

ACAF Fall Newsletter 2021

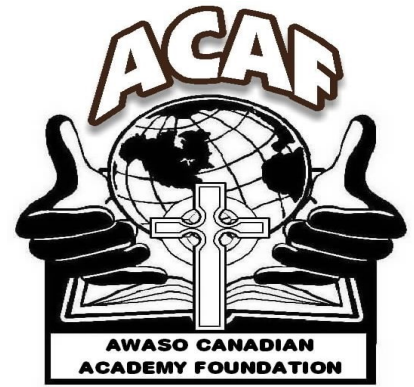


IN MEMORIAM:

Father Paul Agyeman-Duah Mensah, President of AAI, passed away from colorectal cancer on August 2, 2021 in Ghana. He was 60 years old and will be missed by so many people. Please read his “**Dreams of Faith and Hope**” on the website which lists his many accomplishments and his desire to help the poor with generational change. He did complete his vision and more with the Awaso Academy International (AAI) campus and in his parish duties as a priest. God rest his soul and pour peace over those grieving. (January 15, 1961 to August 2, 2021)

With the help of the ACAFAAI Foundation board we are committed to continuing Father Paul’s legacy of generational change. San Jose Awasohope and Morgan Hill groups are also committed to continuing.

ACAF is setting up a Memorial Fund to raise funds to cover the hospital and funeral expenses. Any extra money will be used to start a **Father Paul Memorial Scholarship** for grade 9 students to cover travel expenses from their residential school to their home during the school year on special events. \$400 per student for each year of high school would cover that expense. A donation can be made online using our website forms or mailed to the address on the back of this letter. Please make payable to ACAF and have a memo that the donation is for the Memorial Fund.



- Despite Covid our students have been attending classes since January, 2021.
- Grade 9 students wrote their 2021 government exams to proceed to grade 10 and results should arrive in November. **Last year’s graduates all received honors and went on to win an inter-county challenge with other grade 9 students from larger centers.** We are very proud of our graduates.
- Our student sponsorship program is enabling us to continue operating the school. Thank you to all our sponsors and donors.
- The bakery continues to feed the children 2 meals a day and make additional bread for sale in the community
- The poultry, vegetable, and animal farms and fish ponds bring additional income to the school after operating expenses and feeding the children

Father Mensah knew he was ill and was making arrangements to come to the US for treatment. He planned to stay for 1 or 2 years. To continue his vision he had mentored **Rev. Father Dr. Anthony Jones Mensah** to take over management of the school. Father Anthony has a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the US and was 1st headmaster of another school in Ghana that had won awards before becoming the Chancellor for the Diocese. Fr. Anthony had been helping with all the teacher hires for the last 4 years and the ongoing workings of the school because he lives 15 km away in Bekwaii. He has been given permission from the Bishop to take on these extra duties in addition to his duties as Chancellor of the Diocese. As per Father Paul’s wishes, the school will remain autonomous of the church under the ACAFAAI Foundation Board with the land title in the name of Awaso Academy International. Fr. Anthony will be able to travel to Canada and the US to keep us informed.

Phyllis Appiah Kobi will stay on as the budget officer, the job she has done since 2012, and Hagar Affi, niece of Father Paul Mensah who has her business administration diploma and works at the college in Kumasi, will take over as signatory to the ACAFAAI Foundation accounts with Phyllis as alternate signatory.

All the other positions will remain the same for the time being. We can continue Father Paul’s legacy in Awaso and graduate grade 9 students.

We have been blessed to know Father Paul and know he would be pleased with the succession of these people into the positions listed. Trusting in God, we remain, **ACAF Board Members**

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

We were established in 2005 in Drayton Valley, became a registered charity with CRA in 2008 and a registered non-profit society in Alberta in 2011.

If you want to sponsor a student for \$400/year please check out our website under "sponsorship" or contact

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.awasoacademy.ca

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Maddison & Jesse Wessel

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Thank you

...to the **Drayton Valley Community Foundation (DVCF)** for their \$8,000 grant for international projects received in June 2021 for landscaping and building a courtyard for the teacher accommodations constructed on the school site.

...to **Luke 4 Foundation** for their donation of \$25,000 for construction of the teacher accommodations

...to the **Rotary Club** for their continued sponsorship of 10 students for \$4000 US each year

...to the **Ghana Friendship Association of Edmonton and the Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Calgary** for their donation of \$5,000

The teacher accommodations are complete. We are fundraising for the furniture and appliances as follows:

1. 2 Bedroom furnishings —\$550 US EA
2. Table, chairs, sofa set—\$800 US
3. Stove, Fridge, Washing Machine—\$1700 US

This is \$2500US for each of the 8 units. The teachers are very excited about the new accommodations. This will help us hire and retain certified teachers.

The landscaping around the teacherage is ongoing but steadily improving.



Many thanks to all our donors who made this project possible. Your generosity and genuine love for others is encouraging to everyone involved. Stay safe and may 2022 be a year of health and happiness here and in Ghana.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the necessary resources, in partnership with the parents and community, to graduate grade nine students from the Awaso Academy International in Ghana, Africa