra, and with support at 'ground zero' from Akora Fred Engmann, we learned a lot about the practical aspects of such an undertaking.

We took into account all the necessary considerations before finally concurring on a tropicalized model from Kyocera, the **KM 2050**.

Then and only then, did we sign on the dotted line.

Finally, the copier, yours and Achimota School's, was safely delivered and installed during the official presentation held this past Tuesday, February 26, 2008.

Another proud moment for the Foundation and you, the stakeholders. This team is what we dream of... The Vision.

**We trust that greater things are in store. We can only succeed with your help, your support, and your love for our alma mater.**

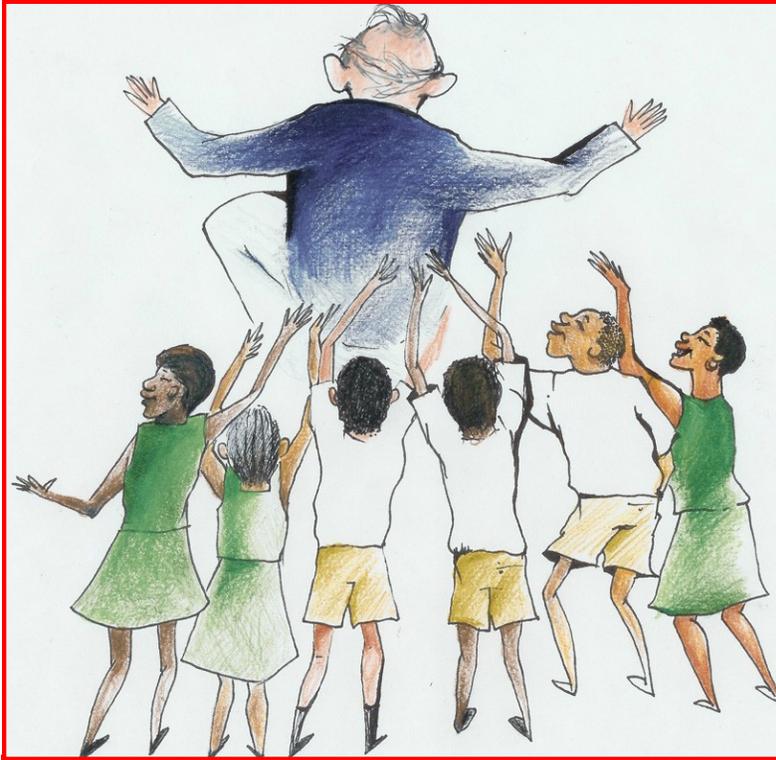


## The Return of Mr. Papin: Part 2 – cont. from P3

Now, here is where the school authorities completely lost the plot. To add insult to injury the replacement teacher they sent to 3C was a part-timer from Legon, a man we shall call "Mr. G." Mr. G knew mathematics, no doubt about that. Maybe Mr. G could teach math; I do not have any opinion about that. One thing we were pretty sure of in 3C after his first day was that Mr. G could not teach math to 3C, end of story; more so to a 3C previously primed by Mr. Papin. Form 3C was a gracious class; we could **allow** but what made matters worse was that Mr. G brought his reputation for cutting classes along with him to 3C and lived up to it.

He would arrive late, sometimes more than half way into the 40-minute period or he would not turn up at all. When he did turn up, he conspired to turn math once again into a mysterious subject, thereby undoing the confidence we had built up in the preceding months. It was frustrating and even though no one said it, we all knew that Form 3C was heading for some sort of collective showdown with Mr. G. The only question was when, and as matters turned out, the showdown happened much sooner than anyone expected.

On that particular day, Mr. G



Form 3C celebrates **The Return of Mr. Papin**. Artwork by **Solange T. Quarshie**

was much later than usual so we all thought he was not coming and settled down to amuse ourselves during the free period. One of the Livingstone House boys (I think I remember who it was but you won't get his name from me) got up and went to the black board, picked up a piece of chalk and drew a cartoon picture of Mr. G in three views -front, right side and back view- much like a police arrest mugshot. He then wrote a caption above his drawings saying something like:

**"WANTED, Dead or Alive.  
Missing math teacher.  
Has anyone seen this  
man?"**

Mr. G was admittedly very easy to cartoon because his hair had a unique **motorway** which stretched from the forehead to the occiput but with a small circular island of hair on the top of the head, isolated like a reverse pothole right in the middle of the motorway; yet still, the cartoon drawing was uncannily almost photographic. We all had a good laugh and then settled down to our trivial pursuits; within a couple of minutes Mr. G walked into the classroom without warning. He looked at the board for a few seconds, shook his head and then walked out.

**...to be continued...**



**Raymond Akwayena (1981, House 18)** now almost completely bald himself, lives with four women in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Together with four other Akoras and a mercenary, he blogs about his Faith and less important matters at:

<http://goldcoastbereans.blogspot.com>

Left: Akora Ray, ca. 1977

### Pictures from the 80th Anniversary bash at the State House, Accra, December 29th 2007.

**Clockwise from top right:**

Dzifa Cudjoe '74; Mabel Williams-Baffoe '77 & Charles Ofori-Addo '77; Nortey Omaboe '77; Isobel Quarcoopome '77; Sena Tamakloe '77 & David Anim '77; Nana Yaa Agyeman '77 & Yaa Gyamera '77.

*Pictures Courtesy of Asabea Acquah-Harrison (1977)*



# Editor's Notes



*We hope you continue to enjoy receiving this newsletter.  
We welcome your comments and contributions.*

## Your Submissions Needed for the following sections:

**Tso Bwei!** – Updates on projects & initiatives

**True Tales & Toli** – Your recollections of school days

**Voices** – Snippets of your feedback & comments

**Roll Call** – Announcements of births, marriages, obits

**Living Waters** – Profiles of Akoras who are changing our world

Send your contributions, comments, questions and rejoinders to:

[AchimotaSchoolFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:AchimotaSchoolFoundation@gmail.com)

All submitted material must contain the following information:

- Your name & maiden name (if relevant),
- Boarding House
- O-level year group, (if an Akora)

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## Credits:



Front page picture of Aggrey Chapel with students: (from the ASF archives)

Courtesy of

**AKORA DR. BRENYA TWUMASI**



ASF Logo Design by

**SOLANGE T. QUARSHIE**



For more information on the Achimota School Foundation, visit

[www.AC2010.org](http://www.AC2010.org)

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