

# From where we stand 'Building Living Bridges'



P. OFORI-ATTA MB., ChB., FRCS.

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# Introduction

- It is a joyous day for all of us.
- Gratitude to engineers for the road, cars etc.
- Mobility essential.
- Bridges – in today's world, may not involve masonry.

# Bridge

- Dictionary-
- A structure carrying a road, path, railway etc over a river or other obstacle.
- The elevated structure/platform on a ship from where the captain and officers direct operations
- Old English noun **brycg**, of German origin, close to the Dutch word **brug**

# Mixed Metaphor

- In life – bridges help sustain human economic activity in this modern fast life.
- It is so important that in anger we punish, we weaken our enemies, we try to starve them by destruction.
- Armies are structured to build emergency bridges.
- We raise funds almost forever from our special bridges from TOLLS.

# London Bridge –The Epitome

- **The River Thames was a very much wider river in the early days of London. When the Romans saw it for the first time it was around five times as wide as we see today.**

# London Bridge Museum & Educational Trust website



## History a)

- London bridge is over the River Thames connecting the City of London and Southwark.
- The first bridge probably military pontoon – Romans 50AD
- 55AD piled bridge by Romans with little trade settlement next to it – Londinium

## History b)

- Bridge destroyed by revolt 60AD by Queen Boudicca
- Rebuilt by the Romans.
- Disrepair of bridge , Londonium abandoned when the Romans left.
- River became boundary between hostile kingdoms –Mercia and Wessex.

## Bridge, almost biblical dimension?

- Saxon bridge – new bridge, political
- 1014 – pulled down by Norwegian Prince OLAF: inspired rhyme ‘London bridge is falling down’.
- Bridge was destroyed by ‘London tornado’ in 1091.
- Repaired with forced labour along with St Paul’s Cathedral and Tower of London- destroyed again by fire 1136.

# Medieval London Bridge

- 19 small arches and a drawbridge with a defensive gatehouse at the southern end. 26' wide
- Underneath waterwheels to drive water pumps and to power grain mills.
- Crowded with buildings 7' each side with tops extended to join the opposite side – tunnel effect.
- Battles were fought on the bridge – Jack Cake
- 1557 – traitors beheaded, dipped in tar to preserve against the elements and impaled on pikes – Jack Cake, Bishop Fisher, Thomas Cromwell.

# World without bridges

- Disrepair of bridge , Londonium abandoned when the Romans left.
- River became boundary between hostile kingdoms –Mercia and Wessex.

# Bridge Congestion and Fires

London Bridge Museum &  
Educational Trust Website

## Traffic regulation

- Constantia (Body) 1722 – congestion on bridge – Lord Mayor decreed – Southwark carts, coaches, carriages into city to keep on Eastern side of bridge and vice versa.
- Possible historical background **UK traffic rules driving on the left.**



# Act of Parliament

- 1756 – permission granted to demolish all the shops and houses on London Bridge.
- Replacement of old London bridge- work began 1824
- A fragment of the old bridge is set into the tower arch inside St Catherine's Church
- In 1896 about 900 people were crossing the bridge every hour
- By 1924 bridge widening showed signs of sinkage

# The Need for a new bridge

- 1968 sinking, taken (Tower Bridge) apart each piece numbered to aid re-assembly – on Rennie's London bridge on Colorado River in Arizona.

# Current Bridge

- Opened by Queen Elizabeth II 17<sup>th</sup> March 1973
- Currently bridge carries part of A3
- A bridge has existed at or near the present site since the Roman occupation nearly 2000 years ago.

# Situation in the developing world

- Poverty
- Poor education
- Poor farming practices / poor storage facilities
- Poor health
- Unhelpful – harsh climatic conditions
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# The Bridge over the Black Volta in Ghana



# The bridge adds beauty to the City of London





Building living bridges may not be so technical

- Supporting Education
- Providing Health Care Improvements
- Helping people to generate self care through wealth
- Motivating people
- Investment in human resources for local communities

## Re-definition of the purpose of a bridge?

- That which promotes the health of the underprivileged.
- The structure that brings our world of cultures, traditions, closer for the benefit of all.
- The 'medium' that seeks to support humanitarian needs of the people home and away.
- The spirit that maintains humane responses to human needs of people on different parts of globe.
- That bridge is what Motec wants to be.

# From where we stand:

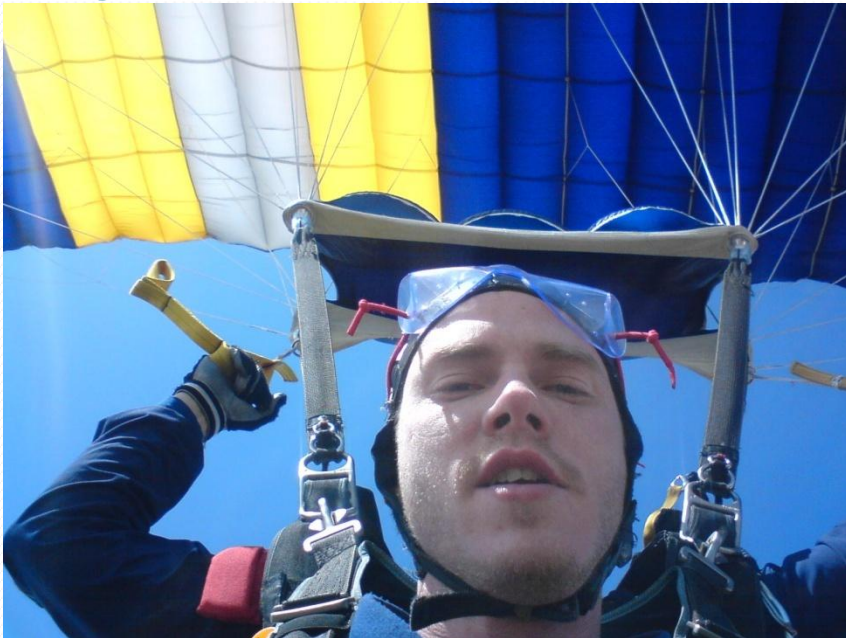
- We should understand the importance of bridge building and the dynamism required.
- We should not expect bridge building to be an easy task.
- We should not let fires or battles stand in our way in building useful links between the world of 'haves' and 'have nots'.
- We should be looking at living lives that makes us 'matter' and prove useful for humanity.

## The Crust

- In reality no life is worthwhile unless it has been useful and made a difference to the people we see or never get to know.
- Our life should matter even when we are long gone.

## Our Children look up to us

**Gary's message- aim for  
higher quality of care**



**Our kids say- Thank you for  
giving us a better chance**



# Thank you

