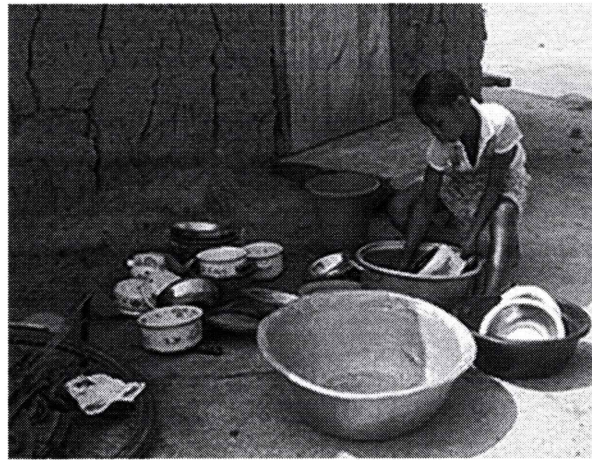


August 2011

## A Day in the Life

Dear Friends, we join Lucy again to finish a day in her life. After Lucy gets out of school at 1:30pm, she goes home to complete her chores. First, Lucy will wash the dishes left over from the day before and few from that morning. There is no water in their outside kitchen, so Lucy will collect water from inside. Then she will bring the water out and wash the dishes outside.



Lucy's next chore is to go into the bush and collect firewood to use for cooking and to sell at the local market. I cannot show you a photo of this because where they collect wood is a restricted area, set aside by the Forestry Department of Ghana. Anyone found and caught in there could be arrested. Sadly, selling this wood at the market is one of the only ways for families to make money. When the villagers go into the forest they are always on high alert to discard the wood they have found and run out of the forest to avoid being apprehended by security. Fetching firewood from the forest involves scouting for pieces of dead wood, or a tree that can be cut and let dry for collecting later. Then any collected wood needs to be safely taken out of the forest and divided between what they will use at home and what they will sell at the market.

After this full day of chores, school and more chores, Lucy and her family will go to bed around 10pm - only to wake up and start it all again the next day!

*Blessings, Ben*