SEPT 2018

GRID UPDATE

NEWS FROM NORTHERN GHANA

"LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT"

by Brendah Mensah, GRID Program Coordinator

I remember hearing this phrase at a very young age. It comes from a hymn written in 1924 by Kittie L. Suffield. I wonder what inspired her to pen this? Perhaps she was thinking of Matthew 25:23 (ESV) - *Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.* Or perhaps, she was thinking about Matthew 14:17-21 (where 5 loaves + 2 fish = supper for 5,000 men + women + children).

Lately, I've been thinking about ***little*** and ***much*** and marvelling over the myriad of ways that we have seen God turn small things into big things over the past 30 years. The column of numbers to the right contains a few examples. Please look at them carefully. Each line is full of stories.

Imagine, **122,760** more people with clean water which equals better health for all 122,760; less work for women and girls; more girls in school.

Imagine, **5,500** women (mostly widows with dependants) who had no education, no jobs, no welfare to fall back on who can now feed, clothe, and provide health care for themselves and their families.

Imagine, **2,395** families, who are smiling at their children rolling over, learning to crawl, or taking first steps, instead of weeping over the loss of their baby at birth.

Imagine, **44** vibrant congregations – thousands of women, men, boys and girls learning God's ways and seeing Him at work in their lives.

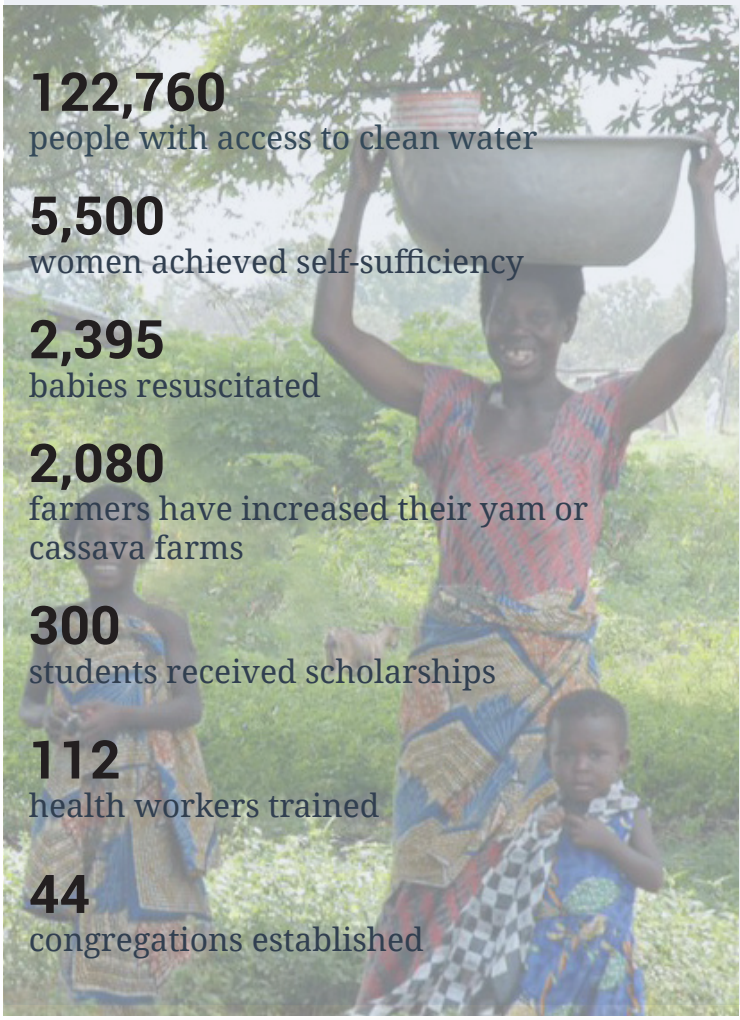
Imagine, (as you read page 3) the *little* health team of **60** who, following the example of Christ, will bring healing to thousands this November.

And…*imagine* what a difference the hospital in Carpenter will make for generations to come.

If there had been adequate space, we would have added ***amazing, life-transforming, positive*** and half a dozen more adjectives in front of ***YOUR IMPACT***. Thank you for all that you have given – and keep on giving - which has turned ***little*** into ***much*** and is moving towards ***much more***.

YOUR IMPACT

How You Make A Difference



For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me, I was in prison, and you came to Me.

- Matthew 25: 35-36 -

Dr. David and Brenda Mensah

AN INSPIRATION OF HOPE

Selena, a seventeen-year-old girl from Carpenter had lost hope in getting an education when she could not pass her BECE *(Basic Education Certification Examination).* When she was asked why she had found this such a challenge, she responded *"I did not have the support and the needed materials to help me study better."*

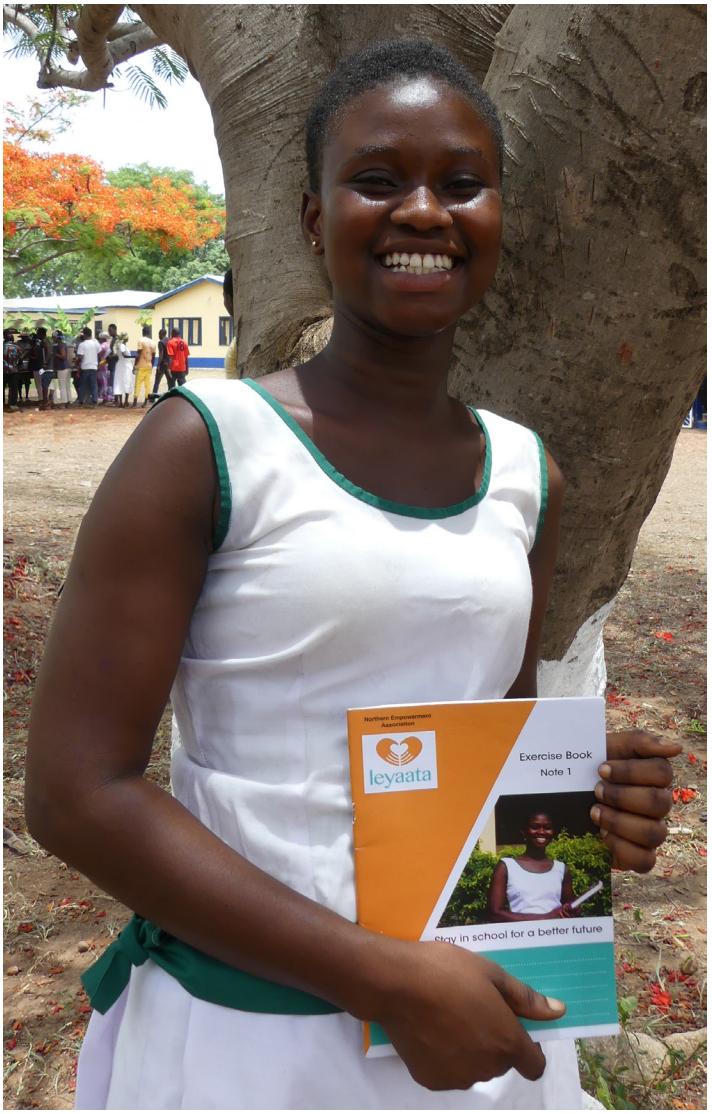
It is a common scenario in Northern Ghana for girls to drop out of school when they reach their teens. For families living on less than $1 a day and expected to spend $2 to purchase notebooks is simply unthinkable. Many children, and especially girls, drop out as the expense is too great for their families.

Selena's shattered hope was rekindled when one of NEA's Leyaata staff approached and encouraged her to go back to school. They explained to her that education is the best way for her to attain a brighter future. So Selena once again cut her hair short *(required for JHS students)* and humbled herself to join a class of much younger students showing true commitment to do what it will take to succeed.

Because Selena's story was so common in its beginning and unusual in its hopeful conclusion, the Leyaata project team decided to share it with other teens who might be in a similar situation. They designed and printed school notebooks with messages about the value of education on the back, and a photo of Selena on the front. As they distributed these books to encourage kids to stay in school, they shared Selena's story. Teens in communities around Carpenter are excited and inspired by the story of someone who overcame difficulty with hope. Students from Kurawura Akura Basic School said they were inspired to stay in school and study harder, every time they glanced at Selena's photo on the books.

"The story of the book inspires me a lot!" said a fifteen-year old boy.

"I like the story behind the picture of the girl on the book," shared by a sixteen-year-old girl.



"I like the Leyaata school notebooks because the story of Selena inspires me."

CALLED FOR A PURPOSE!

THE CALLING

In 2008, Joan received an invitation to join GRID's Ghana Health Team. Joan's reply was that the only way she would go to Africa would be on safari, and she didn't want to do any mission work! The year after, she attended an event where her friend spoke about the mission trip. Joan's attention was caught by the statement of one of the speakers: *"I never wanted to go to Africa other than to go on a safari, but I got involved in this team and I just can't believe how it changed my life."*

"That's my story!" Joan exclaimed. As the speaker was talking about a tiny baby they had to get an IV into and the difficulty they faced, she heard a voice *"Joan, you have to go!"* She felt that God was calling her to go and do it. She was kicking and screaming inside as she really did not want to do it.

THE PURPOSE

On the first day of Joan's mission trip in Yaara, a very sick baby, Joshua was brought in by Dr. Jennifer Wilson. If he would have been here in Canada, he would have been sent to SickKids and put on a ventilator. It's not an easy task to find a vein on a newborn infant but Joan immediately found the vein and a lifesaving IV started. They knew they could not keep him in the village, so they brought him to Carpenter. On their way back, Joan thought, ***"This is the reason that God called me to be here: for me to be able to get that IV into this baby."*** (IV therapy is her specialty.) It was a miracle both for the family and the medical team. Having found her purpose, Joan decided to return every year to provide care and save the lives of babies in Northern Ghana.

THE CONFIRMATION

A lot of unexpected things could happen in a two-week mission trip and for Joan getting sick on her third mission trip was eventful and unforgettable. She woke up with a headache and diarrhea. By the afternoon, she could not keep down any fluids and was given an intravenous with antibiotics. Knowing that the team was leaving Africa in two days, Dr. Carol recommended to airlift Joan to the airport as she was not well enough to travel by vehicle with the team. The possibility of finding a chopper in Northern Ghana was zero to none. However, they had access to God through prayer. Dr. David Mensah and the pastors gathered around Joan and prayed fervently for God to save and heal her. While everyone was scrambling to figure out how to airlift Joan, she rose up from her bed, well. And she has continued to play an important role in the annual health team.

THE JOY

"Having this mission and involvement with GRID has changed my focus," Joan stated. It has given her an outlet for caregiving and kept her involved in helping people. Instead of thinking about where she can go to for her next vacation, she is now busy fundraising for the next medical mission trip. ***"I know how much it means to the people in Ghana for us to be able to do this. I'd rather spend my money doing this than on a personal vacation,"*** Joan shared.

Joan Maguire has been involved with the Ghana Health Team for ten years. She is a mother of two amazing children and a grandma to two beautiful boys and expecting another grandchild this September.

GHANA HEALTH TEAM 2018

The Ghana Health Team 2018 is busy organizing everything they'll need to provide care for thousands of people during the nine clinic days. This year, we are thankful for the 60 volunteers from Canada and United Kingdom who are part of this team.

L E Y A A T A H O S P I T A L

A MODEL FOR BETTER HEALTHCARE IN GHANA

The Hospital Project that GRID and NEA embarked on in 2015 will soon become a reality.

A final, detailed engineering plan for construction provided by Bi-Architect Consultant, a Ghanaian group, has been received and approved.

THE PLANS
The 30-acre hospital site will be situated adjacent to NEA's Carpenter compound, on one of the country's main roads in the northwest.

Once completed, within the following two or three years, this fully equipped 50-bed general hospital will become the area's essential healthcare hub, offering specialized care, surgical care, outpatient clinics (eye, dental, chronic disease management, prenatal and child health), diagnostic imaging services and round-the-clock emergency services.

The hospital will have about 47,000 patient visits annually including as many as 18,000 emergency cases, 1,000 births, 1,000-3,000 surgeries and 4,000 inpatient visits.

THE HOSPITAL NAME
It will be known as the **Leyaata Hospital**. Leyaata, when translated into English means ***"Rescue Us"***. The name Leyaata is well recognized in the area where the hospital will be located since it has been associated for a number of years with large-scale health-related projects that GRID and NEA (with the financial help of Global Affairs Canada) have been undertaking in 160 communities. So, this provides not only instant name recognition but a meaningful name as well.

THE VISION
Leyaata Hospital will be a model of:

PATIENT CARE · SUSTAINABILITY · RESTFUL RECOVERY · DIAGNOSTICS

STAFFING · MAINTENANCE · MANAGEMENT · PARTNERSHIPS

THE FUNDRAISING
We are raising USD $10M to fund the construction of the hospital itself, to equip it, to build a residential staff village, and to fund the operating deficit during the three years that it is expected to take before the hospital can sustain itself financially. To date, through your generous donations and pledges we are at 80% of that objective. Thanks to the Jim Pattison Foundation, our lead donor with a matching gift of USD $2.5M. We are hopeful that with your support we will complete our fundraising objective soon.

THE TIMELINE
Groundbreaking and the first phase of construction is planned to begin later this year. Our goal is to open the hospital to its first patients later in 2020.

To see the milestones and important next steps coming to reality is such an encouragement for all who have had a part in this project but especially for those in Ghana who have been waiting for this life-saving hospital for so many years. We are so thankful that you are partnering with us to make this a reality.

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E: grid@grid-nea.org

GRID USA
3204 Kristen Ct.
Bloomington, IN 47401
T: 812.339.7499
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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 communties to meet their basic needs in a sustainable manner.