

Lunga no.14



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Referat af foreningsmødet 3.12.19 i Stenløse Kulturhus

Foreningen afholdt d. 3. december et offentligt møde om ”**Religion, magt og hverdagsliv i Ghana**”, hvor Karen Lauterbach holdt foredrag ud fra sin mangeårige forskning i Ghana. Karen er ph.d. og lektor ved Center for Afrikastudier på Københavns Universitet. Mødet var arrangeret af Lise Drewes, Lisbeth B. Knudsen og Henriette Nordvig og blev holdt nord for København i Stenløse kulturhus.

Siden 2004 har Karen forsket i hvad religion betyder for folks hverdagsliv i Ghana, hovedsagelig blandt kristne i det sydlige Ghana. Karen's ph.d. afhandling (fra 2009) handlede om unge præster i karismatiske, evangeliske eller pinsevækkelseskirker i byen Kumasi. I foredraget fokuserede hun på forskellige aspekter af det religiøse liv og tro, og især hvad der er i spil, når en ung mand bliver præst og hvordan den spirituelle magt opfattes i forskellige religioner.

Overordnet, og ifølge befolkningsoptælling i 2010 udgør kristne 71,2 % af befolkningen, muslimer udgør 17,6 % og traditionel religion 5,2 % og 5,3 uden religion. Der er en stigning i muslimer og pentekostale/karismatiske kristne og et fald i hvad der i Ghana kaldes de ortodokse kirker, eller mainline kirker, som fx er metodist kirken og den katolske kirke.

Altså: Ghana er et multi-religiøst samfund med et muslimsk nord og et kristent syd, dog med væsentlige varianter, fx er der en stor katolsk menighed i det nordlige Ghana. Der er en del overlap på tværs af religioner, fx at der findes en del katolikker som også identificerer sig som karismatiske, og at nogle af de mere spektakulære karismatiske / pinsekirke præster ligner traditionelle præster (og især neo-traditionelle præster) meget, især i forhold hvordan de viser at de besidder spiritual magt og i de religiøse eller spirituelle services de tilbyder folk, som fx helbredelse, forudsigelser (prophesying) osv.



Mange kirker annoncerer deres budskaber

Spirituel magt spiller f.eks. en stor rolle på tværs af forskellige religioner og ofte er det de samme problemstillinger der tages hånd om af religiøse ledere og eksperter. I traditionel eller oprindelige religion er tilbedelsen af såkaldte helligdomme eller shrines vigtigt, samt troen på en gud og diverse kategorier af ånder, der fx er bosiddende i vand, eller i træer. Ånder er enten knyttet til et bestemt sted, men kan også flytte sig.

Foredraget indeholdt en god blanding af på den ene side overordnet information om familie- og samfundsstrukturerne og om levevilkårene – og på den anden side fortællinger om enkeltpersoner eller kirker, herunder hvordan de opstod og evt. blev nedlagt.

Et eksempel fra 2011: En pastor købte noget jord og byggede en kirke, men havde vanskeligheder ved at etablere den og få den til at vokse. Hans forklaringer handlede om, at der var mange ånder og dæmoner i området. På lignende vis forklarede han den udbredte fattigdom i området med, at der var indgået en spirituel pagt med onde ånder, som betyder, at ingen, der bor i området,

ville kunne få succes hverken med deres forretninger eller deres ægteskab. Andre mennesker peger dog samtidig på høvdingen i området som en person, der beholder midler for sig selv, og ikke gør noget for at udvikle området. Tilhørerne kunne stille spørgsmål undervejs, og det gjorde de. På den måde kunne der både opklares nogle tvivls-spørgsmål og sammenlignet med andre steder eller religioner.

Det var et godt og fængslende foredrag, som vi takker Karen mange gange for. Foreningen har fået blod på tanden og vil forsøge at holde lignende møder fremover.

English version

The Danish association arranged a public meeting (in Danish) on the 3rd of December with the title: "Religion, power and everyday life in Ghana". Karen Lauterbach, who is associate professor at the Center of African Studies at University of Copenhagen and has a PhD degree, gave a talk based on her long-lasting research in Ghana. The meeting was arranged by Lise Drewes, Lisbeth B. Knudsen and Henriette Nordvig and took place in Stenløse north of Copenhagen.

Since 2004, Karen has conducted research about the meaning of religion for everyday life of people in Ghana, especially among Christians in southern Ghana. Karen's PhD-project (finished 2009) focused on young pastors in Charismatic Pentecostal churches in Kumasi. In the talk Karen focused on various aspects of the religious life and belief and especially what she had found was at stake when a young man becomes a pastor and how spiritual power is considered in the various religions.

The talk was an excellent mix of – on the one side information on the conditions of families, the structure of the society and the general living conditions – and on the other side stories of single persons or churches, e.g. how the latter were established and eventually closed down.

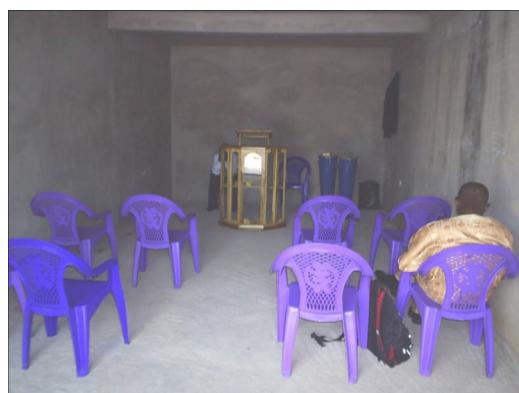
One example of the belief in spiritual power was the story of a pastor, who bought a piece of land and built a church. He explained his experienced difficulties in the establishing and growth of the church by the existence of many spirits and demons in the area. Likewise, the widespread existence of poor people in the area was explained by the existence of a spiritual pact with evil spirits. Consequently, nobody living in the area could ever succeed with their business or in their marriage. Other people stressed that the chief of the area kept resources for himself and did not act in order to develop the area.

Karen underlined, that Ghana is a multi-religious society, with a Muslim North and a Christian South, however, with important variations.

It was possible for the participants in the meeting to interrupt with questions – and they did. This facilitated elaboration of some outstanding issues and comparisons with other regions, countries or other parts of daily life.

It was a very good and catching talk, for which we give Karen very warm thanks. The association feels inspired to continue with meetings of this kind in the future.

By Lisbeth B. Knudsen, Lise Drewes



Små kirker skabt af en enkelt præst er meget almindelige i Ghana

Abdul Sayti at University of Education, Winneba

A small report

Abdul Sayti from YHCG has this year started his education as a diploma student in the University of Education (Winneba). Abdul started this autumn. We have asked him for a little report about his stay.

He writes:

Actually, my stayed in this school for the full semester had being so nice to me. I enjoyed the campus and the environment as well. My studies are going on well and it open my mind to various aspect concerning about African culture and am sure that before I complete the school Youth Home will benefit from it. I got a lot of experienced within my stay, leaving alone, cooking by myself and socialising with other community members, it was too difficult for me but now am used to it.

I have gone through small hardships just because I reported late, all the school hostels were occupied so I had to stay outside campus.

We learnt 6 courses for the semester and that is Elements and Principle of Design, Traditional dance, Orientation to Theatre, Dance Techniques, Theatre Studio 1 and Performing Arts In African Tradition. Every course has 3 credit hours in a week and it only Thursdays that we have two class.

We are about 35 students in the class, and they all come from other regions, 16 boys and 19 ladies.

The school always get performing arts students from other countries for exchange of programs, just recently we had workshops with Germany and Benin students and afterwards another dance group leaders from Finland visit the school and I was lucky to trained them fume dance for the exchange of program.

Am very happy for the association to support me to further my education but am hoping that this will not be the last, because I still need your support to be able to complete the school.

THANK YOU!

Abdul Sayti



Salg fra syværkstedet i efterår 2019

Vi solgte varer fra syværkstedet på et velbesøgt marked i Galgebakken, Albertslund i september 2019. Salget gik rigtig godt og der var stor interesse for vore varer, kjoler, forklæder, punge, hårbånd, slips og butterflyes. Vi solgte også varer på vores medlemsmøde i december i Stenløse og Lise har solgt en del varer fra sin bolig i Albertslund. Der er stor ros til kvaliteten af syarbejdet samt til de mange flotte mønstre i batik og waxprint.

I begyndelsen af året vil vi bestille nye ordre i Ghana. Henriette Nordvig har påtaget sig opgaven med at rådgive syværkstedet mht. mønstre og farver og de vil producere efter ordrer fra os. Vi har udviklet flere markeder i 2020, som vi vil sælge på bl.a. Couleur Cafe i København i juni 2020.

Alt overskud går via foreningen direkte til Youth Home.

English version

Selling of products from the Sewing Workshop.

We have at two occasions sold dresses, aprons, purses, ties and tiebows from the Sewing Workshop. Our customers have indeed been very interested in designs, patterns and the quality of our products. At our meeting in December, we also run a little shop and Lise has as well sold from her apartment in Albertslund. In 2020 we are going to join more markets in Denmark and order more items from the Sewing Workshop. Henriette Nordvig will manage this. Especially we are interested in the African festival Couleur Café in Copenhagen in June 2020. All our earnings is handed over to Youth Home through our association.



Short news from Ghana

Youth Home Cultural Group to US, Oregon University

20 members from the group has now been selected for the tour to US, which is supposed to take place in April 2020.

Hafiz, Rest in Peace

It is very sad to announce that the tailor Hafiz has passed on 28th December 2019.

Hafiz has in long periods worked as a volunteer leader of the Sewing Workshop.

He has stayed at the hospital for a long time. Our thoughts are at Youth Home and his family and small children for their loss.

If anybody in the association want to become a sponsor for a child in Ghana, please contact us for the support of Hafiz' children.

