



## Newsletter 31, December 2025

Dear friends,

For years, it has been a good practice to send you a PCC – Hand in Hand Newsletter towards the end of the year, and we would like to do the same at the end of 2025. We hope you will enjoy being informed about all developments in our Community and of our residents, as well as about our Outreach activities.

Looking back on the past year on a global scale, we certainly are not happy about it; quite the opposite.



Huge (geopolitical) storms are troubling our planet, with world leaders who only nurture their egos and subordinate everything and everyone to that. Let us, against all odds, dare to hope that the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the anticipation of a New Earth will overcome all evil forces, at His time.

### Looking back at PCC in 2025

As almost always, every year has its ups and downs, and we see this in PCC as well. In 2025, there were many joyful moments and positive developments, but

we were also confronted with sad and sorrowful events.

### New Resident

We recently welcomed another new resident: Isaiah, approximately 4 years old, from Sefwi Wiawso (WNR), where he was abandoned early morning at a bus station earlier this year.

He came to our Community in October via Kumasi Children's Home.

Isaiah has an intellectual disability and suffers from epilepsy.

He is very welcome here!



### Pakor and Kofi Asare passed away

Sadly, we recently had to say goodbye to two residents.

Pakor lived at PCC for over 20 years, where he preferred to do his own thing as a result of his autism and Down syndrome. Sadly, Pakor became increasingly weak over the past two years due to a neurological condition. He ultimately passed away in a hospital in Techiman. May he rest in peace.



Every death is painful, but the passing of the remarkable Kofi Asare has hit our Community particularly hard. He was our great Music Master, our unparalleled drummer and singer with his raw and deep voice, the leader of the Kofi Asare Music Group, and so much more.



Over the 30 years he lived at PCC, Kofi Asare's health declined a little each year. His walking deteriorated, and he suffered from high blood pressure and other symptoms of aging. His passing, however, was unexpected and deeply mourned by everyone at PCC. We will have to move on without this remarkable resident of our Community.

*Kofi Asare, when we sing "**(Little) Drummer Boy**" at Christmas, we will think of you above all! Rest in peace.*

### **Sick Residents**

Almost all the residents of PCC are doing well, but there are also some residents with fragile health, such as Afia, Samson, Yaa Yaa, Markus and William. We are doing everything we can to optimize their condition.

### **The wall is tumbling down**

Few things are so strong that they can withstand the ravages of time, and we see this happening in PCC as well. This applies, for example, to the hundreds of meters of brick walls surrounding the entire PCC site. This wall was built decades ago and is now weathered in many places. Sections regularly collapse, especially after stormy and rainy weather.

That's why we're planning a major renovation for 2026, so that the wall can no longer, as in the famous "**Battle of Jericho**" simply collapse, even if people walk around it for seven days!

You can find a beautiful version of this song online from the **Adventist Vocal Ensemble**. Highly recommended!

### **Water Tank**

Walls and paths are collapsing, and also overhead water tanks can't last forever. Our large tank was leaking more and more, but thanks to a generous donation and lots of efforts, it has been replaced with a robust new tank.



*Quite a challenge indeed, just look....*

### **We're back on track...**

The paths at PCC were also severely weathered, but thankfully, thanks to the help of the church in Bodegraven, they have been completely restored. No one is stumbling anymore while walking! PCC-Hand in Hand is on its way and we can't say that for everyone.....:



## OUTREACH

Over the years, the Outreach program has become an increasingly important part of the PCC activities.

Key pillars of this work include frequent visits to all villages in the wider Nkoranza area, public education in churches, at antenatal clinics, and via FM radio broadcasts, conversations with village elders and parents, providing aids such as wheelchairs, (free) access to epilepsy medication, physiotherapy etc., and, last but not least, running Daycare centres.

## Daycares

Currently, four Daycare centres are active. In the village of Kyeradeso, we recently **purchased a plot of land** to build a new DC, as we are currently residing there in temporary housing. Construction will begin early 2026!



*Joe Emma at the new plot for the DC*

In Forikrom, we are also situated in temporary housing, an old church, and we recently agreed to rent that building for a few more years because we are happy with its central location in town.

## Emmanuella and Stephen's Exams

It may be hard to imagine, but our Community's two Senior High students, Emmanuella and Stephen, will be graduating in just a few months! They will be concluding another phase in their lives, a truly special occasion.

We are proud of these two young people, who have developed incredibly well at

PCC over the years. We look forward to their future with great confidence!



## WE ARE LOOKING FOR TALENTED PEOPLE!



To ensure the smooth running of all the work in Ghana and the Hand in Hand - support foundation in the Netherlands, a lot needs to happen. Not only in the Ghanaian community, but also in the Netherlands / Europe, through work in the (digital) background.

We're short on people to tell our story effectively, so we'd like to appeal to our newsletter readers – **WE NEED YOU!**

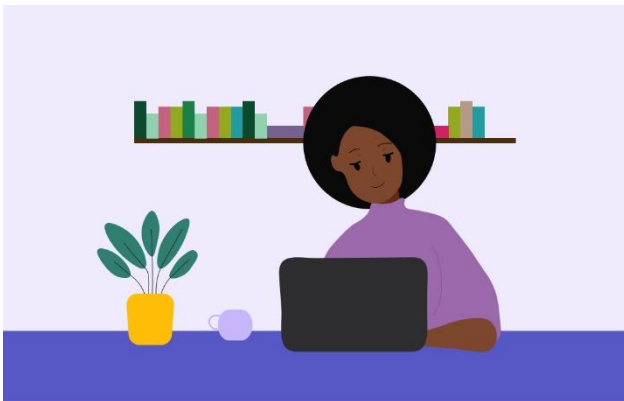
Specifically, we are currently looking for **three people with special talents:**

### A Website Guru:

Are you handy with WordPress? We are looking for someone who can technically optimize our website, manage plugins, and ensure we are easily found online.

### **A Copywriter:**

Someone who knows how to find the right words, for (re)writing website texts or editing our newsletters.



### **A Creative Designer:**

Someone with an eye for imagery who takes charge of the look and feel of our campaigns and social media.

Are you (or do you know) someone who would like to dedicate a few hours a month to the residents of PCC? **GREAT!**

You can apply directly to Albert: [handinhandcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandcommunity@gmail.com) or Maarten van Minnen: [deesma@xs4all.nl](mailto:deesma@xs4all.nl)

### **Caregivers Day**

In 2025, we celebrated **our 10th Caregivers Day**, always a highlight of the year.

This is not only so for the caregivers, but certainly also for the residents, because who doesn't love a wonderful party?

And it certainly was!

Many thanks to all dedication and good care of our caregivers.



### **Sponsorship**

There are still children for whom we could use full or partial sponsorship. See our website, including the homepage, for more information.

You can also obtain more information from Jeannette Klein, our sponsorship administrator:

[sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl](mailto:sponsors@operationhandinhand.nl) or [handinhandpcc@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandpcc@gmail.com)

### **Finally**

That concludes this 31<sup>st</sup> Newsletter. You're now well-informed again!

You can continue to follow the latest stories about PCC via "Albert's Corner" on the website (with a new story about life at Hand in Hand once a month) via: [www.handinhandcommunity.com](http://www.handinhandcommunity.com)

NB: There is also a link via Facebook: see [PCCHandinHandCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/PCCHandinHandCommunity) and you can also follow us on Instagram: see [@operationhandinhand](https://www.instagram.com/operationhandinhand)



*Joël enjoying his special bike*

Warm regards and thank you for all your support and interest, also on behalf of Joe Emma, Jeannette, and all the residents and staff of Hand in Hand!

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