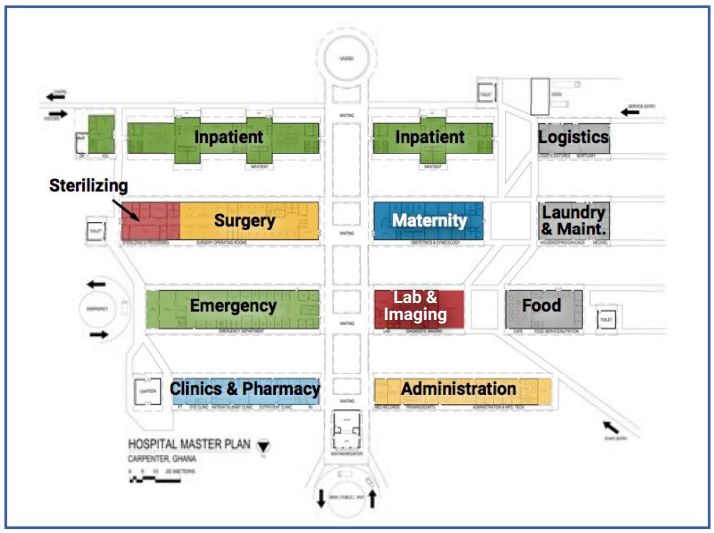
GRID & NEA

sustainable development in Ghana

A Model Hospital for Carpenter

We are thrilled to announce that the GRID and NEA Boards have approved a project to construct, equip, and launch a model hospital in Carpenter. The envisioned hospital will provide quality, sustainable health care year-round to about 100,000 people.

A hospital has been a dream for NEA for many years, and late in 2013, GRID and NEA decided to study the feasibility of such a project. We received advice and guidance from many expert sources on this. (A special thanks to Dr. Rob Drury and Carol Smith Romeril, who volunteered many hours of their expertise to this study.)



As part of the study, a team from Engineering Ministries International Canada (eMi Canada) traveled to Carpenter to develop plans and a construction budget for the hospital. These volunteer engineers, architects, and designers spent an intensive two weeks studying the proposed site, determining locally available materials, and ultimately creating plans for the hospital and staff accommodation buildings.

From our feasibility study we learned just how big a project like this would be, but also how well-prepared and positioned we are to complete it. In fact, it is the next logical step for our work in Northern Ghana.

Together we have been enabling communities to put in place measures that prevent sickness, like clean water, good food, and education. Yet not all sickness can be prevented, and there remains a need for good curative care in the area. GRID and NEA have developed the relationships we need in North America and Ghana to establish a quality facility in Carpenter.

We are embarking on a capital campaign for this exciting project. Please watch our website (grid-nea.org) for news about this.

If you are considering helping with Capital Campaign as a donor and potentially helping out with fundraising, please contact Jacques Lapointe by phone (289-429-1099) or email (jlapointe@grid-nea.org).

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.

The Leyaata Project: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Volunteers with the Leyaata Project encouraged families to seek assisted birth.

> Because [the Leyaata Project] saves lives, it has reduced children's deaths. But this may not be happening in other villages and also they may not know what is going on. It [could] also reduce children's deaths in other communities.
>
> *(Community health volunteer)*

We have been sharing with you news related to our Leyaata ("Rescue Us") Project for just over two years and we are surprised to find ourselves already at the project's planned end. Time has passed quickly!

We have known from the start that we needed to end this amazing project well so that its positive effects will be sustained in the area. The first part of finishing well required us to look back and evaluate the project as a whole; next, we had to look ahead to the future.

> This project is very good. We used to witness deaths particularly among newborn children in our communities. But since Leyaata came and started teaching our women and encouraging them to go to the clinic when they are pregnant and deliver at the clinic, the children do not die anymore.
>
> *(Community resident)*

Looking Back: Evaluation

We invited a seasoned health program administrator to visit our project area and evaluate the Leyaata Project. Our evaluator was very thorough, interviewing many people who had been affected by our work. We were thrilled when he reported his overall assessment that the Leyaata project has unequivocally "improved the quality of life of infants and ensured complete access to low resource and affordable basic health care needs of mothers and children."

The evaluation confirmed our own assessments that mortality among newborns had significantly dropped in project communities, and that the incidence of malaria had decreased among participants. It also stressed that beneficiaries wanted to see the activities continued and expanded to new communities.

Looking Ahead: Planning

We have also spent time planning how to transition the Leyaata Project. Although plans are being developed that will hopefully see the main activities expand to another eighty communities, for the time being we are focusing on sustaining the project's results in the existing communities. For the next 9 to 12 months, GRID and NEA will continue to support community health volunteers in 80 communities as they visit pregnant mothers and newborns. We know that this has saved many lives already, and we want to see that continue.

Thank you for your generous support of the Leyaata Project. A special thank you to Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD), which has provided financial support for this project. There are hundreds of children alive today because of your support for this lifesaving project.

Weaving a New Life

by Abraham Sayibu

Kwame Dormey lives in Sogliboi in the Kintampo South District. He is married with 8 children.

Kwame trained as a weaver for many years, but did not have the capital to start a weaving business. Providing for his family was very difficult, because he had to depend on customers to buy their own thread before he could weave it into the cloth used for making smocks. Despite this difficulty, he was able to support six of his children in entering basic schools. Getting the remaining two children into school looked impossible, and so did his dream of ultimately sending them all to pursue higher education.

Kwame applied to NEA for support. After assessing his situation, NEA believed that, given a little boost, he would be able to succeed in the business and thereby be better able to care for his family. He was given a small grant to buy looms and thread.

Today Kwame produces five rolls of cloth a month, increasing his monthly income to almost $400. As a result, he has been able to support one of his children to go to college, another to go to secondary school, and another to junior high. Two more are awaiting their high school results, and while they wait to proceed with their education, they have joined him in the family business.

This is another innovative example of helping people to sustainably help themselves.

A small grant enabled Kwame to improve his weaving business so that he can provide for his children's food and education.

Church Convention in Weila

by Brenda Mensah

Last December, the Evangelical Christ Apostolic Church (ECAC) denomination held its Christmas convention in Weila.

It's hard to describe what an exciting annual event this is. Over 1000 men, women and children of all ages from 36 churches gather in one place to celebrate Christ and the changes he has made in their lives. In the days leading up to the conventions, NEA's vehicles provide support to ensure that adequate clean water is available, barrels to gather bath water are on hand, huge stones are set in place for the many massive cooking pots, and a large quantity of firewood is ready to keep the cooking fires burning.

Once these things are in place and all the desks are moved out of all school classrooms, which become the dormitories, the NEA vehicles then start transporting participants. Usually everyone is singing as they ride along, and as each load of passengers disembarks, the cheering begins. *"Bewele has arrived!" "Janga is here!" "Yaara and Buswema are in!"* The pastors are all on hand showing everybody (and their sleeping mats) to their classroom and sending all the food items that they have brought along to the kitchen area.

Joy permeates the whole gathering — joy in praise times, joy in study times, joy in visiting together, joy in the laughter of the countless children who are not growing up in the fear of their ancestors' idols.

The convention in Weila was another of these special times when the church gathered, praised, studied, ate together, and shared the gospel with the community. Many new believers were added to their number.

NEA Staff Profile: James Afoe

by Abraham Sayibu

Mr. James Afoe has been the head of NEA's poultry sector for three years. Prior to this, he lived in Nigeria with his family for twenty-six years, returning to Ghana in 2012.

Mr. Afoe and a small team of three other staff members take care of close to ten thousand birds ... and seventeen rabbits!

His experience in the veterinary and agricultural professions made him an ideal person to help NEA launch a poultry business. Right now he and his team are raising cockerel chicks. This industry is so important because it increases affordable protein for thousands of people in the area and provides an ongoing source of income for NEA's development program. The poultry team is clearly contributing to NEA's vision of reducing extreme poverty and hunger in Northern Ghana.

Mr. Afoe's experience in minor dispute settlement was formally recognized by the Bampewa traditional area, where he was nominated as the chief linguist of Bampewa in 2014. Holding this position gives him strategic opportunities to extend NEA's peace building program in communities, including Mr. Afoe's own.

He currently lives at the Carpenter project site with his wife and seven children. The family attends the Evangelical Christ Apostolic Church in Carpenter.

NEA Staff Member Begins MBA Program in Hospital Management

In March 2015, **Abraham Sayibu** begins a fifteen-month MBA Program in Hospital and Health Services Management in Bedfordshire, UK. His wife, Kate, and baby daughter, Zuriel Pumaya, will remain in Carpenter. Please pray for Abraham and his family as they make this sacrifice in anticipation of serving in the Carpenter Hospital in the future.

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