



## Helping Babies at Birth

by Brenda Mensah

The Leyaata (“Rescue Us”) project that GRID and NEA are implementing in 84 rural villages is changing how women and babies are cared for at birth. In just two years of implementing this project, we have seen early infant deaths drop to one-third of their former level.

Trained birth attendants (often midwives, nurses, or medical assistants) are crucial in

providing effective care at birth, yet they frequently do not have the tools that they need to intervene in crises. Last year, as part of the Leyaata project, we were able to take a major step forward in equipping thirty-three birth attendants by holding a WHO-endorsed *Helping Babies Breathe* training workshop for them.

Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Susan Fockler, both HBB Facilitators, led the group in a series of lectures, demonstrations, role plays, and practice sessions to equip them to better resuscitate non-breathing babies at birth. It is estimated that about one-quarter of early infant deaths, and many stillborns, could be prevented by using the low-cost resuscitation tools presented in the Helping Babies Breathe program.

We are thrilled to think of the many more lives that will be saved as a result of this training. You can learn more about it, and download a full report, at [www.grid-nea.org/leyaata-project](http://www.grid-nea.org/leyaata-project).



**GRID** (Ghana Rural Integrated Development) and **NEA** (Northern Empowerment Association) are **partner organizations** working to alleviate poverty in Northern Ghana. **Motivated by Christ’s love**, our mission is to **assist poor communities to meet their basic needs in a sustainable manner**.

# Building and Teaching in Babator

by Kim Lawson

Momentum. Desire. Love.

These are the words that describe how the Lord brought the building and teaching project in Babator into being.

In 2012 Uxbridge Baptist commissioned a team to build a church and teach in the village of Tinga. While there, the team witnessed the baptism of nineteen members of a new church being established in the 'forgotten village' of Babator.

When the opportunity came to build these newly-baptized believers a church building to worship in, and the chance to teach the same children that clamoured for our hands that day, God quickly provided the funds, hearts and hands needed.

In January 2014, along with builder Ebenezer's construction team, Babator community members, volunteer Ghanaian



pastors and elders, fifteen Canadian team members were able to build a church building, get a good start on building the KVIP (a 12-seater community latrine), build some benches, and do repairs at the school.

Partnering with the four Ghanaian teachers in the community school, eleven

Canadian team members were able to share ideas and resources to inspire and infuse a little more fun into the teaching curriculum.

In Teselima, a village just north of Carpenter, two Canadian team members were able to work alongside the Ghanaian team designated to work with the newly arrived heavy equipment, sharing pond-building techniques and navigating the mechanical challenges that can arise with this type of equipment.

No matter the goals and tasks completed, or the village feast that drew us all together as one, we pray that God used it all to make Himself known, and that this village will never again feel forgotten. Their words of blessing and tears of appreciation and love will live within our hearts forever.



The newly-arrived excavator and bulldozer were used to construct a fish pond for the village of Teselima.

## A Life Saved

The January team members were witness to a wonderful event when a village woman's life was saved because NEA had stocked serum to counteract the snake venom from a snake bite.

This particular snake venom antiserum, which is noted for its effectiveness, is very difficult to obtain in Ghana, and can be impossibly expensive for villagers when it is available.

Just two weeks prior to this woman receiving a bite, NEA was overjoyed to at last be able to locate a source and supply of the serum to stock at Carpenter. When NEA shared the news with local clinics, one of the Medical Assistants announced that he would finally be able to sleep at night, knowing it was now available locally.

It is wonderful to know that it was on hand in time to save this woman's life, and we know this intervention will save many more. Thank you for your continued partnership, which makes endeavours like this possible.



**Small but powerful: Dr. Mensah holds a vial of the precious snake venom antiserum that arrived in time to save a life.**

## 2014 Team Opportunities

### eMi Team

GRID and NEA want to improve health in the Carpenter area in a sustainable manner. We have been implementing large health projects and hosting international health teams in support of that dream.

We believe that establishing a hospital in the area may be one of the next possible steps to achieving year-round access to quality health care, and this year we are studying the feasibility of launching a hospital. Before we can make a decision, we need

to have accurate information about building plans and costs, and so we have applied to Engineering Ministries International Canada (eMi Canada) for assistance.

eMi Canada is a non-profit Christian development organization mobilizing architects, engineers, and other design professionals who donate their skills for projects like this. Right now, eMi Canada is recruiting professional volunteers to conduct a Carpenter site visit and develop hospital plans so that our board members can make a fully-informed,

prayerful decision about launching a hospital.

You can find more information, including where to apply, at [www.grid-nea.org/teams](http://www.grid-nea.org/teams).

### Ghana Health Team

Thank you to the many who applied to volunteer with the 2014 Ghana Health Team. Team membership will be announced by March 1st.

Please pray for health team members over the coming months as they train and prepare to provide health care to thousands in November.

# NEA Staff Profile: Soale Gbeadese

by Yaw Adu-Gyamfi



Soale Gbeadese

To improve the nutrition of rural residents, NEA introduced its aquaculture project in which it provides training and fingerlings for community ponds. This important project needed management and technical direction, and in September 2012, Soale Gbeadese took over as head of NEA's aquaculture sector. This was a natural step for Soale, who had completed student internships with NEA and who had long nurtured the dream of assisting people in and around

his home village of Teselima, which is very close to Carpenter.

Soale had his work cut out for him when he took over as head of the fisheries sector. He had to restructure activities to produce more fingerlings for ten huge tanks, each with a capacity to house 3000 tilapia fingerlings. He took on the challenge of leading the production of table-size tilapia and, a first for NEA, catfish for sale. His duties also included training workers and providing advice for fish farmers in the project catchment area.

Because of Soale's hard work and leadership, NEA was able to reach its target production of 6,000 catfish fingerlings. The organization continues to produce hundreds of kilos of table-size tilapia to be sold every month.

Soale has big dreams for the future. He would like to see NEA produce four tonnes of table-size tilapia annually. He is nurturing a partnership with the Brong Ahafo Regional Fisheries

Commission to produce five million fingerlings annually to support local fish farming. And he wants to be a part of recruiting and training young people from fifty communities, providing them with assistance to start their own farms so that they are empowered to escape poverty.

Soale comes across as technically astute, composed, and hardworking. What baffles many who get to know him, however, is that despite all of his work in aquaculture, he does not eat fish himself! It is his desire to eliminate poverty in northern Ghana, not his love of fish, that motivates him to work so hard.

Yaw Adu-Gyamfi is NEA's Malaria Control Coordinator. He lives in Carpenter with his wife, Akosua (NEA's Maternal Health Coordinator) and their young son, Aninsem.



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