

2004 ECC Team

## Surprised by Joy

by Kathryn Bayless, GRID USA Chair

*... for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings  
I will sing for joy. (Ps. 63:7)*

On July 1, 2004, a group of fifteen individuals from Evangelical Community Church left Bloomington, Indiana for Northern Ghana where we partnered with NEA to expand a health clinic. This clinic was located in one of the poorest regions on Earth, where clinics are often hundreds of miles apart across difficult terrain and where there are no doctors, medicine is scarce, and medical equipment is in short supply and in need of repair. In short, access to health care to meet the most basic needs and concerns is deplorable.

We anticipated the prevalence of harsh living conditions, but the entries in

our journal reveal how we were all surprised by joy:

*"Many seem to not dwell on being poor, they are so full of joy."*

*"I've never been as grateful or as joyful as these Ghanaians."*

*"It has been like a different world indeed...in ways expected in terms of material scarcity, but unexpected in terms of spiritual joy, abundant fellowship, constant gratitude and sacrificial generosity."*

Since our return, we continue to be amazed by the outcomes taking place in Northern Ghana through GRID-NEA to alleviate poverty and sickness. For example, wells have been drilled to provide clean water and reduce disease; widows have been taught how to farm to provide for their families; schools, health clinics,

churches and fish hatcheries have been built; shea butter is being produced and exported; and waterways are being protected from hazardous fishing practices. This transformational change is made possible due to the holistic, sustainable and integrated approach that epitomizes everything they do and is recognized as a model to emulate.

My husband Tim and I are grateful to serve as members of GRID Canada as well as serve in leadership for the newly-organized GRID USA. It will be exciting to see how God works through our community in partnership with others across North America to further alleviate poverty and sickness in the name of Christ.

**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.

# Leyaata Ane Project Announcement

by Brenda Mensah

It is with great joy that we can share the good news we received this summer: the Canadian government's Department of Trade, Foreign Affairs and Development (DFATD) has agreed to contribute \$1.9 million to our work in saving the lives of newborns and mothers.

This maternal and child care program has been given a special name: *Leyaata*, which means "Rescue Us" in the local language. (*Ane* means two, signifying that this is the second stage of this large project.)

Through the four-year Leyaata Ane Project, GRID and NEA will expand our community health home visit program to another 80 villages in rural Ghana, bringing the total number of communities served to over 160. The home visit program has been proven to dramatically reduce neonatal mortality. We will also train health workers in life-saving skills for mothers and infants at birth, encourage the adoption of codes of conduct that will support compassionate care, and ensure that local health facilities meet basic requirements for safe care around birth.

This initiative will improve the delivery and use of essential health services by mothers, pregnant women, newborns, and children under five. We expect that over 13,000 newborns will be affected by this project.

We gratefully acknowledge the Government of Canada's contribution to this important initiative. DFATD's contribution will meet an unprecedented 85% of the project's funding needs, and GRID is responsible to raise and allocate the remaining \$330,000. Your generous donations to GRID's General Fund will help ensure that we meet the full project budget.



## Leyaata: Providing Care Before, During and After Birth



### Care Before Birth

These simple wooden boxes save lives. Health volunteers give a "susu" (savings) box to each pregnant woman and explain how to use it to save money for the time of birth. Many women have reported that their savings boxes have enabled them to seek lifesaving medical care at birth.



### Care During Birth

Ernestina is a Medical Assistant in our project area who assists mothers at birth. Through the Leyaata Ane Project, health workers like Ernestina will receive practical support to enable them to better serve the mothers and newborns in their care.



### Care After Birth

Newborn babies are visited on the first day of life and two other times in the first week of life. At each visit, a volunteer weighs the baby and takes their temperature. This visit helps to identify babies that need medical attention so that parents can seek care in time.

# Chiranda Church

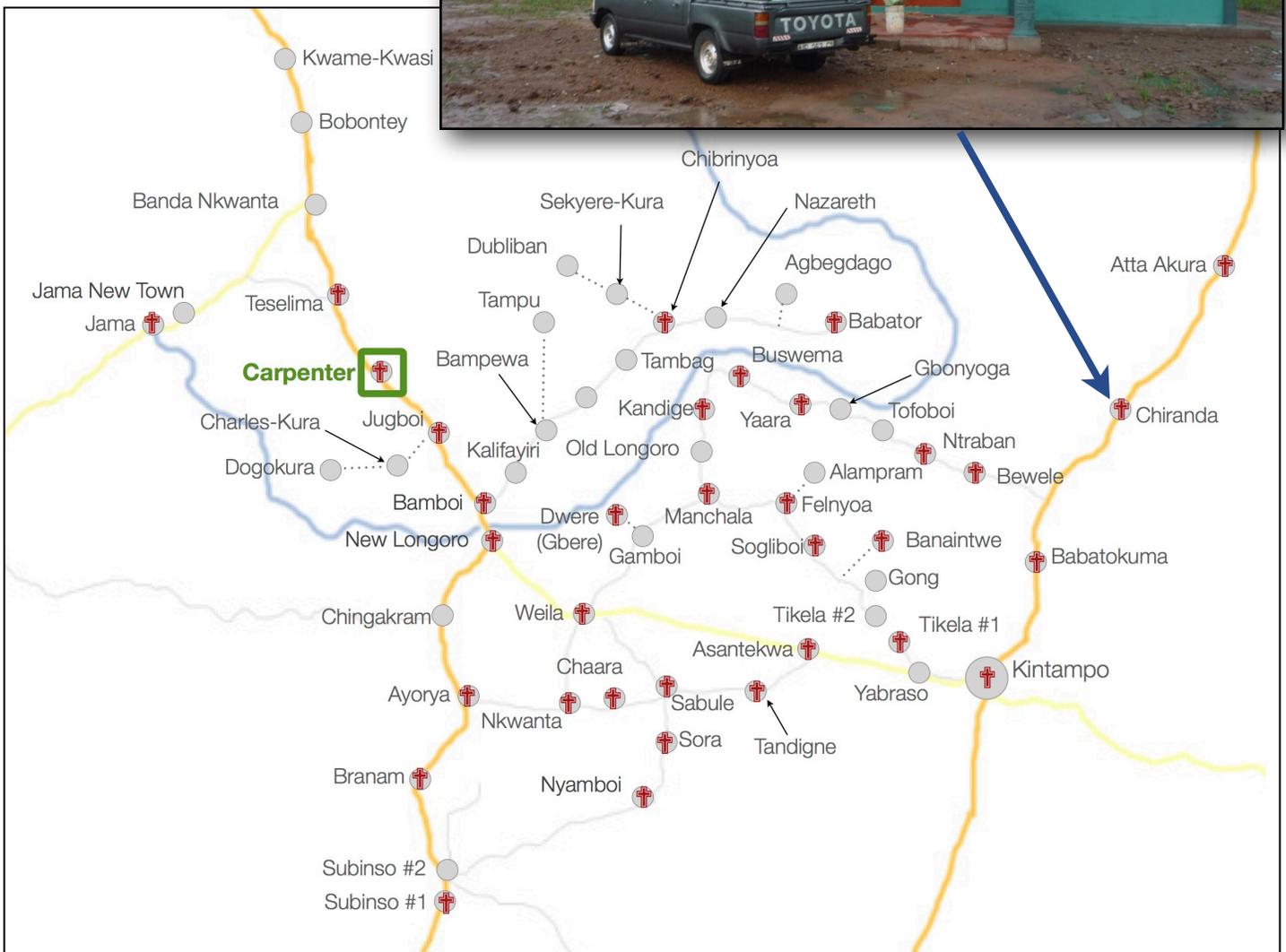
by Brenda Mensah

Right now there are thirty-six congregations in GRID and NEA's project area, all led by local pastors and lay leaders. Training these leaders is a large component of the work that we do to support the local church.

Another aspect of our support for the church involves working with the local church leadership to identify congregations that need a building, and to help them in constructing those buildings.

In 2008, an Easter Convention was held in the community of Chiranda. The congregation of believers emerging from the village started meeting in a primary school classroom under the leadership of Charles Kumah.

This past August we helped the Chiranda church establish its very own building for meeting together. (This is the twenty-first church building in the project area.) Members are overjoyed that they have adequate room to meet ... and will no longer be squeezing into children's desks!





## 2015 Ghana Health Team

Last year's Health Team was postponed until 2015 due to the large Ebola outbreak in West Africa. We are rejoicing that the numbers of new cases each week have been consistently very low for several weeks now, and that an effective vaccine is being used in the two countries that still have cases of the disease: Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Because the risk from Ebola to the team and to the communities we serve is now negligible, the GRID Board has agreed to proceed with a November Health Team mission to Ghana.

Please pray for this large, multi-disciplinary team as they serve so many thousands who need health care.

## USA Donations

We announced in our last newsletter that GRID USA has been established as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our friends in the United States are now able to send checks to us directly and donate on our website.

To donate by check, please make the check out to GRID and send it to our USA address (see below).

To donate online, simply go to [grid-nea.org/donate](http://grid-nea.org/donate) and select the donate button identified with the USA flag.

All donations are eligible for tax receipts, which will be mailed out the following February.



## Beanies for Babies

Some of our friends have been hard at work making beanies for newborns, enabling us to take over one hundred homemade hats to Ghana this November. These newborn hats are so important as we seek to encourage parents to avoid shaving newborns' heads, instead keeping them covered and warm. Our ability to provide new mothers with cute little hats makes it easy for them to adopt this safe practice.

A very warm "thank you" to all of you who have made and donated beanies. We will be looking for more as the Leyaata Ane project starts!

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### Donate (Canada/USA)

#### Donate Online

[grid-nea.org/donate](http://grid-nea.org/donate)

#### Donate By Cheque/Check

Please make cheques/checks payable to GRID and mail them to the appropriate address at the left.