

## **REVIEW FOR VANNETTA PERRY BY SAMUEL JAPO KOSI KOSIPA**

### **INTRODUCTION**

I met Dr. Vannetta Perry and Dr. Caryl Johnson in the year 2000 when I was a Mathematics teacher at Wusuta Owusu Memorial Junior Secondary (High) School. That was the second coming of Vannetta Perry to Ghana on a study tour in the country.

It was somewhere in the month of March when they paid a visit to Owusu Memorial Junior High School with the expectation of making enquiries on the school system and the nature of the curriculum the school was running at the time of their visit.

Although they could not meet the Headmaster of the school that day, I was of tremendous help to them to get their information. Those that my work ethics could not allow me to give, I assisted them to get them from my Headmaster at the time he was available.

The manner I assisted them brought us close as friends.

Vannetta is a prolific tour writer and planner and was able to do much feasibility studies to determine the possibility of bringing a group down to Ghana for a study tour. Although her stay was short, I believe she had enough information to ascertain whether it was possible for her to bring a group from US down to Ghana.

While Vannetta was back to US in 2000, she was always in touch with me via telephone as telecommunication was not properly developed at that time as compared to the current state in Ghana. We also exchanged letters and she regularly sent gifts to us her friends in Ghana.

Vannetta used 2001 and 2002 to write and prepare for funding for a number of Fulbright Scholars to come to Ghana for an inter-cultural exchange program. This exchange program was to enable the visitors learn the Ghanaian Cultural System, Educational System, Farming System, systems of marriage, Family set –ups and to visit places of tourist and educational interest to the Fulbright scholars. Places visited included Kumasi, Aburi Botanical Garden, Elmina Castle, Kakum National Park and the Walk Way, Dzemeni Market in the Volta Region and hiking at Moutain Afadza.

Because of how deep her relationship is with human beings, Vannetta incorporated people of diverse background in her plans and her activities. People like Dr. Kodzo Gavua, Tsitsi Festus, Daniel Fiakofi and myself, Samuel Japo Kosi Kosipa played vital roles in her planning, teaching and tour stages of the coming of the groups to Ghana in 2003.

Dr. V as I affectionately call her, is a human centered tour planner. Her planning have helped me in so many ways. She made me to do presentations on the educational system and the farming system in Ghana. Her decision to include me in the 2003 project was of much help to me since what I got from the tour as payments and gifts enabled me pay me school fees at the university of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana.

### **THE ARRIVAL OF THE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS.**

The group arrived somewhere July, 2003 stayed in Accra for some days where the group had some lectures and later visited Grace Batik at East Legon. They were taken through lectures on the production of batik, tie and dye fabric there. They later proceeded to Kumasi Garden City. From there we went to Cape Coast and left for Elmina Castle. From there the group continued the tour at the Kakum National Park and Walk Way. The group later went to Cape Coast for Accra and subsequently to Wusuta where they stayed longer for the whole of their coming to Ghana. At Wusuta, they were taking through presentation on Ghana's Educational System, farming system, form of assessments in schools. Group members had the chance to engage in family visit to enable them have hands-on in the Ghanaian family setting, various dishes served and life styles of Ghanaian in the rural communities.

The group while staying in Wusuta, had the opportunity to visit market scene at Dzemeni market in the South Dayi District. Members also had the opportunity to visit Mount Afadza in the Afadzato South District. They had fun games in volley ball and football in Wusuta with the youth from Wusuta.

## **ACCOMMODATION IN GHANA AND WUSUTA.**

Due to proper pre-arrival arrangements made by Dr. Vannetta, good and presentable accommodations were arranged for members to live in while they stay in Wusuta. No group member ever complained of challenges with accommodation.

## **DURBAR FOR GROUP MEMBERS**

Two days to the departure of group members from Wusuta, a durbar was organized by the Chiefs of Wusuta to thank the group members and their organizers for the opportunity to come to Wusuta and study. Study tour members also used the opportunity to present educational materials, sports and recreational materials to the school children in Wusuta. Gifts from chiefs in Wusuta were given to group members and the group members equally said thank you to all. Chiefs of Wusuta took the opportunity to say good bye to the group members.

## **OBSERVATION.**

1. Dr. Vannetta Perry is a good tour planner in such a way that itinerary was designed for all activities for the group members for their stay in the country.
2. Accommodation and food were properly planned that no member had problems with both in the course of their stay in Ghana.
3. Necessary cautions were given to group members where there was the need for them. This was to avoid harm and accidents.
4. People were made to be in charge of the safety of the belongings of group members. This made the stay of the group members free from theft and burglary.
5. Arrangements were made possible for group members to communicate back to relatives and friends in USA at the time of the visit by the group to Wusuta.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Tourist sites are available in Ghana for foreigners to visit at affordable prices. Tour guides are ready and available to conduct tourists at their sites.
2. Resource persons are available to assist any future group that may want to visit Ghana for study tour.
3. Accommodation facilities exist in Ghana and for that matter in Wusuta for people to come and use.

4. Food and beverages of different types are available for use by any group on study in Ghana.
5. Despite the devastating effects of COVID-19, groups are allowed to visit on study tour but they would be required to get vaccinated before arriving in Ghana. While they stay in Ghana, they will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 protocol in order to stay safe.