

BASIC: Brothers and Sisters in Christ Our Mission Lived Out

The mission of BASIC is to help both the developed world and developing countries to transform themselves through Christian community integration. The developing world, struggling to get on the first rung of the economic ladder, remains physically impoverished. Much of the developed world struggles to find meaning, peace, and love in the midst of physical wealth.

Fear of foreign cultures, not knowing what to do, who to do it with, and how to do it, stops Christians in the developed world from engaging with brothers and sisters in the developing world. BASIC brings together committed Christians, churches, NGOs, universities and governments to give witness to their beliefs and ideals through their partnering work. Today BASIC is working with three churches, International Aid, UN Millennium Village, Luke Society, SCARCE, Cal Poly University, IIT, and corporate and individual sponsors.



BASIC Joins Village Leaders to Discuss Projects



BASIC Participates in Village Durbar 1

In 2005, BASIC began its work with its co-founder Doctor John Boateng in the village of Kasei, a small village in the Ashanti region of central Ghana. Our work begins and ends with prayer. The Lord has blessed us with many supporters in the U.S. and Ghana. Since 2005, five short-term teams have worked in the village. In addition, two interns from California Polytechnic University (Cal Poly) have worked on agricultural and educational projects. The villagers and BASIC have:

- Built a library and computer center in the village
- Delivered two containers with medical equipment, library and text books, computers and peripherals, school supplies
- Conducted extensive teacher training including team teaching
- Implemented a high school scholarship program
- Delivered books to stock two libraries in nearby villages
- Built seven homes for teachers
- Acquired 656 acres for a non-profit community farm
- Conducted agricultural experiments to improve local farming yields
- Developed agricultural cooperative marketing plan to improve farmers' returns on their crops
- Started young women and mothers' development program
- Prayed with and supported several Ghanaian churches and has helped plant a new church in Kasei
- Built two new classrooms, adult Ed, and town meeting center
- Provided uniforms to the students of Kasei
- Built strong relationships with local Kasei leaders and the leaders of the Ghanaian Presbyterian, Anglican, and Pentecostal churches.

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Kasei Students Studying in the Village Library



Steve and Lois Teaching the Students



Laura Teaching First Graders



Sherri and Lois Working with the Teachers



Dylan Inspects Crops from Different Test Fields



Dylan Checking Insects

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Doctor John Opens First Container Sent to Kasei



Team Members Visit with the Villagers



Junior Secondary Students Begin with Prayer



Parents of Scholarship Winners with Steve



Young Women Showing Their Knitting



Sherri & Kari Giving Uniforms to Students

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Kari Holds Baby She Delivered Earlier



Doctor John and Kari Inspect Equipment



Villagers Building Additional Classrooms



a Villager Roofing Additional Classrooms

In 2009, several BASIC teams will be working in the village. Please pray and ask for guidance if you are being called to give witness to Jesus by working with the people of Kasei and BASIC. BASIC is looking for interns, volunteers, and donors to support education, agriculture, economic development, building, women's development, and medical work in the village. If you are interested, contact Dr. Paul Robinson or Steve Tonissen at basicghana@gmail.com or call 312-342-8895 or write to BASIC, 324 Cumnor Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 60137. BASIC is a registered non-profit 501c3 corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

BASIC board members (BM) and senior advisors (SA) are: Dr. John Boateng (BM), Lois Andrews (SA) - Educator, Debbie Tonissen (BM) & Treasurer, Sada Andrews (BM) & Secretary, Paul Robinson, Ph.D. (SA) – Director of HNGR Program Wheaton College, Rev. Jerry Andrews (SA) – Pastor 1st Presbyterian Church of Glen Ellyn, David H. Headrick Ph.D. (SA) – Professor of Entomology and Pest Management Horticulture and Corp Science Dept. Cal Poly, Laura Alonso (SA) – business woman, Betsy Rodgers, Ph.D. (SA) – Retired educator and business woman, Floyd Rogers (SA) – Retired computer specialist, Sherri Bergstrom (SA) – Educator, Matt Hopper, Ph.D. (SA) – History and African Studies Professor Cal Poly, Steve Tonissen (BM) & President.