



GRID Update

news from Northern Ghana



Deep Roots; Strong Growth

by Brenda Mensah, GRID Program Coordinator

David and I are entering a very rich and full time in Ghana. We are rejoicing in the outcomes of the activities we have been privileged to be a part of. Healthy community development is a long and slow process, and we believe that the results we are seeing now come from seeds planted years ago. The small efforts started decades ago have grown into a strong, vibrant development program that is helping tens of thousands.

Even as we rejoice in God's blessing over the years, we are aware that many of these activities seem poised for even greater growth in the near future. We are excited about the opportunities that are before us collectively and pray for God's guidance and strength as we move into them together.

Did you know ...?

There are now **forty** active church congregations in our program area. Two of these were established in 2017 in the geographic region we have newly expanded into. Watch for more about these congregations and their leaders in future newsletters.

Ghana Health Team

In the 1990s, when we launched our first development program in Northern Ghana, our prayer for even one health care professional to come alongside of us seemed audacious. God has done more than all we could ask or imagine ... in 2017, we hosted our ninth health team! **Thank you** to the hard-working volunteers who served so many with such excellence. And thank you to the families and friends who enabled them to join us in Carpenter.



2017 Ghana Health Team



3580 medical patients



250 dental patients



1060 eye care patients



290 surgeries

Applications for the 2018 Ghana Health Team are open at www.grid-nea.org/teams. Deadline is **March 29**. Space is limited; please apply early!

Leyaata Ane Mother and Child Health Project

Since this project started in 2016 with funding support from the Government of Canada, we have provided antenatal education to 8,500 mothers. Thousands of babies have been saved, including the 1,250 who have been resuscitated at birth by trained health care professionals.

We are thrilled that in May 2018, a team of eight Canadian volunteers associated with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada will join us in Ghana. They will facilitate an intensive training in childbirth management for over fifty Ghanaian health care providers.

Northern Ghana Christian Chiefs' Association

In early 2018, we hosted the annual conference for Christian chiefs in Northern Ghana. Over 200 leaders from fourteen different tribes attended. We are in awe of how God is using this network to build peace in areas with long histories of conflict. One of our keynote speakers, who works with the Damongo Peace Initiative, remarked that God is using this special group to "change Northern Ghana and the nation as a whole."

Training Pastors

Our support for local churches includes helping establish buildings and training leaders. For many pastors, attending seminary is not possible, and they depend on the training that we provide. We are so excited to have special guests Craig and Bonnie Carter joining us in May to lead a training session for up to eighty leaders.

Aquaculture Program

The aquaculture program that started with a tiny cooler in 2004 has grown beyond our hopes and dreams. Eleven communities now have fish ponds that are providing them with protein. In 2018, we are starting a collaboration with the Government of Ghana to provide fingerlings for aquaculture programs in the northern part of the country.

Growing a Future

The challenges facing adolescents in our area are intense. We are launching a program to help them stay healthy and stay in school. These young people will learn to tend market gardens, to sell the produce, and to manage the income that they earn. The intent is that they will save money for future schooling. Thank you to our friends from Stronger Together for enabling this important program.

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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