

MOZART IN MISSION

April 2009

“Light at the end of the tunnel” for the people of Liberia in processing Moringa and Peanuts

Dear Friends,

I bring you greetings from my family and from the several communities in Africa especially in Liberia and Ghana that have benefited directly from my visits over the last six months and from your support.

May I use this opportunity also to thank you all for your show of love and support to me and my daughter Selma during our visit to the USA in August to September 2008 on the occasion of my itineration. Selma was truly blessed to be on the trip with me to NC and will have wished also to have been in MN, CO and CA. We are pleased to inform you that she secured admission to Aburi Girl’s Senior High School, one of the best in Ghana and we pray that her wish to become a medical doctor in future comes into fruition.

During my first itineration as Missionary in 2005, a visit was arranged for me to Compatible Technology International (CTI), MN. CTI designs and adapts simple, efficient and inexpensive technologies in response to small food processing needs in rural areas of developing countries. I was impressed with some of the processing



Mrs. Esther Gatei of Gbahn, Nimba County Liberia milling Moringa into powder using Omega VI grinder

equipment I saw and when CTI visited Ghana last year at the invitation of the Moringa Association of Ghana, of which I am President I was convinced that the Omega VI grinder could be very useful for milling of Moringa.

I followed up to CTI, MN on the occasion of my recent itineration and invited CTI to join me to Liberia and to demonstrate the use of the grinders for milling of dried Moringa leaves into powder and also for milling of roasted peanuts into peanut butter.

Ed Galle and Dick Fulmer, volunteers of CTI, joined me to travel to Liberia between March 28 and April 4. We conducted 6 demonstrations in 6 separate locations in two Counties, Nimba and Montserrado for over 260 farmers. The enthusiasm during the demonstrations was overwhelming and the farmers and communities indicated the opportunity as a great blessing for them. The situation during some demonstrations are likened to Acts 3:8 as the farmers jumped with joy and praised God with the excitement of the “miracle” of the new possibility for them to mill their products at such a fast rate. They considered this as great “healing”

of their situation and prayed to God to sustain the lives of those who help them in such “wondrous” ways.

We made the demonstration sessions very practical and participatory. The farmers, especially women, took turns to try their hands on the Omega VI grinder and it was great fun! When some quantity of powder was produced, the participants applauded their efforts and were amazed at the fine and smooth nature of final product.

We also mixed the milled product of Moringa powder and peanut butter into spread which participants put into bread and served as snacks. We repeated these successfully in all the 6 demonstrations and the farmers ate these joyously.

What difference does the Omega VI grinder make?

Prior to the introduction of the Omega VI grinder,

What are the next steps?

This trip to Liberia together with Ed and Dick, volunteers of CTI, MN has been very rewarding and also revealing. The farmers will need help in the acquisition of the Omega VI grinders. Each of the 6 communities visited wish to own 2 grinders, one for grinding Moringa into powder and the other for milling of roasted peanuts into peanut butter. Committees have been set up to keep and manage the equipment when acquired. Each grinder will cost about \$400 (shipment included). Each user will pay a fee that will be kept for maintenance and future replacement.

Discussions were also held with CTI about solar drying possibilities, especially of Moringa leaves. CTI will send designs of solar dryers back these communities and possibilities will be explored for fabrication of these dryers in the near future. Discussions will also be held with CTI for a follow up trip to Liberia in 2010, God willing. I will also share these experiences with other countries during my trips and hopefully UMCOR and CTI could begin a good collaboration to explore the possibility of support for food processing in other countries too.



Dick Fulmer of CTI sharing peanut butter milled from the Omega VI grinder to children in Neingbein, Numba, Liberia who witnessed the demonstration

farmers milled dried Moringa using the mortar and pestle. This is a rather very laborious process and takes a lot of energy. Women take responsibility for this laborious milling as is typical of most domestic chores in Africa and it takes several hours to produce a good quantity of powder, which also does not reach a desired texture. During the demonstrations of the use of the Omega VI grinders in Liberia, it took less than an hour to produce 1kg of fine Moringa leaf powder. Peanut butter is also made by pounding roasted peanut in the mortar or over a “grinding stone”. It takes forever to prepare a good quantity of peanut butter. These elaborate processes have not encouraged the production of peanut and use of peanut butter as spread or for soups.

Please pray for me

UMCOR's program in Sustainable Agriculture and Development for which I provide leadership in Africa as your Missionary provides great promise in strengthening rural communities and revealing God's presence in mission. Do please keep me in your prayers especially for God's divine protection during my travels. I rely on John 15:5 during these periods of planning and mission work. Truly, we cannot do much without God's divine guidance

- I am preparing for my second trip in 2009. It will take me to Sierra Leone in June. I will travel also travel back to Liberia and Sierra Leone in July together with Ms. June Kim, Executive Secretary of UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture program- NY and Dr. Winston Carroo of Ag Missions Inc, USA.

My wife Janet may travel also to Liberia and Sierra Leone later in the year to provide support to some communities in the production and utilization of soybean. She has been very supportive in training programs in Ghana on nutrition using soy and Moringa. My son Makafui, who turns 23, May 9, completes his first degree studies in Architecture in May. He will require a postgraduate to qualify him as a practicing Architect. Toni and Selma, aged 17 and 15 respectively are back to school after the Easter holidays.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer, giving and sometimes your physical presence as you visit these communities.

God richly bless you, your families and congregations.

In His Service,

Mozart Adevu

To support me as a missionary, my advance number is 13996Z

To support my program in Sustainable Agriculture and Development, the advance number is 982188