

GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

www.perfectpeaceministriesinc.com

perfectpeaceministriesinc@gmail.com



It Begins!

In our last newsletter, we explained how we traveled to Ghana and introduced the staff and some of the ongoing ministries. Well.....December has been a very busy month for us, especially when you consider that we had just arrived. There is an acceptable amount of time that is required to get acclimated to so many changes in our lives. That being said, we were anxious to get going.

On December 1st we were handed the bookkeeping, both past and current, along with the finances for this campus. It had been a heavy burden for Sammy (the senior staff member here) to manage with little understanding of the US tax requirements and no accounting training. So he was very happy to have that burden removed. This is an area that Cindy has worked in throughout our years in ministry and she is glad to be involved. The bookkeeping duties for both this campus and Perfect Peace Ministries Inc. occupy a large portion of her day.

There is also a certain amount of "learning" in getting to know the people and the culture that are around us everyday. With our one month of acclimation we took off and started into the ministry full speed ahead.



One of the first thing we did was get three kittens; Jake, Sissy and Rudy. They will be our on-campus rat & snake

killers. There are also two small puppies on the campus. They are in training to be guard dogs. We took over the feeding of these critters. Bill spends half a day each week making their food. He boils soy beans together with chicken backs, then pounds everything into a mush, adds assorted weekly vegetable scraps, some flavorings and 5 cups of rice. Voila: dog/cat food.



Grill/Smoker



Bill has taken up the challenge to build a barbecue/smoker combination. Once the foundation was poured, Sammy laid the first course of these interlocking blocks. The blocks don't use any mortar, but with their design are very stable. In fact Bill is not a fan at all. He is constantly saying "these blocks give no grace". If they are not put together exactly they will not go together at all.

The idea, of course, is once we get the rabbits producing we will need this grill and smoker to cook all of the meat. Not only for us but also for the staff and eventually the girl's school, once it is up and running. Sammy has said he will use the smoker to smoke some of his pigs once they get big enough.



"I am greeting you." The other day Bill was getting some tools from the shop when this girl got his attention, and just like that we are smack-dab in the middle of a ministry opportunity. The girl was the

one holding Bill's canteen. Of course we stopped everything and engaged these young girls. They were on the campus for a New Years party. But beyond that it was one girl's birthday. We were amazed that the girls were so interested in talking with us. They wanted to talk about everything. They wanted to know us. Of course these girls are so sweet, we just loved being around them. They are on Christmas break, and after we sang Happy Birthday to the birthday girl they all let us know they would be back after school starts to greet us again. They also promised to wave to us as they walked to school each day. They are one of the main reasons we always say how sweet the African people are.



Rabbit Rondavel

Rondavel is an Afrikaans word that means round house. In our original design the rabbit house was to be a 40x40 concrete structure, that would house all of the rabbits in one building. Once we got here we realized that

might not be the best way to do it. The original building would be very costly mostly due to the large roof. We had always intended to build a small rondavel in local villages. So we decided to start on the campus and build a prototype to see how it would work. It would also give us an opportunity to learn about rabbits in Ghana on a small scale.

The Rondavel concept is exactly the same as the larger building only smaller. We dig down for the foundation and lay the cement blocks. We build to at least 15 inches above ground level which prevents water getting into the building during the rainy season.



We pour an inner floor of concrete and then lay the remaining block wall up two feet above the floor. Once the wall is complete we dig down beside the wall and construct the nest box below floor level. Then we install the cement tunnel blocks from the nest box to the floor surface. For the roofing, we use vertical posts from local trees, in this case Teak, and the roof is local grass that is thatched.



During the dry season people set fire to the bush, and so we were in a bit of a hurry to get the bundles of grass that we need before it is all gone. Sammy hired several local men to cut 130 large bundles of grass. Everything we would need to roof the Rondavels.

Devine is molding the entry tunnel blocks for the nest boxes. For one Rondavel we will need at least 60 of these. Bill made the form while we were still in AZ and is very happy that it works as well as it does.



We praise God for you and your continued support

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph. 6:12

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