



a Loving 2024

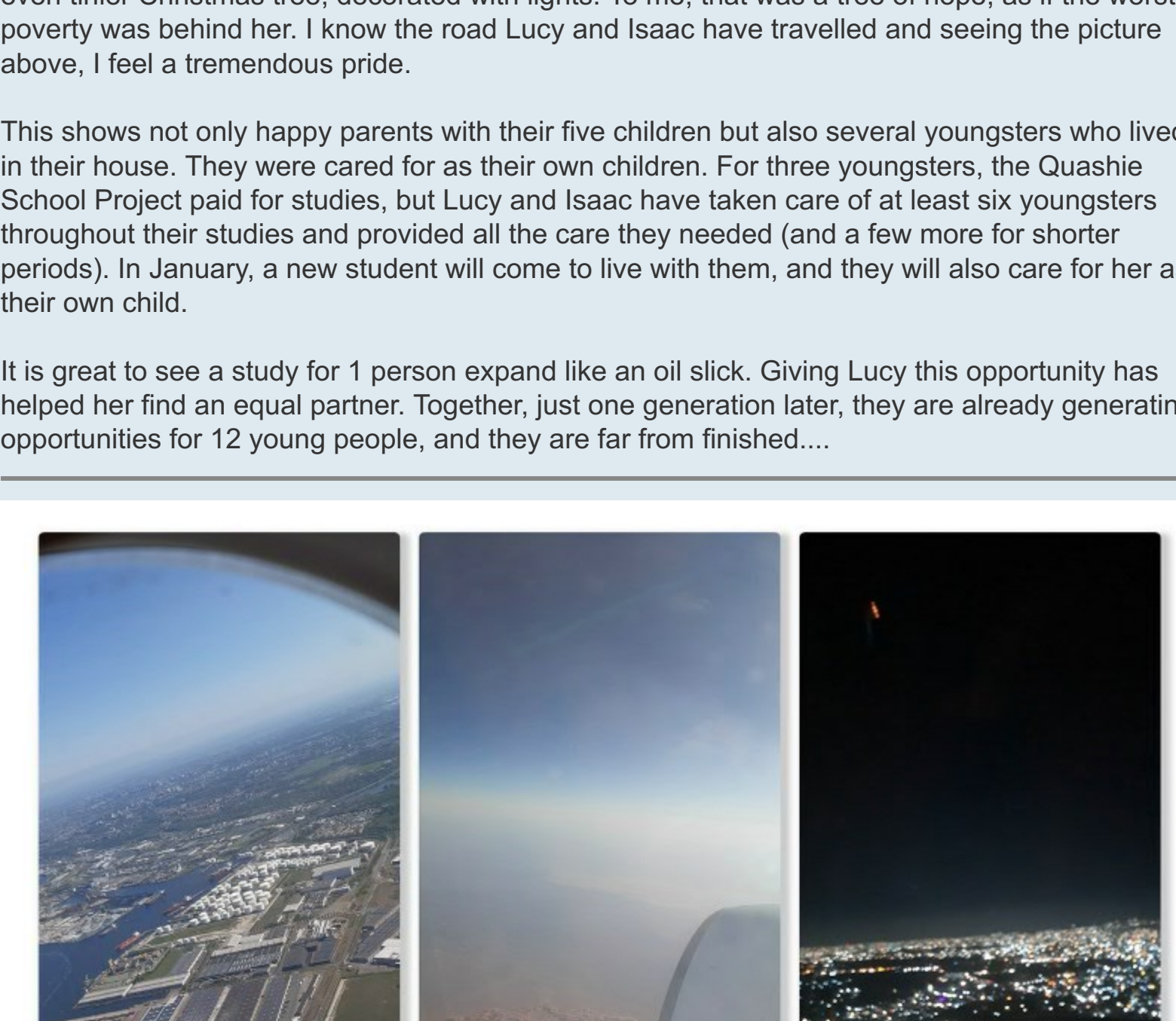
A very good, relaxed, creative and loving 2024! When you turn on the radio or TV, love seems far away, so let's remember love above all. And should it be gone for a while, remember to go back and be loving and kind to each other. Warm and kind interaction with each other is what we take ample time for in every project. When the love is right, a project (almost) flows naturally.

Enjoy our newsletter full of stories again this year. This time about:

- Like an oil slick
• To Ghana again
• Progress master-apprentice project
• 'Moniek makes a difference' - article
• The realisation sinks in...
• Study assignment from the Netherlands
• Become a monthly donor
• Visit our webshop
• Lentil soup from the cooking bag

(Pictured from left to right are Moniek, Ampofo, Albert, Owusu and Ama)

Enjoy reading!
Warm greetings, Moniek



Like an oil slick...

Around Christmas, I am always reminded of Lucy, my half-sister whom I met during my first visit to Ghana. In 2006 when Daddy and also her mother died, I talked to her on the phone at Christmas and she was deeply saddened. No parents, no food and no place to go. She was alone in her hostel because everyone had gone home.... Lucy was the first student of the Quashie School Project though we were not a foundation then and certainly had no name. We were just doing what we were doing... Lucy focused on her studies because she wanted to leave poverty behind.

She met her now partner Isaac who had a similar drive as Lucy. Together they 'battled through it'. In 2010, they married and lived in a tiny room where their first son was born. There was an even tinier Christmas tree, decorated with lights. To me, that was a tree of hope, as if the worst poverty was behind her. I know the road Lucy and Isaac have travelled and seeing the picture above, I feel a tremendous pride.

This shows not only happy parents with their five children but also several youngsters who lived in their house. They were cared for as their own children. For three youngsters, the Quashie School Project paid for studies, but Lucy and Isaac have taken care of all the other youngsters throughout their studies and provided all the care they needed (and a few more for shorter periods). In January, a new student will come to live with them, and they will also care for her as their own child.

It is great to see a study for 1 person expand like an oil slick. Giving Lucy this opportunity has helped her find an equal partner. Together, just one generation later, they are already generating opportunities for 12 young people, and they are far from finished....



To Ghana again

Are you going on holiday again? I often get asked that question. Holidays, it never really feels like that to me. It is great to see my family again, hear the clothes crumpling in the village early in the morning, and not have to worry about how many layers of clothes to put on, but holiday no, it doesn't feel like that. My head is already spinning overtime about what needs to be ready before I go, what will fit in my suitcases and what I 'need' to do when I get to Ghana and that is a lot.

I have yet to see our new master-apprentice project and am looking forward to getting to know the young apprentices. Of course, I will visit Oyojo Health Centre to see how things are going with the digital patient record. I hope to visit 6 schools across Ghana this year and see all our students. 'Life is Love' weekends are planned for parents, caretakers and students. I will meet new students and make contacts in the village of Oyojo. I will also have to confront the landlord about the still unresolved leaks (a tug-of-war over who is to blame, a nice exercise in remaining loving and kind). Pretty big 'to do list' for a holiday right?

But I'm also going on holiday. I am going to visit my friend Margreet and her foundation in northern Ghana and I am going to the sea for a few days. So I have about a week's holiday during my 3-month stay. But I promise to spend all my work time well, relaxed, creative and with a lot of love!

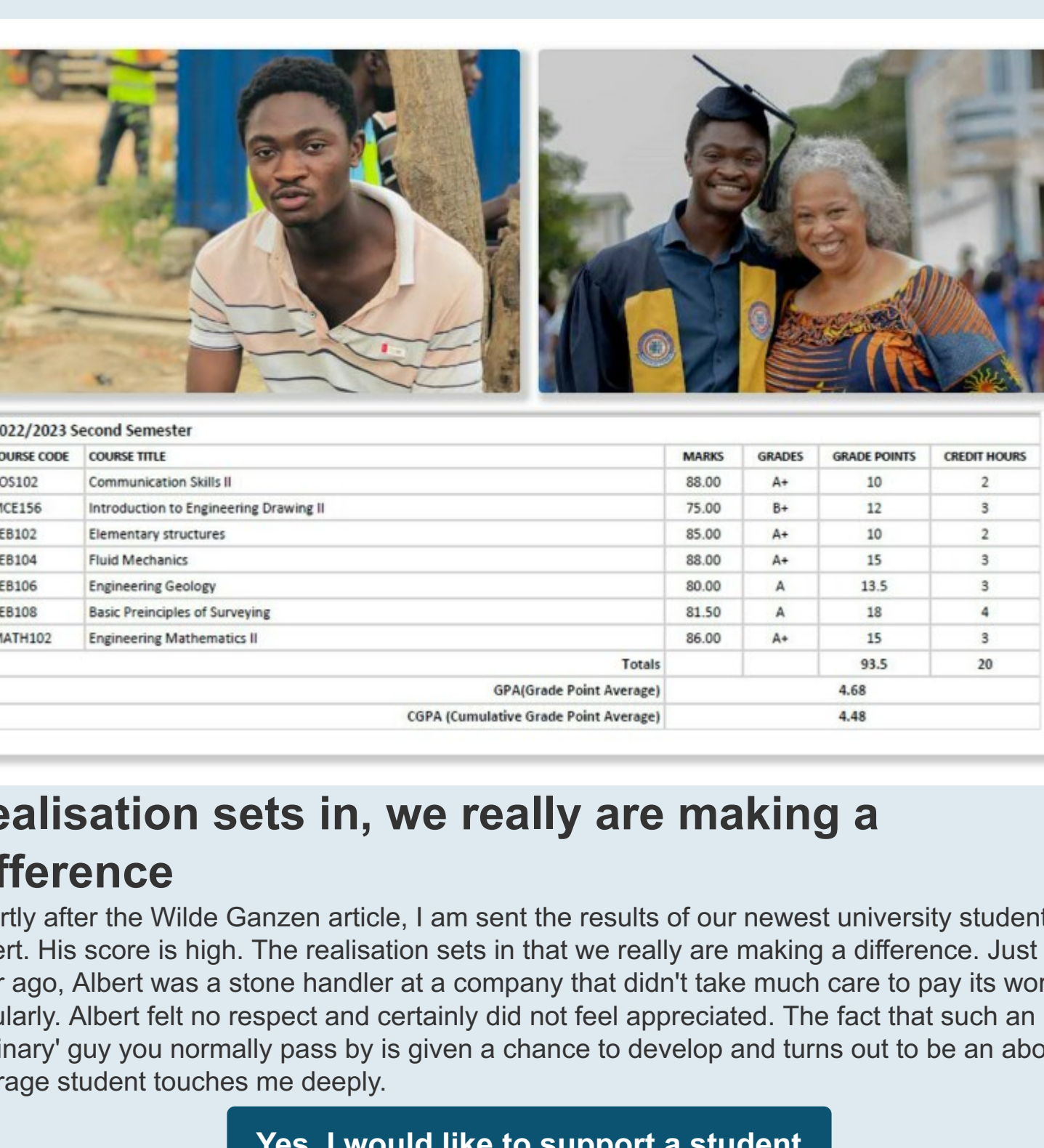


Progress master-apprentice project

The master-apprentice project started 3 months ago, and both master and apprentices are starting to get used to each other. In the beginning it was searching but now they found a way. Master Ampofo is growing into his role and notices that the apprentices Justice and Obed are very different. Where one is precise and pays attention to details the other feels comfortable with the coarser work and likes to speed up. One wants to know every detail and is inquisitive and attentive, the other wants to be given an assignment and not be disturbed too much. At first a difficult task for Ampofo, but he has since realised that these 2 apprentices each require their own approach. In the beginning, both got the same assignments but now he looks more at what suits each person.

Together with Lucy, I have monthly contact with Ampofo, she is present live and I via Facetime. Ghana is a country of rules and punishments and that is something I am very keen to work around. Talking to each other and seeing what your own contribution is in a situation, I find a more meaningful way. This succeeds quite nicely but still we have made in a firm rule, no mobile phone during work because that is far too dangerous. Ampofo gives the apprentice a one-hour break and whether they eat or use their phones is up to them.

The apprentices are enjoying themselves. Lucy got a call from one of them. His father was going to call Lucy and he asked Lucy to please say no to his father. Lucy did not yet know what it was about but when she had the father on the phone, she understood. The father wanted his son home because there was work to be done. The boy really did not want to go home and was looking for a way to stand up to an adult, which is unusual in Ghana. This shows courage and a will to change his life. Respect!



Moniek makes a difference

Last November, I received a phone call from the Wilde Ganzen Foundation. Whether they could interview me and place a piece about the Quashie School Project in a local newspaper. Before interviewer Marten starts his questions, we first get great compliments on our website, 'it looks beautiful and well cared for', he informs me. All credit to Carla from Cathdesign!

'Moniek makes a difference' headlines the newspaper. I often only half realise what our little foundation has achieved. I am in the middle of it and by telling my story, I look at our own story as an outsider. It has become a beautiful article. Of course, 'way too short' because I have told much more but long enough to arouse curiosity from the reader. Thank you, Wilde Ganzen, for this promotion!

Download the article 'Moniek makes a difference' (Dutch)

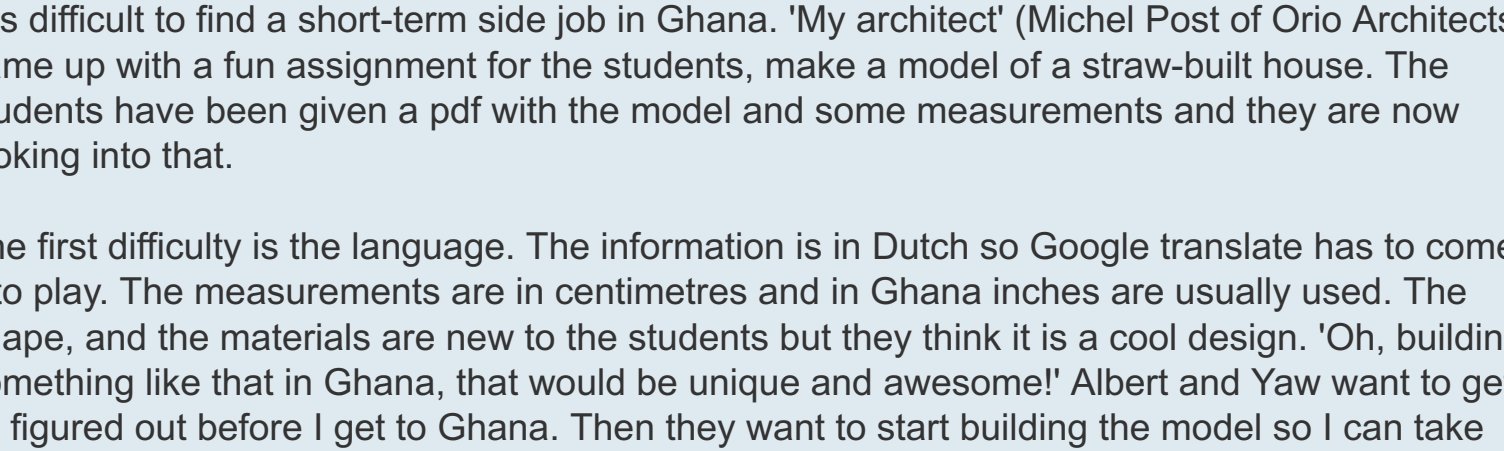


Table with 5 columns: COURSE CODE, COURSE TITLE, MARKS, GRADES, GRADE POINTS, CREDIT HOURS. Lists various engineering and mathematics courses.

Realisation sets in, we really are making a difference

Shortly after the Wilde Ganzen article, I am sent the results of our newest university student Albert. His score is high. The realisation sets in that we really are making a difference. Just a year ago, Albert was a stone halter at a company that didn't take much care to pay its workers regularly. Albert felt no respect and certainly did not feel appreciated. The fact that such an 'ordinary' guy you normally pass by is given a chance to develop and turns out to be an above-average student touches me deeply.

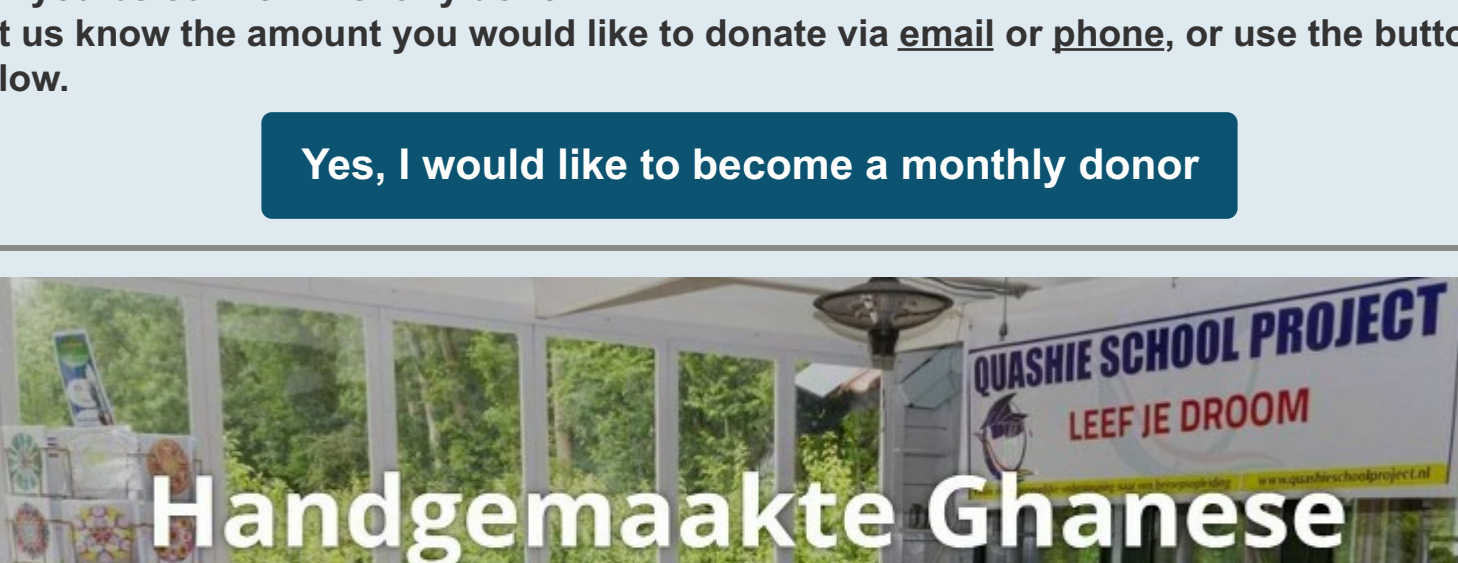
Yes, I would like to support a student



Study assignment from the Netherlands

'Moniek, doesn't your architect have a study assignment for us?' This question came from Albert and Yaw, both university engineering students. The students are currently on holiday, and it is difficult to find a short-term side job in Ghana. 'My architect' (Michel Post of Orio Architects) came up with a fun assignment for the students, make a model of a straw-built house. The students have been given a pdf with the model and some measurements and they are now looking into that.

The first difficulty is the language. The information is in Dutch so Google translate has to come into play. The measurements are in centimetres and in Ghana inches are usually used. The shape, and the materials are new to the students but they think it is a cool design. 'Oh, building something like that in Ghana, that would be unique and awesome!' Albert and Yaw want to get it all figured out before I get to Ghana. Then they want to start building the model so I can take photos. 'We are working on a list of questions for the architect and hopefully he want to explain things to us, Moniek'. They express anticipation as if they are going to meet a celebrity. It's so much fun guiding this process....



Quashie School Project monthly donation for education

Become a monthly donor

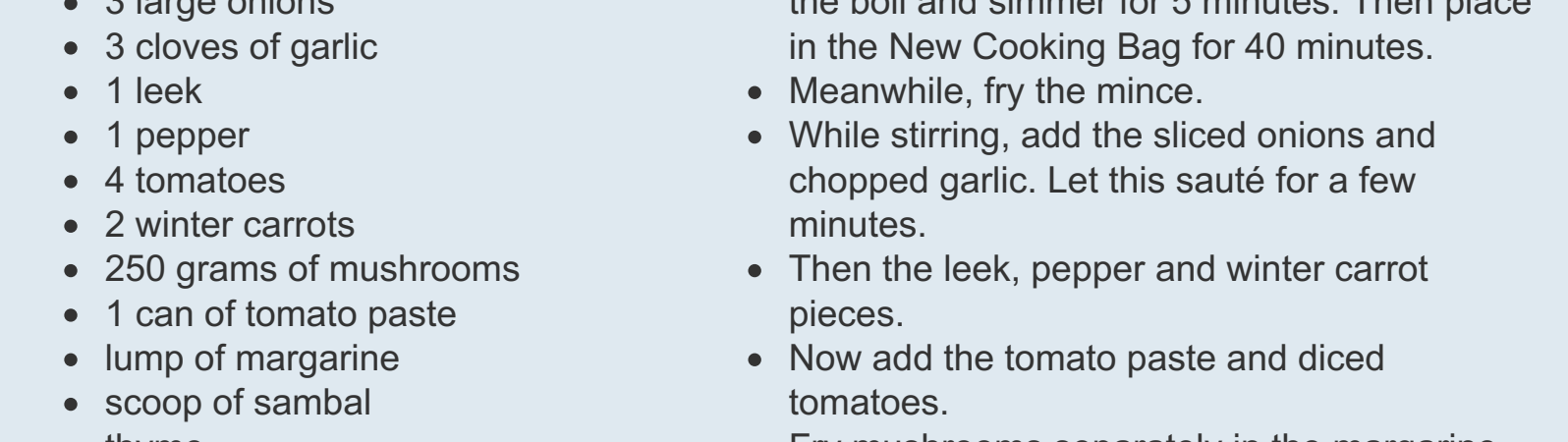
For over 20 years, we have been providing financial support and personal guidance to students in Ghana for further or vocational education. The basis from which we act is to allow a learner to fully blossom and fully feel and nurture their life dream, without losing sight of reality. In November 2019, we became a foundation and obtained the ANBI status.

We started in 2002 with 1 and this year we are guiding 7 students. Fortunately, we have a steady group of donors from day 1 and brand-new donors we can count on. We are very grateful to all of them!

By becoming a monthly donor, you give a Ghanaian pupil a future and our foundation financial security. The monthly amounts we receive most often are €10, €20 and €25 with peaks of up to (well over) €100.

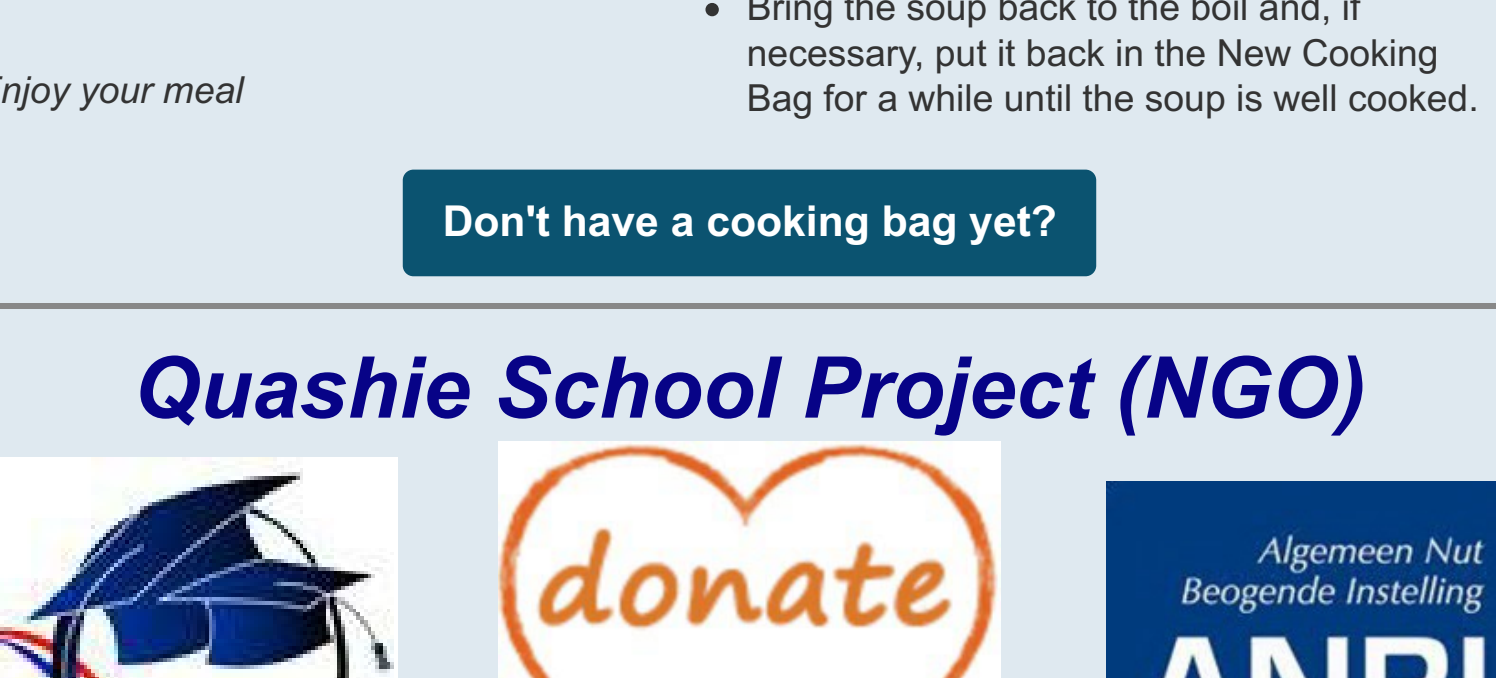
A study takes 3 to 4 years, and we want to grow to a maximum of 10 students. For this, we need your help. Will you be our new monthly donor? Let us know the amount you would like to donate via email or phone, or use the button below.

Yes, I would like to become a monthly donor



Handgemaakte Ghanaese producten. Handgemaakte producten uit Ghana. De gehele opbrengst is voor studenten in Ghana zodat zij hun droom kunnen waarmaken!

Feel free to visit our webshop



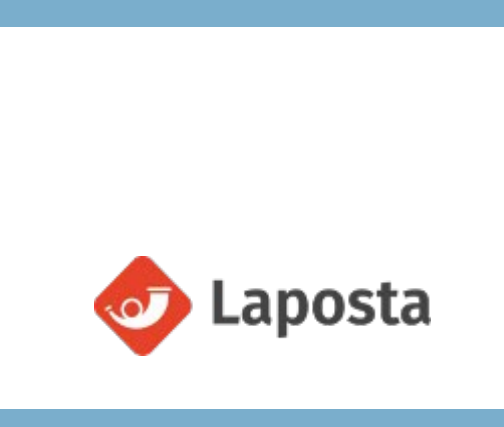
Lentil soup from the cooking bag

I hesitated whether to share the recipe for pea soup or lentil soup. Both suit this season well. The nice thing about lentils is that they don't need to soak first. This way, you have a well-filled soup ready within an hour.

- Ingredients 4 persons: 500 grams brown lentils, 250 grams of minced beef, 3 large onions, 3 cloves of garlic, 1 leek, 1 pepper, 4 tomatoes, 2 winter carrots, 250 grams of mushrooms, 1 can of tomato paste, lump of margarine, scoop of sambal, thyme, 100 grams of sultanas, salt/pepper, water, optional 2 bay leaves.
Preparation: Wash the lentils and put them with salt, (bay), thyme and pepper in plenty of water. Bring to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Then place in the New Cooking Bag for 40 minutes. Meanwhile, fry the mince. While stirring, add the sliced onions and chopped garlic. Let this sauté for a few minutes. Then the leek, pepper and winter carrot pieces. Now add the tomato paste and diced tomatoes. Fry mushrooms separately in the margarine. Add the vegetable mixture to the lentils. Add sambal as you like. Finally, spoon the sultanas through the mixture. Bring the soup back to the boil and, if necessary, put it back in the New Cooking Bag for a while until the soup is well cooked.

Don't have a cooking bag yet?

Quashie School Project (NGO)



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We are happy with donations of any amount

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