

## Trip to Awaso, Ghana, Africa

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2025



A group of 9 of us made the journey: 7 from Alberta and 2 from California. We connected in New York and from there flew to Ghana together.

One of the highlights was meeting with some of the Awaso Academy International's Alumni students. They were either in High School or first & second year of university. They are studying to become Civil, Mechanical or Geological engineers! We heard of others who are pursuing careers in Accounting, Nursing, HR management, Fire-Safety-Disaster management. These graduates make a point of frequently returning to AAI to hold workshops and Pep Rallies to encourage the students (still at AAI) to persevere and study hard as to be able to pass the Grade 9 exams, to gain entry into any High School of their choosing. They truly are living Fr. Paul's dream and making it a reality.



Thanks to generous donations we were able to bring new materials to the teachers of Nursery, Kindergarten 1 and Kindergarten 2.



The team had the honour to visit Fr. Paul's grave, located in a special cemetery for clergy.



The 2 soccer teams from AAI, proudly wearing their new jerseys (which were delivered by our visiting team). The Primary grades wearing green, the Junior High team wearing orange.



Please note the golden trophy as they became the 2025 inter-schools Champions!





Dedication of the water filtration building. Phase I is now completed and Phase 2, which will see the distribution of the water, is ready to get underway.



The AAI Bakery is in full swing!

Beside providing bread for the staff and 315 students, it is also supplying bread to the town of Awaso's vendors, such as this lady in front of her small shop, holding an AAI loaf.

Spending time in the classrooms was such a treat. Working with the teachers as well as teaching was a fantastic experience for the 3 retired teachers on the team.



Monica (from San Jose, CA) presenting new books for the AAI Library: the Librarian on her right, Hagar Asiedu (codirector of AAI) on her left and Eric Gyapong, AAI principal.



Once again, being able to provide reusable feminine hygiene kits to the AAI's young ladies, as well as to the students from a neighbouring school, was priceless!

Their attendance is now at 100%!



Fr. Anthony, (Fr. Paul's lifelong friend and now president of AAI) spoke while at the grave site of Fr. Paul. His beautiful words were touching and inspiring, as he reflected on his very good friend's dream, vision and passion for the Ghanaian children and their future.





Board meetings were held!

The last visitors from Canada were there in 2019: it seemed so long ago. Therefore, it was what an excellent time to reconnect, share struggles and successes, as well as to look to the future with these very dedicated and committed leaders: Hagar Asiedu, Fr. Patrick and Fr. Anthony.

We are deeply thankful to our many donors and students' sponsors that have stayed with us for so many years. The school has been operating for 15 years, and we were touched by the level of loving care displayed by the Administration team, the teachers and staff for all the students of Awaso Academy International. The education which is taking place continues to be inspired by Fr. Paul's vision and the level of education is truly outstanding to enable the positive and high results that identifies AAI. This trip was excellent and such a phenomenal and successful 2 weeks experience of the many facets of this tremendous project!