



Dependent on God

by Brenda Mensah

Every workday morning, the NEA staff, whether in Janga, Tamale or Carpenter, meets together under their respective gazebos for a time of praise and prayer. It is always a special time to rejoice over good news or successes as well as to share in each other's concerns.

Then from this hub, like spokes on a bicycle, they all head out in different directions to face the challenges before them.

Some head off to a village to check on new mothers and their babies or meet with co-op farmers. Others confer with community leaders, chiefs, and pastors. Some visit local health clinics

to discuss concerns and check on progress; others support local enterprises by supervising production or transporting goods. Still others look after NEA's crops, ostriches, fish, cattle, gardens, chickens, mushrooms, fish ponds, mechanics' workshop, or administration.

Regardless of their roles, all draw strength from knowing that they committed this new day to God, and that he is with them as they serve in so many different ways.

Read on to hear of some of the results that have come from this consistent dependence on God to guide in every facet of the Ghana programs.

Clean Water in Kandige

Last year the churches from Clarendon, Ontario, joined together and raised money for two wells in Ghana. Those wells have been successfully drilled in South Mo area. One was in the village of Kandige, where women were getting up each morning at 4 a.m. to walk to the river to fetch water for the family needs. The whole community is so thankful that they now have clean water flowing in their village. We know that this will improve health for everyone in the village; we also hope that the women and girls, who bear most of the water-carrying burden, can now sleep in!

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.**

Christian Chiefs' Conference 2014

by Doug Webster

The 2014 Chiefs Conference was generously funded by the partners from Stronger Together. Doug and Virginia Webster were in Ghana for the conference, where Doug was a keynote speaker. Doug writes:

One hundred degrees in the shade but a hundred percent worth the experience.

One hundred and ninety chiefs came for the four-day conference with their entourage for a total of 250 people to be fed three good meals a day from Wednesday through Sunday. In conversation with a couple of the chiefs I asked how many this conclave represented. They figured at least a thousand per chief.

What we know for certain is that The Lord was in our midst in a powerful way.



In three languages – Mo, Twi, and English – we studied biblical models of leadership, drawing mainly on the Old Testament narratives of Cain and Abel, Abraham and Lot, Jacob and Joseph, Samuel and Saul, along with the David story. The chiefs were attentive throughout the

four days, and if they weren't they were poked by another chief.

We came together on Sunday for a four-hour worship service and I preached on the God Who Kneels from John 13. As always, David did a fantastic job translating, preaching, and leading the entire group.

In the afternoons the chiefs worked on a constitution to underscore their Christian identity and solidarity. Chief Adam and Dr. Adam played a key role in developing this document.

Virginia and I count it a rare privilege to participate in this work and to see the wonderful progress that The Lord has accomplished through David and Brenda Mensah and the entire NEA-GRID team. Thank you for your prayers.



Short-Term Team; Lifelong Impact

by Brenda Mensah

Last March, just before the 2013 Ghana Health Team was to arrive in Carpenter, NEA received an urgent request from Chief David Kansuk. Mr. Kansuk is a Medical Officer in a clinic north of Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region of Ghana, more than 400 km away from Carpenter.

The medical officer was deeply concerned about young Abdul, who was in great distress from a lump on his throat. Despite being referred to different hospitals, Abdul had not received successful treatment; in fact, the lump was growing and making it difficult for him to breathe and eat.



Abdul Mosheen, March 2013

Mr. Kansuk wondered if the members of the 2013 Ghana Health Team could see the child, and of course NEA agreed. Little Abdul travelled a whole day to see Dr. Julie, a pediatrician member

of the team. Dr. Julie was able to connect the boy and his family to a colleague at a hospital in Accra, and team referral funds were used for the scans and treatment that he needed.

We're sure your hearts will soar as ours do as you see the picture of Abdul after his treatment. He is eating and breathing normally.



Abdul after receiving treatment

As we consider this little life that has been saved, we and the Mosheen family are so grateful. As the 2014 Ghana Health Team prepares for another mission in our area in November, this boy is another reminder of the importance and the impact of their presence in Ghana even for just two weeks. There are many other little "Abduls" out there who await their trained minds, skilled hands, and open hearts.

Leyaata: Rescued Lives

In November 2013, as part of the DFATD-supported Leyaata project, **thirty-three health workers were trained** in the Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) methodology, equipping them with skills and tools to resuscitate babies at birth. Several clinics have shared with us the exciting results of this training: a total of **twenty infants from three different clinics have been successfully resuscitated** using the simple HBB tools. Furthermore, the Wenchi HBB-trained facilitator has taught **forty-three additional health workers** to use the HBB method. Thank you for supporting the Leyaata Project, which is rescuing so many lives.

NEA Staff Profile: Abraham and Kate Sayibu

by Yaw Adu-Gyamfi

Abraham Sayibu comes from Tamale, the capital of Ghana's Northern Region. After earning a Higher National Diploma, he chose to work with Northern Empowerment Association to fulfill the one year national service requirement of all graduates of tertiary schools.

In 2010, Abraham was appointed head of the NEA Hospitality Department after successfully completing his year of national service. He worked diligently, often exceeding expectations. Visitors to Carpenter are always grateful for the sumptuous meals he prepares.

Despite his success with NEA, Abraham felt that his "joy was not complete without a life partner." He prayed and fasted about marriage, but the answer did not come immediately.

In December 2012, Abraham was ill and had to stay indoors for weeks. Miss Kate found time to attend to him until he recovered. The care she offered



Kate and Abraham's December 2013 Wedding

"caught my heart," he said. They got to know each other better, and eventually Abraham proposed. Kate asked for some time to think about it, but soon five months had passed without a definite answer!

After constant "pestering" from Abraham, Kate accepted his proposal and a wedding was celebrated in December 2013.

The Sayibus reside at the NEA project site. Kate will manage NEA's new bakery department, an exciting venture that is providing a fully

equipped bakery for local women to bake bread for sale. Abraham continues his excellent work in NEA's hospitality department, which is very good news for any visitors to Carpenter!

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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