

# ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

April 6, 2005

Dear GRID Support Team,

Those in Canada and the US have experienced what could be called an "old fashioned winter" with lots of storms and snow. The Spring that we have looked forward to has arrived with newness of life in all that surrounds us. During Easter a large number of people experienced a renewal of spirit in their Christian lives as time has been spent reflecting upon the finished work of Christ upon the cross. It has been said that "the cross of Christ is God's FINAL ANSWER".

We are excited and happy to tell you about the "new things" that are happening in Ghana, even since our return from there last November. I will try to update you from Brenda's very comprehensive report to our Board. "Chief David" and Brenda had a busy but wonderful Christmas. From December 16-21 they were at Project Site #3 in Yaara. Fourteen churches were represented with 200-300 in attendance. It was a time of singing, testimony and growth for the new Christians as they listened to David's messages. Many of the people came forward for prayer. A few days later, in Buswema, the new believer's said that their greatest fear in coming to Christ is witchcraft. One of the men, a watchman, said that the night he asked for prayer, his place of work was surrounded by a "witchfire". One of the women in the house was awakened and frightened by it so the two of them prayed until dawn. In Kandige, another village where a small congregation has been established, about 10 or 11 came forward for prayer. They learned that their names were not just written on paper, but in the Lamb's Book of Life. One man in his late 60's said that he had followed idols all of his life and all it had done was to make him poor with the demands for chickens and goats. He said that he was never going that route again.

Please pray for all these new believers.

What else is new? The NEA has now completed the registration of another 200 women for the Cooperative program. That brings the total number in the Deg/South MO area to 1,087 women in 37 communities. Everyone of these women were in hopeless situations and are now able to earn their own incomes to be able to feed their children and much more. The love of God through willing people continues to change every

aspect of people's lives. A food warehouse is being built in Yaara and our organization is again being blessed by Uxbridge Baptist Church (Uxbridge, ON) who have already raised \$17,000 for this project. Pigs are continuing to be enclosed in Jugboi, Carpenter and Tessalima. Thousands of trees seedlings are being nursed for this year's growing season to increase the current woodlots and to start new ones. Three Men's Gardening Groups have been established. The Water and Sanitation Team is working on 150 soak-aways which has a direct relation on reducing the deaths of infants due to malaria. (A soak-away is where one bathes-enclosed by walls of mud bricks and with stones placed to run the water into the ground instead of sitting in stagnant puddles). Also, partly due to the work of our community based Sanitation Officers who organize meetings in the villages to talk about preventive health issues, there has been a reduction of new HIV cases. A new primary school is under construction in the village of Bamboi and soon work will be started on a school in the village of Baniatwe. We have many applications from students who find it difficult or impossible to pay funds for secondary school or university. Our scholarship program has certainly been a help to many of these students. The Association of Church Development Projects has this year chosen our first NEA project at Janga to supervise 1000 farmers (Men and Women) in the production and marketing of 600 acres of peanuts, 200 acres of sorghum and 200 acres of soyabeans. This will boost the income of more farmers and establish a local Trading Company.

One more story... Directly across the road from our Carpenter site, a Cassava Processing Centre is being built. In this building approximately 600 women will be employed in the operation; peeling, frying etc. It will have the capacity of processing 4 truckloads per day into a local staple called "gari". This centre will create jobs, generate income for NEA (our sister board) and help the cassava farmers of the area as they will not have to travel long distances to sell their crop. We hope that you will be encouraged as was our GRID Chairman and Board Members by this report and that as God leads, you will continue to support us with your prayers and finances, as in the words of our Director, Dr David Mensah, - "we continue to rely on the strength of the Lord". God bless you as you help us to be a blessing in the lives of the people of Northern Ghana

In Christian Love,  
Ella J. Porter  
Public Relations

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" - Romans 8:32

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