

ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

Nov. 18, 2006

Dear GRID Support Team,

It is with a "renewed spirit" that I write this letter to you. My husband and I were privileged to welcome Director David and Brenda as they arrived at the Halifax Airport on the 26th of October. During the next 12 days, David spoke 15 times in churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and we had the opportunity to meet with a Missions Committee from a church who is interested in our work. We also met with some interested students and faculty of Atlantic Baptist University. Teams from ABU went over for a "hands on" mission experience some time ago with very positive results. It was a privilege for David to be the Chapel speaker one morning at Acadia Divinity College from which he graduated with his M.A. before taking his PhD at the University of Toronto. God blessed all of us there that morning as we listened and David renewed friendships with professors and friends from the years he was there and met new friends.

Many times David spoke from Acts 4:32-36 and challenged us to become like the believers who shared all of their possessions and who were focused to work together to proclaim Christ. The last verse of Psalm 40 says "I am poor and needy, but, Lord God, you care about me and you come to my rescue. God cares about each one of us, whether here, or in a third world country. As Christians God has called you and I to be his hands and feet on earth, on many occasions. As we count our many, many blessings and as you read this small update, I pray that God will inspire you to help in the way you are able to help.

In September, our Annual Grid Board Meeting was held in the Uxbridge Baptist Church, in Uxbridge, Ontario. It is always good to be encouraged by each other's presence and we enjoyed our two days of meetings together. The reports of the work in the field by David and Brenda, our hopes and plans for the future, and the "nitty-gritty" business that has to be looked after, all proved to be a blessing.

We are happy to make an announcement from that meeting. Pastor Murray Stovell, former Senior pastor of the Uxbridge Baptist Church, has now retired. This church has supported us so faithfully, prayerfully and financially, as well as sending building teams to our project site in Carpenter. Pastor Murray has had opportunity to teach lay pastors in Ghana and preach in our project site area in Ghana.

Pastor Murray believed that God was leading him to work with GRID and after meeting with our Board we are now happy to have him as our part time Ontario based representative for Public Education, mainly in Ontario and the western provinces of Canada as the need arises. In this area, any church or group that would like to have Pastor Murray come to speak about our work may contact him at 905-852-6125 or [e-mail: murraystovell@sympatico.ca](mailto:murraystovell@sympatico.ca) Please pray for him as he works with us endeavouring to broaden our base of support. Pastor Murray and his wife Karin served at the Uxbridge church for the past fourteen years and we welcome his experience and love for our mission as he serves in this new capacity.

Following our Annual Meetings David and Brenda spoke in the Evangelical Community Church in Bloomington, Indiana and First Presbyterian Church in San Diego, California. Over the years how we have appreciated the support from these two churches as well as other churches, groups and individuals from our neighbouring country. How I wish each one of you could have heard David speak. His love for and dedication to this work is hard to describe. He spoke of the improvements that are being made in the cassava factory. Instead of the women working all day as the cassava is fried over wood fires they are exploring the possibility of being able to use gas which would certainly make for cooler work. When the cassava factory is running at full capacity it will employ 600 ladies. When I say "factory"-- it is different than the "building with windows": that would come to your mind. It has a roof to keep the sun from beating down and open sides. He was excited to show us a picture of the large catch of "tilapia Galilee". David spoke of it as a miracle as the government of Northern Ghana said that fish could not be produced in the North. We have grown 5 million fingerlings this past year and that is our goal for each year (or more). As I have told you before the fingerlings will be placed in village ponds that have to be dug and they will grow and reproduce for those villages and become a source of protein. Upon hearing of this success the Ghanaian Government has now sent one of their fishery officers to our site to work for us free for one year and learn how we do it. We are excited about the shea nut butter that the women are sending to England, purchased by the Body Shop and used in their body creams. The ladies send 12 metric ton of shea nut butter every 10 days. These ladies now have decent clothes to wear and their children can go to school. Part of the money is used to build schools, clinics, etc.

For many years our mission has been making available self-sustainable work initiatives. We have given small loans for rabbit hutches, bake ovens, peanut farms where women and men can work in their own little business and overcome poverty. Our first project site at Janga became completely self-sustainable some time ago. As one listens to the news you now hear of others who are beginning to see the merit of relieving poverty by helping through small loans (micro-credit) and it is good to see that our Canadian Government has committed to helping in this way.

Last, but certainly not least, let me tell you about the growth of the new churches, especially in our work in the Carpenter and Yaara area. David has told us that hundreds of people are coming to know the Lord. So many are giving their hearts to the Lord that he and the 45 lay pastors that he has trained find it difficult to keep up with the discipling of these new converts. Many of these are Chiefs, fetish priests, emams, etc. Because they try to make 2 visits to each new Christian, which is so important, they will not go out to hold evangelistic meetings until after February. Isn't that a wonderful problem for the Christian church to have!!

Brenda told me this story. During their visit to the village of Subinso to preach the gospel, they set up for the service in the village square. People were singing as they came to the service. Just as it was ready to start a small, very dirty man with tattered and filthy clothing came in. He went to David and said "Where do I sit?" He sat close to the Mensahs. After David preached this man came down to the front for prayer and accepted the Lord. The next Sunday the man returned, all clean and dressed in clean clothing. He brought along his tools of witchcraft to be burned - he had been a fetish priest. He had also been caught up with alcohol and had now been sober for a week and had even sent a couple of young men from the church to go and tell the people who sold him the alcohol not to sell it to him ever again. This man used to go to neighbouring countries and use his witchcraft to make money. Our Site Manager in Carpenter, Noah, will find a micro business for him to survive.

God's unconditional love makes such a change in the lives of so many.

The Christmas Celebrations are very near. As we who are Christians celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord, may our love for what He has done in our lives, cause us to give love gifts to those in need.

Psalm 82:3-5 tells us that we should "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ❖ Health concerns for 3 of our GRID team: Eugene Paisley, Gerald Heeney and Karin Stovell
- ❖ Elizabeth Mensah as she is in the final preparation for University Graduation in December.
- ❖ Deborah and Carole Mensah who are in University
- ❖ Noah and Jacob and their families and the workers and families on our project sites
- ❖ The New Christians - many from backgrounds of witchcraft
- ❖ Funds for heavy equipment needed on site
- ❖ For Jacques LaPointe as he continues to give leadership toward the completion of our Incorporation.
- ❖ For David and Brenda as they fulfill speaking engagements and for safety as they return to Ghana early in the New Year.

God bless you and your family as you honor Christ on His day and may we all resolve to follow the Lord more closely in the new year of 2007.

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:

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