



GRID Update

news from Northern Ghana



Members of the 2017 surgical team giving another hernia patient and his family the gift of restored health.

Gifts that Keep on Giving

by Brenda Mensah, Program Coordinator

'Tis the season when giving and generosity are probably most contemplated and displayed. We reflect on that first Christmas and God's generous gift of His precious, only-begotten Son, to the world He loved. We think about the Magi, the effort and time they spent following the star to Jesus and the extravagant gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that they carried from afar to lay at His feet.

As we write, we are thinking of the special 65-member, international medical and surgical team and the over 100 Ghanaian health professionals and volunteers they are working alongside, who are giving every ounce of strength, every one of their skills, and every bit of the supplies that filled nearly 200 hockey bags and boxes, to the thousands of patients who are coming their way.

We are also thinking of the difference your generosity has made in the lives of so many in this year that is quickly ticking to a close. In this newsletter we have featured just a few.

Thank you, once again, for your meaningful, deep partnership. May the Lord bless and keep you and may His face shine upon you. And, may He enable us to make an even greater difference in the communities we serve, for the glory of His name in 2018.

Community Gifts

Your gifts allow us to help communities meet their basic needs.

\$20 provides a child with a mosquito net to prevent malaria

\$100 gives a health worker essential equipment for care

\$500 equips a woman to provide for her household for life

\$700 trains a pastor to serve his or her community

\$2000 equips and trains a community health volunteer to care for mothers and babies

\$5000 provides a community with a well for clean drinking water

\$7000 provides a community with a latrine that reduces disease

Thank you for your gifts!

Chiefs and “Kings”

These unusual looking motorbikes with a trailer at the back are known as "Motor-Kings." Since 2014, fifty-eight of these have been given to Christian chiefs to enable them to better serve the people under their care. These are truly gifts that go on giving ... and giving and giving.

In northern Ghana, there is often a great deal of post-harvest food loss. One of the main challenges farmers face is getting the crops from the field to the market. Vehicles can't always traverse the farm bicycle paths, meaning that all the produce must be either carried out on the back of a bicycle or in pans on people's heads. The Motor-kings, which can go virtually anywhere a bicycle can, are changing that.

In the 58 villages these chiefs represent, farmers now have help to bring out their harvest, saving them money and hard labour. And in addition to the assistance they give farmers, the vehicles are used as a village ambulance, transporting the sick to the nearest health facility.



ONE MOTOR KING

costs \$2,000
and serves
a whole community

Staff and Scholars



For many years, you, through GRID, have sponsored young women and men to pursue studies in high school, community colleges and universities. Without your help, they would not have had these opportunities as their families could not support them.

Presently, fifteen of the graduates are giving back through their work with NEA in various capacities: accounting; hospitality; marketing; aquaculture; agriculture; project management; maternal, child and adolescent health.

NEA Scholars as Health Team Members

If you have been following the 2017 Health Team updates, you will be aware that three of our NEA scholars are participating as medical team members this year: **Eric**, nurse anaesthetist; **Dr. David**, medical doctor; and **Rita**, nurse. We are so proud of our scholars, and grateful for your gifts that have enabled them to give to others!



A SCHOLARSHIP

costs \$500 - \$3500
per year

Ntenuma

by David Mensah, Director

When the 2016 medical team came to Carpenter, Ntenuma's mother brought her to see our doctors. She had swallowed acid and damaged her throat extensively. She could not drink, talk or eat. The only way she could live was feeding and drinking from the tubes in her stomach.

We used funds that had been given to the health team to pursue a vigorous cure for the little girl. Ntenuma is now talking, eating, drinking and playing naturally, no longer fed through tubes. It was difficult for her mother to believe that this girl could be cured.

The mother came to the NEA Project site in Carpenter to show us "our daughter." The mother said that she and her husband wanted to give Ntenuma to us because they knew she would have died by now.

I was choked with tears. I thanked the woman and assured her that we have accepted "our daughter," but asked that she keep the little girl for



us. The mother knelt down and thanked us for giving her back to them. She said that her children have all died, leaving only Ntenuma. And yet she was willing to give her to us permanently.

My wife often reminds me, "We shall rescue them one by one in Christ's Name." We are so grateful for the donations that people like you give to allow us to rescue little ones like Ntenuma. Thank you for sharing in this ministry with us.

Together we serve the King of Glory.

Helping Others Like Ntenuma

Each year, the Ghana Health Team raises funds for team travel, clinic supplies, and drugs to provide care to patients. As part of their supply costs, they budget for cases where a patient needs care beyond what the team can provide. NEA leadership consults with these patients and their families, helps make a plan for care when appropriate, and uses team funds to help families access care. Your generous donations to the Ghana Health Team provided referral funds, which allowed us to support even Ntenuma's complicated case.



Health Team 2017

The 2017 Ghana Health Team has just completed their mission of providing health care to thousands. We are grateful for the gift of these precious volunteers – their time, their talents, and their compassion. Thank you for your donations, which have made it possible for them to provide life-changing care to Ghanaians.



A MEDICAL REFERRAL
can cost \$5 - \$10,000
depending on the
patient's condition



A TEAM PATIENT
can be cared for with
about \$40 of supplies,
drugs, and equipment

Ghanaian Generosity

by Brenda Mensah, Program Coordinator

Ghanaians are incredibly generous. So many of us who have been their guests have been humbled by the gifts they give us with joy.

I remember when one of David's elderly uncles presented us with a turkey, one of Ghana's most prestigious gifts. I knew this was a very precious gift and asked him when the last time was that he had eaten turkey.

He cocked his head, thought for a moment and said, "I think I've tasted it twice in my lifetime."

Then I looked around at all the faces of his children and grandchildren who flanked him (and who had never tasted this delicacy) All I could see in their faces was joy and pride because their father and grandfather was able to give such a gift.

This encounter redefined giving to me.



I Hate to Ask, But

by Jacques Lapointe, GRID Chair



I don't know about you, but I much prefer to give than to ask when it comes to charitable donations.

Nevertheless, today I'm asking you to join me, my family, and many others in making a difference in the lives of so many who, in their own great poverty, are themselves examples of tremendous generosity. We hear a lot about sacrificial giving, but until you have experienced it as a recipient of such generosity, these are only words. Much like some of the stories in this newsletter, my family and I have personally experienced it on some of our trips to Ghana. It's enough to bring you to tears!

So I'm humbly asking you to be as generous as you can in responding to the many opportunities to make a difference presented in this newsletter and throughout the year.

Thank you on behalf of those whom we serve together in Christ's name.

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Donate

www.grid-nea.org/donate

donate by mail: cheques/checks payable to GRID can be mailed to one of the above addresses

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.



Dr. David and Brenda Mensah