

ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

September 18, 2004

It is always great to feel connected to our entire team via newsletter. God, whom we serve has always been a God of vision and even today works some of the time through "visions" given to his people. How thankful we have been through the years for "visions". First I think of the vision of a tribal Chief—a vision that someday God would send people to help out in Northern Ghana. Next the strong desire and vision of Dr. David Mensah and a handful of other orphans, who after becoming Christians desired to train and then work in Northern Ghana to help their own people. As the vision of this group grew and Dr. Mensah came to Canada for his training, GRID came into the picture, drawing together yet another group of people who caught a vision of the need to help others. The hand of God has clearly been at work in our many endeavors and we often sit back and watch in amazement as the hearts of yet others continue to catch this vision. As I write, preparation is being made for a number of the GRID Board Members to attend the commissioning service of our two sites in the Deg area. We will be honored, on Nov. 19th, by the presence of His Excellency, J.A. Kufuor, President of Ghana, at this event. He will see "vision results". Those of us who are able to be present look forward to seeing the new things that were as yet unaccomplished on our 2001 visit. We will have opportunity to see the fish hatchery in operation. Again, many people have had a part in helping this vision become a reality. Last year, a small group from one of our supporting churches in the US raised extra funds so that a new pick up truck could be purchased for our aquaculture program. This will be very useful in moving the fingerlings from the hatchery to the community fish ponds. So many good and exciting things continue to happen that it is hard to pick out the stories to relate.

Our Emu/Ostrich program continues. As David and Brenda worked to obtain the incubator and hatcher, they learned that the President of the American Emu Association and her husband were Christians, and they have assisted in greatly reducing the cost involved, by contacting growers who were willing to donate emu eggs. Her husband is prepared to take the eggs over himself and help the team with getting them into the incubator. Our Agricultural Team will then have the benefit of his experience with both the machines and the emus. He is taking time off from his work and hopes to go around the last of March. God is so good at putting in place just the right people at just the right time.

Our Director, David has been very busy in Ghana. He has been able to get a large number of fishermen together who are committed to seeing the practice of fishing with DDT stopped. He has also arranged for this group to meet with other Environmental Protection Councils. Healthcare in the area is expanding. The Bamboi Clinic is going to include a maternity and children's wing. GRID/NEA and the communities they are working in are always grateful for volunteers that work on our sites. This summer, a team of men and women led by Pastor Bob Whitaker from Bloomington Evangelical Church, in Bloomington Indiana worked on the construction of the addition to the Bamboi Clinic. According to the World Health Organization, estimates from year 2000, in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1 in 16 women run the risk of dying from pregnancy related complications. In industrialized countries, the risk is 1 in 4000. We believe the clinic expansion will reduce this risk greatly in Bamboi and the surrounding area. One volunteer student from Ontario, Craig Simmons, spent 6 weeks in Ghana. He worked with one of our NEA Board Members, Dr. Zakaria, who is a surgeon in the city of Accra. Dr. Zakaria also works on development activities at the Carpenter project site, such as planting beans which will mature into seed for the women's co-op members, and working in the tree nursery. Craig also raised funds for the purchase of solar and communication equipment which will prove invaluable. When volunteers go, they not only minister to others but receive great blessing in their own lives. The presence of volunteers shows concern for people they have never met and this brings encouragement and hope to the people in the communities as they share with each other. David continues to use his gift of "conflict management", both on large scale problems relating to whole tribes and sometimes on small scale problems. He writes that he was called to settle a dispute between a really tough witch doctor and the witch doctor's brother, and that the Lord enabled him to bring peace between the two. Afterward, the witch doctor asked David to help him come to know Jesus. David prayed with this man who then gave his life to the Lord. Later, he brought to David some dangerous, satanic objects which they burned. This former witch doctor is now very faithful at church. Soon after this a Moslem leader came to David and asked if it was too late for him to come to Christ, because he had been a Moslem for 40 years. He too was converted. David has now baptized the witch doctor and given him a new name, Emmanuel. Soon he will baptize and give a new name to the Moslem Imam. Again, we rejoice as we see God on the move. Please pray for Director David as he continues his good work. Pray for Brenda as she gets ready to return to Ghana, leaving their three daughters, Elizabeth and Deborah (in university) and Carole (completing High School) with loving grandparents, the Paisleys. Please continue to be in prayer for our NEA Board, our site managers and workers and their families, as well as our GRID Board Members and their families and at this time for the health and safety of the members of our Board leaving for Ghana in

November. And pray that God will continue to keep a vision before each one of us as we support in so many ways this labor of love in Northern Ghana. Thank you to Mr. Steven Oad, one of our Ontario supporters, for the many hours spent developing our web site for us. If you have computer access, please visit us at www.grid-nea.com.

May God's blessing and peace be yours,

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

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 website: www.grid-nea.com