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### **Recording of the Dagaba music for Mass at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic church, Cape Coast. 12/12/99. Gyil - Samuel Kpielekuu, Choirmaster - Lambert Dogyiire**

Catholic church services in Dagaare are the norm in the Dagaba region around Nandom and all the music used has been composed by a local priest, Father Dominic, who was trained as a musician at the University of Ghana. In the Fanti speaking region of Cape Coast, having a service in Dagaare is comparatively new, in response to the nukbers of Dagaba who now live in the area and are adherents of the church. The service started at 6.30am and was followed by another Mass in Fanti at 9.30am. The priest is not a Dagaare speaker and asked the congregation not to laugh at his errors in reading the service. The readings were by Dagaare speakers and the sermon was given in Fanti and translated into Dagaare.

- 1 Entrance. Hymn for the Annunciation. (Dagaare)
- 2 Hymn (incense). We are looking up to Heaven for God to come down. (Dagaare)
- 3 Announcement by priest (Father Francis) that he will say as much as possible in Dagaare but people should not laugh at his mistakes.
- 4 Blessing of the Holy Water. Confessional hymn (Dagaare): If you confess your sins Christ will welcome you.
- 5 Hymn (Dagaare) - choir only. Asking for forgiveness from God.
- 6 Responses (choir only)
- 7 Hymn after Old Testament reading (Dagaare). The spirit of God has come down on me so that I am able to proclaim his word.
- 8 Hymn after second reading (Dagaare). The spirit of God has come down all over the world.
- 9 Responses
- 10 Alleluia before Gospel.
- 11 After sermon (translated into Dagaare by Vincent Aweh) - Hymn (Dagaare) We have heard the word of God.
- 12 Responses
- 13 First Offering
- 14 Procession from back of church of offerings: money, bread, fruit, yams, water. Hymn (Dagaare) asking God to accept what the people are bringing.
- 15 Start of Communion. Hymn (Dagaare) All help comes from God who is the supreme helper.
- 16 Communion
- 17 Sign of Peace (Greetings exchanged between all present)
- 18
- 19 Advent hymn (Dagaare). Isaiah proclaims the coming of Christ.
- 20 Hymn for second offering (Dagaare). Greetings to Mary for giving them their Saviour.
- 21 Hymn (Dagaare). We have finished the celebration of God's word and give thanks.

### **Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Cape Coast, Bɛwaa group, recorded 18/12/99**

The Catholic primary school associated with the church has its own Bɛwaa group run by 2 of the teachers who are native Dagaba. The leader, Frank Dongbetigr, used to be the leader of the Adisadel Bɛwaa group, but has now given this up owing to pressure of work. The children in the group have a mix of backgrounds; mostly Fanti speakers, with some Dagaare and some Ewe speakers. The headmistress comes, originally, from the USA but has been in Ghana for many years. She is pleased to support the group within the school as part of its policy for intercultural education, and it represents the school on 'cultural' occasions. The children, of course, come mainly for the enjoyment. They told us they especially like the 'bumping' [part of the dance where hips are bumped together.] This is probably now the only school Bɛwaa group in the whole of Ghana including the Dagaba area as the only school near Nandom (Gegenkpe Catholic Primary School) which used to have a group has ceased this activity.

- 22 *Dagaare:* Timi waana yee, timi waana yee. Tibanga be tibɛ banga.  
*Lit Trans:* We have come (response - yee) we have come. Whether we know it or not.  
*Meaning:* Even though our enemies do not expect it, we have been able to succeed.  
*Notes:* Entrance song. Cape Coast version of Ti waana yee  
*Locations:* See also DAT 3 track 11 of this collection
- 23 *Dagaare:* Ya ya kole zɛɛ Ya ya kole zɛɛ Ya ya kole zɛɛ Ya ya o puɔ wa pɛli o i kob  
*Lit Trans:* Keep on begging, (repeated), If she is happy she will give you love

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*Meaning:* If you want a woman who is not interested you should keep up your efforts, they may be rewarded with love

*Notes:* Modern bɛwaa, first heard in Accra in 1986. Doesn't have a dance section associated with it.

- 24 *Dagaare:* Timbɛ langnɛ, timbɛ langnɛ, yee. Pɔɔ bunɔ kong kyen kula.  
*Lit Trans:* I won't pair with you, I won't pair with you, no. Woman who will not go for water.  
*Meaning:* We will not cooperate or work together. You will not do your fair share.  
*Notes:* Written by the Nandom group according to Bangnidong. Nandom wanted its own administration district separate from Lawra to whom they were joined at the time, but you can't say that directly in song. So the song was composed about two wives not wanting to share a husband, but intending a wider meaning.
- 25 *Dagaare:* (Zɔng mɛ) Zɔng bɛ nyɛɛ yee ɛ kyɛ nyuur pataasi. Fu na mi zɔng bɛ nyɛɛ yee ɛ kyɛ nyuur kɔlba puɔ.  
*Lit Trans:* Blind person who cannot see, drink alcohol, even you, blind person who cannot see, drink what is in the bottle  
*Meaning:* If you are blind you should not drink alcohol. Cut your coat according to your size.  
*Notes:* Old song, 1950's. Composed by Sangnuo Borro.
- 26 'Ya ya kole zɛɛ' as before (track 23)
- 27 *Dagaare:* Bye bye, bye bye, bye bye, tikule naa.  
*Lit Trans:* Bye bye, we are going home.  
*Meaning:* Final song to end a performance and announce the departure of the performers.  
*Notes:* Cape Coast song

### Performers

Gyil: Frank Dongbetigr, Kpagru: Lucas Kuunuo, Voice: Agnes Bewaale (Frank & Agnes are teachers at the school). Children: Paul Abayeman, Sharif Tijani, Bety Blay, Theresa Dery, Roland Anzore, Bridget Ananney, Domenica Kaaku (also sings lead on Timbɛ langnɛ), Aloysius Doney.