

# Cocalico Pride

Spring 2014

Volume 2, Issue 3

## SAVE THE DATE

### Cocalico Education Foundation:

April 12 - Spring Yard Sale

### Cocalico School District:

April 12 - Sr. Citizen's Social at Cocalico High School

April 13 - Music In Our Schools Program at Cocalico High School

May 18 - Ice Cream Social at Cocalico Stadium

EVERY THURSDAY - High School Library Evening Hours - 6:00-8:00

## Featured Alumnus Crystal Gosnell Class of 1996



A typical day in the life of Crystal Gosnell is anything but "typical." Crystal is the Director of Education at the Ministry of Mercy Orphanage in Nigeria as well as a Libenzell USA missionary. She is located in a bush village without consistent electricity or running water and no phone service. She was the only non-Nigerian for many miles, until her cousin joined her this year for a 4-year stay. The orphanage houses close to 300 children from preemies through university-level students. *"I often keep premature or extremely at-risk infants in my home until they are strong enough to go to an aunty in the main building (I've had almost 50 children over the past 8 ½ years). I currently have eight children: boys, 14 and 12, who are biological brothers with congenital birth defects; an adopted son that is six who was born two months premature and weighed 2 ½ pounds at eight days old; a girl, four, who was less than 4 pounds and had breathing problems as an infant and has mild cerebral palsy; twin boys, aged 2, who were both about 3 pounds; a boy, one, who was also about 4 pounds when he was brought to the orphanage; and a 1-week-old baby girl who weighed in at just under 5 pounds. In addition, we have a 3-month-old who stays with us during the day while her aunty works with us, and a severely malnourished 5-year-old, whose father is working as a security guard at the orphanage, who stays with us while his father works, sometimes day-shift, sometimes night-shift. Most of our children are motherless and come a few days after birth because their mothers died in childbirth, most often from post-partum hemorrhaging. I am also the director of education and run the nursery and primary school, as well as oversee the secondary students and university students who go to boarding schools. I'm in charge of everything having to do with education, from curriculum development to bus driving. Through the help of many donors and my wonderful Nigerian co-laborers, I've been able to build a nursery school, have started a playground, and hope to begin work on the primary school building in the next year or so. A big challenge that we are working on right now is curriculum development. Sadly, the state of education is in very bad shape. Many teachers at local schools don't even bother to come to school every day or to teach when they are there. Since the students lack the skills they need to pass the national tests, teachers charge students money to take the exams for them. Exam malpractice is rampant. At our school, we are training our teachers how to teach using other methods than rote memorization and copying from the board (which is common even at the preschool level). Change is a long process, though. For example, I would like to add writing into our English curriculum. However, my teachers have never been taught how to write, so first I must teach my teachers how to write, and then I must teach them how to teach writing, and then I must help them find ways to train their students to acclimate to these new methods of learning. There is a huge learning curve, and a 'simple' change can take years to implement. I also help out with administrative duties for the orphanage, play with kids, etc. Daily living is fairly labor and time-intensive too. Everything is cooked from scratch; we sometimes have to fetch water for daily use; washing clothes is by hand; etc. (Continued on Page 2)*



A typical day may mean 8-12 hours in town trying to get shopping done for 2-4 weeks (It's about an hour's drive away.) It may mean inserting an NG tube into an infant for feeding purposes. It may mean waiting in the rain all day while our 6<sup>th</sup> graders take a test to attempt to gain admission into secondary school. It may mean giving blood to help an anemic baby get a transfusion. It may mean going to the cashew farm to harvest cashew nuts. It may mean teaching Sunday school and then taking an after-church nap. It may mean hiking down to the stream (about 15 min.) with a group of kids to go swimming. It almost always means changing multiple dirty diapers. It may mean working on a generator or a broken toilet. It may mean making a birthday cake or butchering a pig. It may mean so many things." As long as Crystal can remember, she wanted to run an orphanage. "When I realized there weren't a lot of 'Little Orphan Annie' orphanages in the states anymore, I decided I would pursue teaching inner-city high school instead. God had other plans, though, and opened a door for me to work at an orphanage after all. For my cross-cultural, I spent a semester living with host families in Tanzania and doing research on child labor and its effects on education. During that trip, I really felt called to work in Africa, but I didn't know where or in what capacity. On returning to the States, I met a woman from Nigeria who had begun attending my home church. Her brother was the proprietor of Ministry of Mercy Orphanage in Nigeria, so I started traveling with her when she would go home to visit her family in the summer. I did that for four years before I eventually moved to Nigeria permanently."



Crystal has lived in Nigeria for nine years and has been involved with Ministry of Mercy for almost 13 years, visiting four years prior to moving there in 2005. "Nigeria is a beautiful country, and I love the people. The group of people that I work with is primarily the Igala people. It's a different world, though. It is a land of abundant natural resources yet rampant poverty (due to rampant corruption, tribal conflicts, and poor infrastructure). I don't worry about my safety – not because there is no reason to, but because I choose to be wise but not worried – I take precautions and realize that God is my ultimate security. Road and vehicles are often in poor repair and driving can be hairy at times (I've been in an accident before – no injuries). I've been attacked and almost abducted at gun point by armed robbers on our compound. I am well aware of the dangers, but I'm not afraid. We often like to say that the safest place to be is in the center of God's will. However, that's not true. It is the BEST place to be, but it's not always a SAFE place. We have the promise that we WILL have troubles in this world, but we also have the promise that HE has already overcome the world and He has given us a peace that passes understanding. A big pro, as a mom, is being able to raise my son in an environment that is fairly free of electronic entanglements. Instead, he gets to run around outside and be a kid – cutting grass with a machete, killing and roasting up field mice, playing pick-up games of football (soccer), and going to the stream to wash clothes and bathe. One common misconception I think people have about the way we live in Nigeria is that everything that's not 'American' is backwards or bad. This is not true – while there are very many things that would help to improve quality of life, not everything that is different is bad. There are many positive things about life in Nigeria, and I find myself giving thanks for all the blessings I have here. I have a roof over my head, access to water (running water when we are able to pump it to the overhead tanks) and electricity (usually for at least three hours a night via generator), children to love, people who love me, a beautiful place to call home. Yes, there are challenges and days that are unbelievably hard, but that's not the whole picture."

Crystal had the opportunity to come back to the states for a visit last fall. She tries to get back every four years, so she doesn't anticipate another trip until 2017. While home, she was able to visit her parents who still live in the same house in which she grew up in. However, her siblings are spread out across the US. One sister lives close by in York County, but her one brother lives in Hawaii, and the other brother lives in North Carolina. "During my most recent time in the States, I had the privilege of sharing with the Wednesday morning Bible Study group at the high school. Also, my dad, though my youngest brother graduated from Cocalico in 2004 or 2005, continues to go to every CHS football game. So when my son and I are in the States, that's one of the special things he does with his Pop-Pop. He LOVES it and is a huge fan, both of American football and the Cocalico football team. He hopes to play for the Cocalico Eagles one day. After hearing how Tom (my son) was so broken-hearted the first time someone scored first against Cocalico this past season, and started sobbing in the stands, Coach Gingrich and the CHS football team gifted Tom with a CHS football t-shirt and Cocalico football and invited him to come down to the field pre-game to meet the players." Crystal mentioned that she enjoyed her high school years at Cocalico. "The staff was certainly a strength of the school. There are so many wonderful men and women of integrity who truly cared about their students. I was involved in newspaper, yearbook, drama, jazz band, concert band, marching band, chorus, Kids Helping Kids, Wednesday morning Bible study, Peer Mediation, and...um I think that's it! Attending Atlantic Coast Championships at Lackawanna County Stadium with the marching band was definitely a highlight. Mostly it's just myriad small meaningful moments and interactions with faculty and other students that added up to a great experience. What I think I took away most from my teachers at CHS was that when you are a teacher, you are a teacher of children first and of your subject area second. Excellence in your subject area counts, but it is empty without empathy for and love of the lives you are privileged in which to take part." Crystal



does have the opportunity to keep in touch with former classmates and teachers. "Many of them support the work we are doing here in Nigeria through finances, prayers, resources, and just allowing me to pick their brains when I need advice on educational issues."

In the little spare time that she has, Crystal enjoys reading and baking. She loves music, and she brought her trombone with her to Nigeria, so she pulls it out every once in a while (usually for her annual 4th of July parade she stages in her living room with her kids). SEE MORE ABOUT CRYSTAL GOSNELL ON PAGE 9.

# SENIOR CITIZEN SOCIAL

April 12 6-9pm

Cocalico High School



*Free food, games, music, and prizes will be available!  
Come out for a night of fun, and bring a friend to  
share the good times!*



The Cocalico Education Foundation will be holding their next community yard sale on the Denver Elementary School parking lot on April 12th from 7am -12pm. Student organization groups will be selling baked goods and food items.

# “Rock ‘n’ Roll Is Here to Stay...!”

Cocalico Union in the Fifties and Sixties

By

Peter W. Riffle, Class of ‘64

“Rock ‘n’ roll is here to stay; it will never die!” This new wave of music totally engulfed most teenagers in the Fifties and Sixties, that’s for sure. It has long been said that music defines a generation; in our case, I couldn’t agree more. Since my brother is five years older than I am, I was introduced to rock music while still in elementary school. Our parents’ generation thought it was a total waste of time and wondered why we were listening to this trash. Argumentatively, the first mega-hit rock ‘n’ roll record was *Rock Around the Clock* by Bill Haley and His Comets. This record was released in late ‘55 and was an instant success. As fate would have it, in 1956 Dick Clark took over a show called *American Bandstand* out of Philadelphia, and the rest is history. Most of us rushed home from school in order to watch kids from Philly doing all of the many latest dances. These teenyboppers became local celebrities in Philadelphia and eventually nationwide. One of my classmates (see Connie, I still remember this!) couldn’t wait until she turned 13, the minimum age to attend the show, and could go on *Bandstand* with her older sister. The top recording stars would also be on Clark’s show and lip-sync their records. I can’t speak for anyone else, but I always thought they were actually singing. Duh, I’m clueless! Many of our parents even thought this type of music was obscene; in fact, songs like *Wake up Little Susie* and others, too, were banned on certain radio stations for being too sexually suggestive. If they could only hear today’s songs, they’d roll over in their graves. I define rap music as three guys spitting in a microphone repeatedly saying “your mama” while somebody scratches a record. Hmm... I sound like my parents. My parents were wrong, but I’m right!



Elvis hit the scene in 1956 and teenagers went crazy for his “curled lip and moving hips!” *Elvis the Pelvis* was deemed too risqué and was prohibited from playing certain venues. For example, Elvis played the Grand Ole Opry one time and never went back. He appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show and created a national uproar over his gyrations on stage. Needless to say, there were two sides to this furor: teenagers, particularly the girls, were totally in love with Elvis while the older generation wanted him banned from TV. Ed Sullivan was in a real dilemma because the first night Elvis performed on his show it turned out to be the most watched program in the nation. Someone came up with a plan that

would appease both groups. When Elvis performed on Sullivan’s show a second time, there was a modification to his performance: the camera blocked him out from the waist down! Seriously, that actually happened. A funny sidelight to this occurred when George Gobel, a popular comedian at that time, went on a show to sing and the cameras blocked him out from the waist up! A major technological breakthrough at this time was the transistor radio. This device was about the size of a pack of cigarettes and almost every teenager owned one. You wouldn’t leave home without your radio because, unlike today, not all cars had radios. Do you remember that most car radios were wired independently from the ignition? If you turned off your car, but not the radio, you’d have a dead battery when you tried to start your car the next time. On more than one occasion, a couple “star gazing” and listening to the radio couldn’t rev up their engine when it was time to go home. Should I name names? Nah, but it’s tempting! (Continued on Page 5)

**Do you know someone who would make an interesting Alumnus for our feature? Email [alumni@cocalico.org](mailto:alumni@cocalico.org) or call (717) 336-1413.**

(Continued from page 4) Occasionally, with the atmospheric conditions just right, your transistor radio picked up WLSN out of Cincinnati or WKBW out of Buffalo. We went to great lengths to listen to the poor reception out of those two cities, but I really don't know why because local stations in Philadelphia, York, Lancaster, and Reading also played our music.

Rock 'n' Roll recordings debuted in the small 45 rpm format limiting these records to only two songs. Artists had what was termed an A and B side. The A side was the projected hit song while the flip side was just a "throw-in" recording. On more than one occasion, the B recording became the hit; Buddy Holly's *Peggy Sue* is just one example of that happening. The record players our parents owned had a 45 rpm adapter that fit on the chrome post plus a switch that adjusted the player to 33 1/3, 45, or 72 rpms. These record players were frequently large and not portable, a major drawback as our parents wouldn't allow us to play our music in the living room.



Since *necessity is the mother of invention*, it didn't take electronic manufacturers too long before they began selling small record players that played a stack of 45's. When your friends came to your house, you and your group plus your little 45 player went into your room to play your rock 'n' roll records. One of the problems with these players was that the records frequently skipped, but we soon learned to easily rectify that problem by taping a penny, nickel, or dime on top of the arm above the needle for added weight. A favorite song that I played over and over again, much to the chagrin of my mother, was *Good Golly Miss Molly* by Little Richard. Mysteriously one day this prized record went missing, never to be found again. I couldn't figure out where it went and why I never located it. Many years later my mother admitted to me that she had heard that record one too many times and had thrown it in the garbage. An American musical classic and she trashed it!

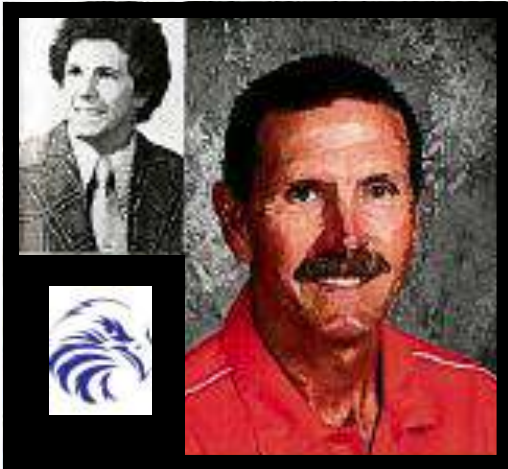
What went hand-in-hand with rock 'n' roll? Dances, of course! These social events were the highlight of every weekend. When a dance was cancelled because of snow or whatever, it was like the world had come to an end for me. Case in point: I had my knee seriously injured in a Saturday afternoon football game my junior year, but I still managed to hobble up the steps that night to attend a dance in the Denver Fire Company. I couldn't walk, let alone dance, but I was there and that was all that mattered to me. The most popular dance venue was the Ephrata Rec Center where kids from CU and Ephrata would converge on a Friday night. Other popular haunts for teenagers were the Brickerville Fire Company, the Adamstown Y, and the Schoeneck Fire Company. During summer months the local pools also sponsored dances and rec swims. I'm sure I'm forgetting some places, but at my age that's the least of my problems. Naturally, there were also school dances throughout the year. These dances were dress-up affairs with the boys in sport coats and ties while the girls wore dresses or skirts and blouses. The songs played at these school dances were censored, I'm sure.

**Question:** I remember the DJ at the Schoeneck Fire Company during the early 1960's played the same song at the end of every evening. I think the title was *Town Crier*. Do any of you remember this song? If that isn't the title, what was it? E-mail me and let me know if you have any recollection of such a song.

Every school had at least one rock 'n' roll band; a local band called the Velaires occasionally played at our dances. Dave Heinaman '64 played in that band along with some other area musicians. Rock shows were touring the country, and I remember they were the back-up band for Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles. Little Eva of *Locomotion* fame played at the Ephrata War Memorial Stadium, and her back-up band was also a local group. I recall how different she sounded that night compared to her record. I guess a sound studio does a better job of providing good acoustics than a football stadium. Following a dance almost everyone went to the 222 Drive-in, commonly referred to as the Triple Duce (now Two Cousins Pizza and Restaurant) which was located on Route 222 (now 272) just south of Reamstown. Remember Arnold's from *Happy Days*? Well, our hangout was the next closest thing. The Duce, which had no seating at that time, did an overflow business every Friday and Saturday night. Guys who owned the "cool wheels" would proudly park their cars where they could be admired by all of the kids. I parked my black and white '53 Chevy in a spot where it wouldn't be seen; that junker used more oil than it did gas. My brother named it the "blue cloud" and for a good reason. When the cool guys were ready to leave, they took their hot cars to the far end of the parking lot, waited until the road was clear, then pulled out and lit up their tires. You probably could have scraped enough rubber off that road to create a new set of tires!

Ah, those were the days. Hope you enjoyed this installment of *Happy Days* at CU in the Fifties and Sixties. As always, if you have any thoughts or comments, please contact me at [peter@thecloudchaser.net](mailto:peter@thecloudchaser.net).  
GO EAGLES! - Peter Riffle

# Teacher in the Spotlight



# Tracy Ross

Tracy Ross started out his career with Cocalico School District as the only elementary gym teacher. He would travel to Denver, Reamstown, Adamstown, and Schoeneck Elementary to teach his students. After teaching P.E. for 20 years on the elementary level, he came to the high school to teach the next 15 years. "I have seen numerous building and facility projects over the years. I started here at Cocalico when the weight room was a hallway with a bench and a bar. There was a closet with a Universal Gym in it. I appreciate what we have now and how far we've come." In addition to teaching health/P.E., Mr. Ross has coached football, track, cross country, and elementary wrestling. He is also the Certified Athletic Trainer for the district. Mr. Ross graduated from Lock Haven University where he played football and threw shot put and discus on the track team. "I was lucky enough to graduate from college and get a job in the Cocalico School District. I grew up in the 'Sweetest Place on Earth' (Hershey), and had the privilege of teaching for 35 years at the 'Best Kept Secret in Lancaster County' (Cocalico). I am very fortunate." Mrs. Audrey Stoner, former Athletic Director, added, "Tracy has dedicated above and beyond his time and duty to Cocalico athletes. You could always count on Tracy to be prepared for all kinds of weather and have any gadget to fix everything. The district will have a tough time finding someone as dedicated. I appreciated all that he has done for Cocalico athletes." Mr. Ross noted that he likes the fact that with teaching, every day is different and that the days fly by quickly. "I enjoyed seeing the students grow during the school year, and seeing them off for the summer break!" Mr. Ross looks forward to using his retirement to enjoy his hobbies which include hunting, fishing, skiing, biking, running, weight lifting and traveling. **Happy Retirement Mr. Ross!**



*Please send us your Class Reunion pictures! We will put them in the Newsletter!*

# THE COCALICO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NOW HAS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

On February 18, 2014, the Cocalico Alumni Association held its first board meeting. Alumni present were Peter Riffle ('64), C. Jay Herzog ('64), Sue VanZant ('69), John Weaver ('69), Lesley Stricker ('87), Janice Daub ('91), Kristy Firestone ('92) and Shannon McCauley ('97). Board member Kathy Schlegel ('64) was unable to attend.

On March 12, 2014, the Cocalico Alumni Association held its second board meeting and appointed Peter Riffle as President and Jay Hertzog as Secretary. The following committees and committee chairs were also appointed; Membership Committee – Peter Riffle, Chair; Events Committee – Janice Daub, Chair; Newsletter Committee – Lesley Stricker, Chair; and Facebook Committee – Shannon McCauley, Chair.

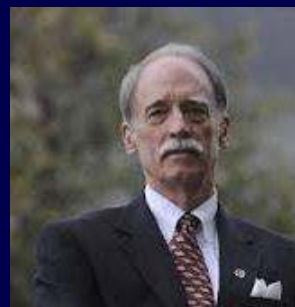
Board meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, starting at 4:30 pm (time can be changed to accommodate other members) and will be held at the Administrative Office of the Cocalico School District.

We are still looking for board members and committee members. If you have an interest, please email Lesley at [alumni@cocalico.org](mailto:alumni@cocalico.org) or call 717-336-1413.

President: Peter Riffle -  
Class of '64 (left)



Secretary: C. Jay Hert-  
zog - Class of '64 (right)





**Do you know a Cocalico graduate who has an interesting talent or career? The Alumni Association is looking for alumni to feature in upcoming issues of the newsletter. We have many talented and successful classmates, but we need your help reaching out to them. We would also love to hear your suggestions for upcoming articles in the newsletter. Please email us at [alumni@cocalico.org](mailto:alumni@cocalico.org).**



# 8th Annual Iron Chef Cocalico



**This year's Cocalico Education Foundation's Iron Chef event was a huge success. With over 25 vendors with items to sample, a People's Choice Meatball Competition, a silent and live auction, a live cooking competition, and many raffles, there was plenty to see and do. (and taste!)**

**For a second year in a row, Chef Kelly Kapinos of Reflections won the live cooking competition that included Chef Taylor Boettger of Lily's on Main and David Shefter of Penn Werner Hotel. Chris Incovaia of Chris' New York Pizzeria took home first place in the People's Choice Meatball Competition.**

**Despite a forecast for a wintery mix Sunday evening, 550 people attended the event and helped to raise over \$20,000.00 for the Cocalico Education Foundation.**



Silent Auction Items



Many Vendor Samples to Try!



Live Cooking Competition



Evening Emcees:  
John Witmer-  
"Voice of  
Lancaster  
Barnstormers and  
Casey Allyn of  
"WIOV"

## Our Featured Alumni, Crystal Gosnell, shared an account of a robbery that took place at her orphanage in Nigeria in June of 2013.

On Sunday, June 16, sometime between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m., armed robbers entered the Ministry of Mercy compound. On entering, they questioned the first person they saw, one of our female staff. They then struck her and told her to go inside. They stole 2,000 naira (app. \$18) from her room. They then proceeded into the boys' dorm, looking for Daniel (our proprietor) who was in a meeting in the office with his wife, myself, Sabo, and Joshua. As they entered the building, all our boys, who were in the hall doing their evening studying ran out in a panic. Daniel and some of the other staff ran out to see what was happening. On encountering the armed robbers, they began hitting Daniel and demanding that he give them money. There was no cash on ground, and thinking of what he could possibly offer them, he brought them to the office to offer them our laptops. He was surprised, on entering to find me still there. In all the confusion, I was not able to make out what was happening right away, and some of the children had joined me in the office, so I wanted to stay with them. They allowed the children to go out unharmed, and then they pushed both Daniel and I to the floor and began slapping us on the face and head demanding money, car keys, laptops. We told them we had no money but that they were free to take the laptops. The man then grabbed my keys from my hand and demanded to know if they were my car keys. When I told him no, he threw them down and began demanding my money again. I told him that I don't even keep any money on ground. He then said that I must have a bank account and that I will give him my ATM card and PIN. That meant going to my house, and I did not know if word had reached my children about what was going on, or if they were still in the house. I told him that I needed my keys, so he scrambled around the office trying to locate where he'd thrown them. He and another man then forced me down to the house, still at gun-point (I think it was an M9; they also carried AK-47s and other sophisticated weaponry). At this point, I do not know what was happening up on the main compound, (although I do know that at some point they entered Joshua's room and threatened his wife. He had been able to escape out the back and run to the village to get a gun and pursue the thieves by circling around), but as we went down to the house, I told them that I would not enter the house with them and give them anything unless they let my children leave the house unharmed first. They agreed and told me not to worry. Praise God, when we reached the house, it was clear that my children had already left the house for safety! On seeing my car, they said I would give them the keys to the car and all the original paperwork. As we entered the house, they collected my laptop from the parlor and then forced me to my room where they had me empty my purse from which they picked about 600 naira (\$4). They then demanded to know where the REAL money was, the DOLLARS. I had about \$100 in small bills (which cannot be exchanged here), which I gave to them. They then collected the ATM card and PIN. They also asked for my phone, at which point I laughed and said that I'd lost it some time ago and didn't even know where it was. They didn't push the point. In the meantime, Joshua and some members of the village vigilante group had begun firing. The two men with me became very anxious and nervous, not knowing who was shooting at whom, and so they hustled me out of the house. They took me back up onto the compound and to the main gate, where they told me I would go first in case the vigilantes were preparing to shoot them as they exited the compound. Just before they opened the gate, I shouted "DADDY" so that if our people were out there, they would hear my voice and know I was there. They were not happy with me and told me not to shout and then pushed me out the gate. As we went toward their car, parked up the road, about 3-4 other men joined us. They continued to use me as a human shield until they got to their car, at which point they said I was free to go back (despite their previous threats to abduct me). I ran back to the compound where some of the children, on seeing me through their bedroom window, said I should come and sit with them. I did so, and we sat there quietly praying and singing until we recognized the faces and voices of people from the village outside the window. The all clear was given, and we began determining what had been taken, accounted for all of the children and staff (Esther's mother was missing, but later found where she had run to hide in the bush), and called police, government officials and friends to let them know what had happened and to seek their assistance. We also called the bank to block my ATM card. The bank did so and informed me that the thieves had not been able to withdraw anything prior to my call. There was no loss of life, and apart from some minor bruising sustained by Daniel and Sabo's wife, there were no injuries. In all, the robbers made off with a few cell phones, most of our flashlights, 3 laptops, and less than 15,000 naira (\$100). God was truly with us throughout the ordeal.

The children seem to be doing okay with everything, after the initial trauma of thinking Daddy (Daniel) had been killed. They all showed bravery throughout - from Iko and Enejo going back to carry our boys in wheelchairs even while those boys were crying that Daniel (Iko and Enejo's biological father) had been killed, to Junior who attempted to get outside to let the dogs out. We had the day off from school yesterday, which gave the children a chance to sit around with the adults as we welcomed visitors who came to offer their sympathies, giving them a chance to process everything.

Personally, I am doing fine. Throughout the whole thing, I truly felt the Peace of God, which is a peace that passes all understanding. I didn't feel anger or fear (although I do have to admit that there were some moments of uncertainty as to what the correct answer was to avoid the trigger being pulled). My main concern was for my kids, and I am so thankful they were spared from all of it. Their main concern was if I was going to buy another laptop so they can watch the videos from my camera. In fact, throughout much of it, the thieves seemed to be more scared and worried than I was. (continued on page 11)

## Cocalico Alumni Association

Cocalico School District  
P.O. Box 800  
Denver, PA 17517  
Phone: 717-336-1413  
Email: [alumni@cocalico.org](mailto:alumni@cocalico.org)



### DID YOU KNOW?

Senior Citizens, age 65 & over, living within the Cocalico School District are eligible for special lifetime passes which admit them without charge to all HOME sporting, drama, and musical events. These passes can be obtained by visiting the Administration Office at the front of the senior high school during normal business hours.

## Goals of the Cocalico Alumni Association

- ◆ Let people know about upcoming events and reunions
- ◆ Help Alumni get in touch with other alumni
- ◆ Raise awareness of the Cocalico Education Foundation and all of the great things the organization does for the community
- ◆ Keep alumni connected to what is happening



(Robbery Account continued from Page 10)

And in an interesting twist: Sunday night, shortly after the attack, a friend called one of the stolen cell phones (not realizing it had been stolen). The thieves ANSWERED the call, and began saying that they only came there because they'd heard that someone had given us 20 million naira. Then, the next day, THEY called US, saying that they had not known what kind of a place it was. They'd just been told that someone had given us 20 million naira on Saturday and we wouldn't be able to put it in the bank until Monday. They said they were shocked when they came in and just saw children everywhere, some of them even crawling on the ground because they couldn't walk, and their hearts sort of weren't in it anymore, but they had already committed themselves too far. They said they hadn't had peace of mind since. They apologized to Daniel and asked him to forgive them and said that he should be praying for them to stop doing this kind of thing. They sent a special apology to me for slapping me and asked that I also forgive them. Additionally, they said that they never performed this type of operation without killing someone, and that if anyone is shoots at them, they would chase down that person and kill them. They didn't this time because they didn't feel right about what they were doing. When Daniel asked them to restore our laptops to us, they expressed a lot of fear about being caught, so he suggested that they leave it anonymously with our name on it in any church. In a funny twist of irony, they said no, they couldn't do that, some useless thieves, people who steal goats and chickens, would just come and take it. We are praying that they will return them to us. While their "confession" may not be entirely true, there do seem to be some elements of truth in it. We pray that God may use this to turn them from their evil ways. Lord take these hearts of stone, give them hearts for You alone!

Love and blessings, Crystal :)



## ***An Apple a Day* iPad Initiative Has Officially “Picked Off”**

The Cocalico Education Foundation (CEF) recently began an exciting campaign entitled *An Apple a Day*. The focus of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of technology in education and, to more specifically, ask the public to support the campaign by purchasing iPads to be used in K-2 classrooms throughout the district. The ultimate goal of *An Apple a Day* is to raise the necessary funds to purchase 144 iPads. These electronic tablets will allow for greater access to the technology necessary for supporting basic math, reading, writing, and fine motor skills.

*An Apple a Day* supporters have multiple sponsorship levels from which to choose:

**Orchard - \$19,200**

For the purchase of 48 iPads to complete an entire K-2 set for one school

**Tree - \$6,400**

For the purchase of 16 iPads to complete classroom sets for an entire grade level

**Branch - \$1,600**

For the purchase of four iPads to complete a classroom set

**Apple - \$400**

For the purchase of one iPad for use in a K-2 classroom

**Blossom - \$50**

For the purchase of an iPad accessory (i.e., protective case)

**Seed - \$10**

For the purchase of an educational app for the iPad

Please consider supporting this extremely worthy initiative. To make a donation, please

- (1) use PayPal at <http://tinyurl.com/cefappleaday> or
- (2) send a check made payable to Cocalico Education Foundation (800 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 800, Denver, PA 17517).