



Ghana Homeopathy Newsletter

BRINGING SUSTAINABLE HOMEOPATHY TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED

Issue 4

Now in partnership with Homeopaths without Borders (Netherlands)

2010



Students and teachers celebrate new friends and skills

Sharing across continents

In 2009 homeopaths from Ghana, India, the UK and America came together to share their passion for homeopathy. Dr Kalyan Bhattacharyea and Dr Kalishankar Bhattacharyea travelled to Ghana for one month to share their knowledge and experience. The doctors had previously invited our project apprentice homeopath, Emperor Tsamenyi, to a two-week clinical training programme in India, a trip funded by GHP and Sheaf Trust.

We began with a ten day training programme in Accra attended by eighteen students. The visitors were supported in their teaching by Richard Pitt, an experienced USA-based homeopath and teacher, formerly Director of the Pacific Academy in California, and at present the long-term coordinator for the project in Ghana.

The course was designed for people with some previous knowledge of homeopathy and the focus was on exploring the benefits of homeopathy in both acute and chronic conditions.

The Indian doctors also accompanied Richard to Kumasi to teach a four- day training course attended by sixteen people.

Supporting community clinics

The doctors joined us on a tour of several villages, starting with Pastor John's clinic in a remote village area close to the Togo border. On the first morning, the merry band of homeopaths Drs Kalyan and Kalishankar, Isabelle (a student homeopath), Richard, Emperor, Pastor John and Linda Shannon walked to the big half-built church where they were to hold their first clinic.



Dr Kalyan Bhattacharyea bringing Hahnemann to the villages

The patients were already arriving in their brightly coloured clothes prepared to wait all day for their consultations. The homeopaths worked until 9pm seeing 50 new patients. Apprentice homeopaths, Emperor and Pastor John, couldn't have had a better learning experience in case-taking, clinical diagnosis and prescribing as taught by our Indian visitors.



The patients arrived early, prepared to wait all day

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Homeopathy for developing countries

Linda Shannon and Angie Metzger from the UK and Bonsu Boaten, our partner in Kumasi, travelled to the Netherlands to attend the international conference 'Homeopathy for Developing Countries' in Amersfoort on 6-7 June 2009,.

The conference, organised by Harry van der Zee and his team, provided a platform for different groups of homeopaths to introduce their projects and initiatives in a wide range of developing countries - from the mountains of Nepal to the plains of Africa, from peaceful and rustic places to war zones and areas suffering from natural catastrophes.

In developing countries epidemic diseases and collective trauma influence or claim the lives of millions. Most initiatives combine treatment with programmes to train local people to become homeopaths. This conference aimed to bring homeopaths together to share these experiences and to learn from each other.

Linda and Angie (whose attendance was self-financed) had prepared a presentation on our project. Other Ghanaian projects were also represented and we have since formed links with Adjoa Stack who is doing research in Ghana on the treatment of malaria with homeopathy and introduced her pilot study at the conference. Bonsu also gave an inspiring talk sharing his vision for homeopathy in Ghana.



Bonsu Boaten, our partner in Kumasi, gave an inspiring presentation

Representatives from India discussed with us homeopathy's mainstream status in that country. The connection with so many great projects worldwide and the spirit of good will and sharing made this conference a truly inspiring event and enriching exchange.

We would like to thank Harry van der Zee for enabling Bonsu to attend by offering a free place☀

'How can I help?'

We need:-

1) Donations and standing orders – the lifeblood of our work

2) Experienced homeopaths, teachers and supervisors to be involved in the training programme. This would involve a two-week trip, teaching in Accra, Kumasi and Mafi Seva

3) Longer term volunteers to maintain the clinics, organise the programme and continue government level discussions. Ideally you will have at least five years practice experience.

4) Less experienced homeopaths to help with specific tasks – minimum three weeks.

5) Donations of books, remedies and electronic items such as laptops, video cameras, mobile phones etc

6) Help in the UK: the UK team needs more help as the project expands. Do you have time or skills to share? Some of the tasks needed are video-editing, film-making, writing skills, website design and general communications skills. We need to spread the news as widely as possible to find volunteers and raise funds,

7) Fundraising. There is an ongoing need for funds if the project is to continue. Can you organise a fundraising event, charity run etc.? Can you help in applying for more substantial funding?

Or perhaps you have some ideas or contacts that could lead to any of the above!

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One elderly man came who had been diagnosed with TB but had not continued his medication for the correct amount of time. One side of his chest had completely collapsed. Dr Kalishankar who has recently retired from his post as WHO TB Control Officer for West Bengal, was able to give excellent advice alongside the homeopathic prescriptions. Each patient pays a small sum of four Ghana cedis, as we wish to make Pastor John's clinic sustainable in the future. Many patients presented with severe chronic illnesses; Richard will return to follow up with these patients.



Dr Kalishankar Bhattacharyea, former TB Control Officer for West Bengal, treats a TB patient in Pastor John's clinic

In Mafi Seva village we work in partnership with the charity AMURT Ghana which, together with local people, has constructed a reservoir and filtration system providing clean water to 25 villages. The centre provides a primary health care centre, midwifery clinic community education programmes, sexual health counselling and a pathology lab.

The steady flow of patients began about 7 am and continued on into the night. We saw one baby with bronchopneumonia who was failing to respond to the antibiotics and cough suppressants which had been prescribed over the previous week. The baby was getting worse with a high fever and constant coughing. The doctors gave *Aconite* 1M every 30 min. *Kali carb* LM1 and *Ant tart* LM1 were prescribed the next day and, after further improvement, *Hep sulph* was prescribed as the anti-psoric to finish the case!

As the end of the trip approached we all felt that much had been achieved towards the vision of the Ghana Homeopathy Project: to work together with local people, supporting the development of homeopathy in Ghana so that it will be available on an ongoing basis to as many as possible, including the poorest communities. We would like to extend our thanks to all who gave so generously to make this trip possible.☀

The Traditional and Alternative Medicine Directorate gives recognition to our courses

While the Kolkata doctors were with us we all attended government meetings with TAMD (Traditional and Alternative Medicine Directorate) to discuss how we could together further the development of homeopathy as a profession in Ghana. GHP will continue working with the department to develop educational programmes. Richard Pitt is experienced in curriculum design and has been invited to work with Mr Akekpo, the Chief Registrar at TAMD. As a result of this latest meeting we are now working on a one-year training programme in homeopathy which will be accredited within Ghana.

At the meeting the Indian doctors were able to talk about the situation in India, where homeopathy is fully supported by government and indeed many homeopaths are government employees. They were wonderful ambassadors for homeopathy!

Following these discussions, Mr Akekpo offered, as Chief registrar, to sign the certificates of all those who attended our courses, and to work together more closely in the future.

'We are hopeful,' Mr Akekpo told the students, 'that subsequent programmes will be fully patronised; as chief registrar in Ghana for alternative medicine it is my duty to encourage training. We want to concentrate on training programmes at a local level. We want Ghana to get the best of talent and skills. It is in this connection that I appreciate this programme'☀



Mr Akekpo addressing the students before going on to sign their certificates

Our long-term volunteers 2009 - 10



*Richard Pitt, former Director of the Pacific Academy, California, pictured here with Pastor John and Emperor. Richard has spent 5 months in Ghana as GHP coordinator and is now designing our diploma course. He has been able to bring his US experience of accreditation and registration processes to the table in discussions with The Traditional and Alternative Medicines Directorate. He will be in Ghana until May 2010
Read his [ongoing blog](#) on our website*



Mel Duprès, our first long-term volunteer, who left in May 2009 after being with us for over a year – and dropped in to meet the Indian doctors on their recent visit.



Sara Savage, who brought funding and hard work to the setting up of the new clinic at Kumasi, publicising it widely on the radio and in the press. Her passion for homeopathy was inspirational in the four months of her tour.

Kathleen Moore with patients at one of the outreach clinics she established near Kumasi. Kathleen also trained 14 students in her time with GHP – some of whom will go on to study the diploma course due to start in March 2010



The Mafi Seva Clinic

Report from Emperor Tsamenyi, Community and Clinic Team Leader.

I want to tell you what a difference homeopathy is making to the health of the community here. Four years ago we were using 100% conventional medicine. Since then we are prescribing homeopathy in as many as 60-70% of cases. It is much cheaper and works well with the people we consider will benefit from it. Farmers with work-related injuries can often recover faster with homeopathy. Women recover from childbirth quicker and deliver the placenta more easily. Babies who were failing to thrive respond to changes in the mother's diet and the stimulus of a remedy. Many with chronic complaints, who are still unwell after hospital treatment, respond to homeopathic treatment.



Emperor with Dr Kalishankar Bhattacharyea in clinic. Emperor translates for volunteers as well as pursuing his own studies and supervised practice

I consider I am now 'married to homeopathy' and it fits in with the community clinic we have at Seva. We are a clean water project and health education centre as well as a 24/7 clinic to which people come from up to 25 miles away. The resident clinic team includes two regular homeopathic students, Christopher and Gideon, and a traditional birth attendant team. We work together with visiting allopathic doctors, nurses and midwives as well as homeopathic volunteers to give the best service to patients. We are learning all the time.

I talk with Sheila Ryan two or three times a week to discuss cases. We have plans for a larger clinic building and extra volunteer accommodation. In this way we can become a centre for international clinical training and this, in turn, will help the clinic become sustainable. Your ongoing help is needed to achieve this☺

(Sheila has pioneered a co-operative model of clinical training under supervision in Seva. This gives hands-on experience and training to each member according to their interest and skill).

The Story of our Kumasi Clinic

We began working in Kumasi at the request of newly - qualified Ghanaian homeopath Bonsu Boaten who first made contact with volunteer Mel Duprès in 2008. 2009 saw the further expansion of our collaboration with Bonsu. It has been wonderful to discover how we can work together and share the same vision.

In January 2009 volunteer Sara Savage travelled to Kumasi to work with Bonsu for a four-month tour. At first Sara conducted clinics at Bonsu's Montessori school and his doctor aunt's clinic in the town centre.

After a while these venues felt unsatisfactory - the school was noisy and not unsuitable for a public clinic. Sara decided that she would like to contribute the funds she had raised prior to volunteering towards the rent of a permanent clinic which could also be the base for our outreach work to the poorer communities. Sara's family and friends had donated generously to support our work. The inside of the clinic is now well decorated and we have a shipment of about 300 books on the way to create a homeopathic library. After Sara finished her volunteering time, we were able to send another volunteer, Kathleen Moore to work in this clinic and run the outreach clinics around Kumasi. We have also one trainee homeopath and assistant.



Sara Savage and helpers

Following the visit from the Indian homeopaths in October 2009, Bonsu and Kathleen began running first aid courses and fourteen students have now finished the first stage of the training and we hope eventually they will join our diploma course.

We are now working, together with volunteer Richard Pitt, to design this course, to include visiting homeopaths and the use of technologies such as Skype to enhance learning. As a trained teacher and a homeopath Bonsu will manage the programme locally.

Our thanks go to Sara Savage's supporters for enabling the Kumasi project to get established and to Sara and Kathleen for dedicating their time to help it grow ☀

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....and to the many others who have given funding, books, remedies, supplies, their skills and their time

The GHP team (UK) works in partnership in Ghana to develop Ghanaian homeopathy through low cost clinics, education and clinical training.

<http://www.ghanahomeopathy.org>

Homeopathy in Africa - UK Registered Charity No 1125981

DONATIONS TO GHANA HOMEOPATHY PROJECT

Homeopathy in Africa - Registered Charity No 1125981
Send all cheques and Standing Order/Gift Aid forms to:
Ghana Homeopathy Project, c/o Linda Shannon, 45 Straits,
Portland, Dorset DT5 1HG (phone 01305 824996)
Cheques to be made payable to: **Ghana Homeopathy Project**

Standing Order Form

To the Manager of
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to account Homeopathy in Africa – Ghana Homeopathy Project
SORT CODE 08-92-99 - ACCOUNT NUMBER 65318708

the sum of £ on* and thereafter £..... monthly/annually onuntil further notice.
*Please insert date of first payment

Name of account::

Sort Code: Bank Account number:

Signature _____

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