

# ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

July 2, 2009

Dear GRID Support Team:

Our GRID Annual Board Meeting was held in Markham, Ontario, June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. I am sure I speak for the entire Board when I tell you what a blessing it was to be present. Reunited with our members from Ghana, the US and Canada and being able to share what has been done and what is being planned for the self sustainability of the people in Northern Ghana is very exciting. God's hand has touched every aspect of this work. And, we have done it together. Our Board, without God's direction and the wide range of individual support, could not have accomplished this. A heartfelt word of thanks to each and every one of you.

This year GRID celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our meeting opened with Chairman, Rev. Doug Porter bringing a challenging and inspiring devotional "Not 'We,' or 'Me' but 'He'", based on Phil. 1:1-6. "Being confident of this, that He that began a good work in you, will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ." With time comes change and my husband who has been GRID Chairman since its inception regretfully resigned this post due to health reasons. He will continue to work as a Board Member. Another faithful Board Member, our former Treasurer, Mr. Jacques LaPointe will assume this position. Our new Treasurer will be Mr. Paul La Pointe of Mississauga. There were other Board changes and one new member added to the Board in the person of Dr. Jennifer Wilson. {Dr. Wilson has in the past, led 2 medical teams to Ghana}. Muriel Bent's resignation was received with regret as her input over the years has been very helpful.

Let me run over the highlights of Director David and Brenda's reports. We thank God every day for the hard work they do in Ghana on our behalf.

REPORT INFORMATION. The Body Shop continues to purchase our shea butter and this helps generate a good amount of money, which in turn makes it possible to provide opportunity to help more and more people. 200 metric ton per year of shea butter is produced by 11 women's groups (about 400 women). These ladies

receive a fair price for their labor and in some villages they are using part of their money to dig a well or build their own medical clinics.

We still maintain a small presence in Janga, our first project, which now generates its own income. Janga is visited every two weeks. There is a very good relationship between Janga, Carpenter and Yaara (our newest project site). The main crops in the projects are tomatoes (Janga) rice, peppers, beans (Carpenter) corn and watermelon. We have a group of 3,000 women growing peanuts.

Some farm numbers for you. At Carpenter we have 11 ostrich and 16 emu, 89 goats, 157 sheep and between our Janga and Carpenter sites 365 cattle. And then, there is our piggery! At this time we have 138 pigs-numbers change as they produce. Now, why would we want to market pigs as Muslim people do not eat pork! In the Carpenter region there is now work going on to construct a very large hydro dam.

The workers imported by the government to carry on this work are Chinese and their favorite meat is pork! This large population will be in this area for the next 5 years at least-a ready market at just the right time. The gari factory continues to provide employment for many and this too is expanding and since it is the food consumed by all---again, a large market. The Medical Teams (Canadian and British) will visit the sites again in November (approximately 45 in number). Director David will be speaking to a number of German doctors about this program and the requirements for setting up in Ghana. 33 churches have been established to date and new churches continue to be built. David keeps busy, among his other duties, with conflict resolution amongst Chiefs, etc. Many of the Chiefs have become Christians. Please remember in your prayers one man, a fetish priest, who opposes David. Pray that his observance of God's power will change his heart.

Our new Chairman and his wife Brigitte returned from a trip to our projects in Ghana (just before the Board meetings), filled with a feeling of joy and excitement as they told of the Peace Building that has been constructed where David continues to build a bridge to and amongst the many tribal Chiefs. David repeated again how God goes ahead and makes the way for wonderful things to be accomplished-food provision, a healthy life style, employment and so much more. Yet, our #1 prayer for them is to receive the gospel message.

Our fish program has taken on vast proportions. It is the biggest fish program in the country. As well as our tractors that were purchased we were given one by the Ghanaian government who show a very keen interest in our work.

Now, just a little "housekeeping note". For those who have computers and would like to receive our GRID letter electronically, please e-mail our new Secretary: Mrs. Virginia Webster

E-mail address: [webstervlaine.com](mailto:webstervlaine.com)

For those who give through their churches and may want to receive their own newsletter, please write to this same address and you will be put on our mailing list. Printed newsletters will still go out to those who wish to receive them in this manner. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

As usual, we would ask that you pray for the work of GRID and continue with your financial support so that we can keep making great inroads with this work of relief and empowerment.

Speaking engagement dates for Dr. David Mensah before he returns to Ghana:

- ❖ July 19 Central United Church, Unionville, Ont.
- ❖ July 26 Georgetown Christian Fellowship, Georgetown, Ont.
- ❖ Aug 2 Talbot Creek, Brechin, Ont.
- ❖ Aug 16 Westney Heights Baptist Church, Pickering, Ont.
- ❖ Aug 23 Uxbridge Baptist Church, Uxbridge, Ont.

Ella J. Porter

GRID 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

For more information please feel free to contact us at:

Ghana Rural Integrated Development P.O. Box 185, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia,  
Canada, B4V 2W8

tel: 902.688.1966 fax: 902.688.1266

email: [grid@glinx.com](mailto:grid@glinx.com) website: [www.grid-nea.com](http://www.grid-nea.com)