

# ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

June 19, 2007

Dear GRID Support Team:

Like ourselves, I expect everyone is looking forward to summer sunshine. In Nova Scotia we have experienced quite a bit of rainfall, but it is needed as we had a lack of our usual snowfall so the ground needs the water. When I think of rain and water, my mind turns to the words of Jesus in Mark 9:41. *"Whoever gives a drink of water in my name, because we belong to Christ, shall be rewarded"*. Our Board Members, those who pray for the work of GRID & NEA, many who make known this work and those who support financially so faithfully have such a great part in "giving cups of cold water in the name of Jesus". As our Director David would say "By God's grace, we have had opportunity to give various kinds of these cups of cold water. Let me tell you just a couple of "cup stories".

In 2001, during a trip to Ghana we met, for the second time, a young man named Abraham. His love for His Lord was very apparent on his face and in his praise during the Sunday morning church service as he clapped. As Brenda said, Abraham is a picture of "Let all that is within me praise the Lord." Abraham was born in the small village of Jugboi (where David's mother lives) and contracted polio at a very young age which crippled him from the waist down. Can you imagine what it would be like to have a great physical disability in an African village, with no support services and even your family regarding you as a burden because you will never be able to contribute physically to putting food on the table through farm work? When Brenda first arrived in Jugboi, she remembers Abraham crawling along the dusty path to come to their "welcome party". David and Brenda prayed that one day they would be able to see a difference made in his life—a life that for Abraham seemed so hopeless. To make the story a bit shorter, Abraham completed Secondary school. A few years ago, our sister Board NEA hired Abraham to keep records at the clinic in Bamboi. He is a valued member of the staff and one of the most active members of the church. Abraham and his wheelchair are always present. Here is how one "cup of cold water" was given. Touched by Abraham's life, a young couple from Uxbridge Baptist Church in Ontario, contributed the amount of money necessary to purchase an ATV for Abraham. Six or seven others from that church added funds to get this in the container that left recently. Can you picture in your mind Abraham having the dignity of driving his ATV to the clinic to work and the comfort it will afford him as he grows older?

Abraham's Christian life blesses those he works for, worships with, lives among, as well as new friends he meets.

Our Director and his wife have kept busy since their return to Ghana. They have visited all of our women farmers-200 new ladies and 372 that are in their second and third year of the program. One lady farmer, from the village of Baniantwe had 17 bags 'of peanuts from her one acre - which has broken all records!

I just want to remind you that the women in Northern Ghana do not have very easy lives and the "cups of cold water" provided them by our Agricultural program is a great blessing. When a woman in this culture loses her husband, the extended family inherits all their joint assets- their home - their farm - everything. Neither the wife or the children receive anything. One of the women in our Co-op farm program said that when she lost her husband she didn't know where she would sleep-but the income from her peanut farm helped her to acquire her own home. While the Mensahs were in Canada, 2 new churches began! This is the interesting part - One church is in the village of Manchala-the village David was to go to when he was young to train to become a headhunter! What a MIGHTY GOD we serve!

Two new wells have been dug. The well at Bewele is a miracle well. Three times government has attempted to provide water to that community and failed. Our well team went to Bewele and chose a site and dug to about 25 feet, also calling in some young men from Yaara who had dug a well in their community. They hit good water and the well team lined it and it is now in use. This community is so thankful and how we thank and praise God for this accomplishment. When I passed this information on to Saint Mary's Bay Baptist Church - a very small congregation with a very big heart for missions-they also gave thanks to God as they had provided the funds for this well.

David and Brenda were in the Tamale area for Easter where David spoke each morning at the main session of the Tamale Baptist Association's Convention. There were representatives camping out at the school grounds from 24 churches and 6 "preaching points". Many people committed their lives to Christ on Sunday morning.

Our prayer is that you will continue to help us give "cups of cold water" in the strong name of JESUS.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ❖ For continued strength for Laura Paisley (Brenda's mother) as she recovers from a recent successful surgery.
- ❖ For Carole Mensah who is in Ghana for the summer volunteering at the Tamale Hospital and the Bamboi Clinic.
- ❖ For Deborah Mensah as she is working part time for our Board Member, Dr. Musewe, going to university part time this summer and volunteering at the Crisis Pregnancy Center and "keeping watch" over the grandparents!
- ❖ For Elizabeth Mensah who is now in Ghana arranging for a Sudan Interior Mission conference to be held at our Carpenter site.
- ❖ For our manager at the Carpenter site, Mr. Noah Ampen and family. Noah's mother passed away just recently.
- ❖ For Jacques and Bridgette LaPointe who are representing GRID at the SIM conference.
- ❖ For Rev. Doug Porter, our Chairman and those on our GRID Board who are faithful in presenting our work at home.
- ❖ Rev. Murray Stovell who presents the work in Ontario and Western Canada.
- ❖ For Dr. Norman Musewe who recently presented our work at the Hospital for Sick Children to a group of doctors and some students.
- ❖ For Steve Oad, our Webmaster as he continues to do upgrades.
- ❖ For our new Treasurer, Mr. Jacques LaPointe as he carefully looks after our finances.
- ❖ Pray for Mr. Paul Haughn who so faithfully and well filled this position for 15 years. Paul resigned for health reasons but he and Jean are still members of our Board.

As you bless others, may God continue to bless you with health and strength to serve Him.

Ella J. Porter,  
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"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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