

Nana Afoakwa Kyerewa I (Hilda) and Kirt Bromley
Books For Africa Library Project
St Louis, MO
website: www.forafricalibrary.org

February 25, 2023

Books For Africa Library Project
Summary of Mission Work in Ghana, October 2022 - February 2023

Dear Friends,

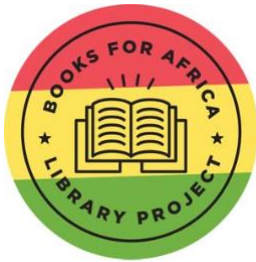
On the behalf of the Books For Africa Library Project, Kirt and I would like to share with you some of the work we did in Ghana, West Africa over the past three and half months. We had to delay our departure for Ghana due to an injury Kirt sustained from a bike accident in August. He is presently fully recovered.

Our first week back in Ghana is usually busy, with house cleaning, visiting relatives, and catching up on relationships, including with the librarians with whom we work. My chieftaincy also has its demands on me every day of the year. I had to prepare for the Annual Purification Rite in the Palace, called Ahwie. It was scheduled for the middle of November, so I needed to prepare for it.

To prepare for our annual in-service in January, we communicated with 16 librarians who have been in contact with us. First, we informed them of the date of the in-service, and then asked their input regarding the books we planned to purchase for their libraries. The government of Ghana has planned a new curriculum for their schools, and the librarians requested that we purchase copies of the new textbooks for their libraries. Unfortunately, the government was still working on the draft copies, so we ordered copies of books which review the material in the present curriculum. We settled on purchasing these books so the libraries can have, on hand, books which review the content of the curriculum. We also ordered every copy of the African-authored Junior African Writers Series, which the publisher had on hand. These amounted to 87 children's books for each library. Our order also included 12 abridged editions of Classics, such as Treasure Island, Gulliver's Travels and Black Beauty. Finally, our order included 35 copies of the Longman Publishing Company's "Ladybird Series," which introduces young readers to phonics and word lists. We planned that each library would receive the above order.

We had a request for help from the libraries in and around the town of Winneba, which is on the coast of Ghana. Nana had actually attended college in this town before our marriage. The head librarian

3531
314-



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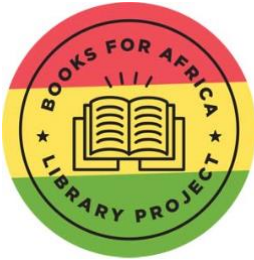
for the branch libraries in this district had heard of our annual in-service and our book donations for participating libraries. She invited us to Winneba to visit her branch libraries with the hope that they could be included in our programs. Our visit to Winneba took place from December 11-13, 2022. The head librarian took us to seven of her libraries. We met the librarians, discussed our Library Project, and in the end, invited the staff of three of the more remote libraries in the area to attend our in-service in January.

We held our annual in-service from January 12th to the 14th. Unfortunately, none of the librarians who were invited from Winneba showed up. We did, however, receive librarians from 11 towns where we had set up libraries in the past. These stalwart librarians have been with us for years. Most of them face challenges typical of rural librarians. Most had to travel long distances to be with us. Some had to pay their own transportation to come. They were overjoyed to receive such practical new books for their libraries. As a theme this year, we decided to help the librarians address the low reading scores among Ghana's school children. We thought that by teaching the librarians to identify reading problems, they could help some of the school children that patronize the libraries. We taught the librarians how to administer a reading diagnostic test, and gave them a manual on how to address the deficits in phonics and word recognition.

For the practicum, we arranged with a nearby private school to send forty 6th grade students for a morning and afternoon session. These students were divided into small groups for each librarian. The librarians tested each student, and addressed any phonic or word recognition deficits they found with the help of a manual we printed. In the afternoon of that day, we focused on the reading comprehension skills of these students. Using techniques which ask the student to identify "who, what, when, where, why and how" in a story, the librarians and their small group of students read and discussed a paper on the environmental challenges in Ghana. The librarians really enjoyed their time with their students. They felt very positive about the help they were able to give the students.

During one the evening of the in-service, we presented a video on two of the main health challenges in Ghana, diabetes and heart disease. Our daughter, Afua, is a Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She had attended a medical conference in Ghana in early November of 2022. Using her own background and information from interacting with Ghanaian health professionals, Afua gave us information for this in-service for librarians. Our librarians were very interested in this topic, and we had

3531
314-



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a lively discussion on health after the video. They were also very grateful to receive the total of 164 new books for their libraries.

In the other aspects of our mission, Nana continued to serve her clan with individual counseling and sometimes financial help. She was also very helpful to the farmers of Kukurantumi. She has helped the farmers organize to protect their land from the owners of large corporations and some town leaders, who are trying to obtain their land without their consent. Nana has also organized local school children into a traditional drumming and dancing troupe. These children have received a great reception at different local celebrations. On Christmas Eve, Nana invited the town children to her Palace and had her traditional dancing troupe entertain. She served the local children take-away meals and beverages. In a time, when only big and important people are recognized and feted, it was extraordinary to witness little children being entertained and honored. I (Kirt) was very proud of her.

We are grateful to God, and to you our friends and supporters for your monetary contributions, donations of eye glasses, prayers and the love you have for us and the mission. If you are able to donate, please make out the tax-deductible donations to Books For Africa Library Project, and send it to us at 3531 Humphrey St., St Louis, MO 63118.

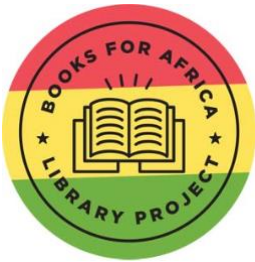
Thank you. God bless you all.

Sincerely Yours,

Nana Kyerewa I (aka Hilda) and Kirt

Nana Kyerewa I Kirt

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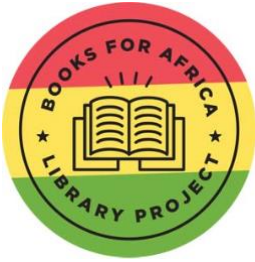


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Librarians working on reading comprehension with the students.

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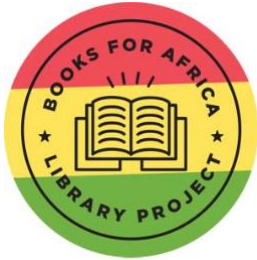


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Nana Kyerewa I greeting the crowd assembled at a nearby village.
Other Dwumana Clan chiefs from different towns are behind her dressed in kente cloths.

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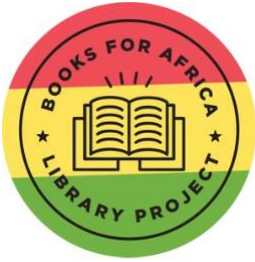


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Librarians at our in-service January 2023 are cataloguing the new book donations, and placing them in boxes for their journey back to their libraries. Some of them traveled over a day to reach us.

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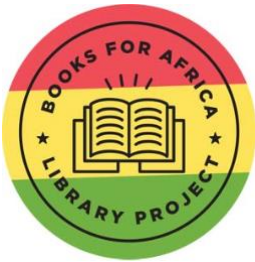


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At the in-service, the librarians worked with small groups of students. This picture shows a librarian working on reading comprehension.

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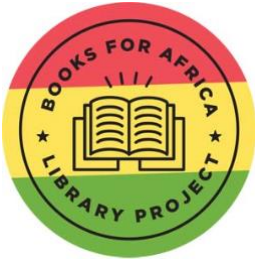


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Sixth Grade students came to our librarians' in-service to give the librarians practical experience in using our Diagnostic Reading test.

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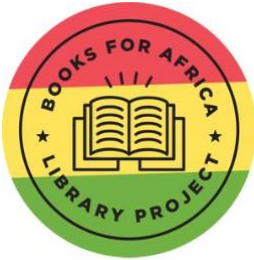


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On Christmas Eve, Nana Kyerewa I (Hilda) had her drumming and dancing troupe come to give a presentation for the children of Kukurantumi. Nana provided them with a take away meal of rice and chicken with soft drinks. I (Kirt) was very moved because the children were treated like royalty.

3531
314-



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We held a reading contest at the Kukurantumi Library in mid-December. Pictured are Tori Hartwell, a volunteer with us, and Isaac Dokyi, standing on the right in a cap, who was tragically hit and killed by a car in late January of 2023. Isaac both worked and volunteered in the library for many years.