

ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

April 5, 2006

Dear GRID Team,

As Easter approaches and we remember in a very special way the death and resurrection of Jesus, we pause and are thankful for the "newness of life" and "life eternal" that was made possible through Christ's death on the cross for us. Though wars, starvation, natural tragedy, personal pain, still occurs, Christians can experience peace of heart in these situations.

Spring is always an invigorating time - a time of excitement as we see the snow drops and crocus, and in Nova Scotia, even some daffodils pushing their way up through the soil. While our seasons differ from those in Ghana, yet it is exciting to know that Director David and Brenda and the NEA team are experiencing "newness of life" as they preach "the good news" to the poor. They have been attempting to visit all of the churches (over 20 groups) this past year. Brenda writes that they are so encouraged by what God is doing in the lives of the new believers. Pastor Jacob, (Bamboi Church), and other pastors/lay pastors have a plan in place to organize an outreach program that will reach all of the communities in the area (& beyond) over the next 3 years. Please pray for this outreach. One of the villages they are working with is Bewele, which has long been a stronghold of Satan. Pray especially for David that God will continue to give him wisdom in all of these delicate situations. Even when the people there become Christians, there is even more work to do to help them fully understand the gospel as they have been immersed in idol worship or witchcraft all of their lives. In one of the villages they visited (Subinso) the people were trying to recover from a wild bushfire that had struck the village that week. Brenda reports that no lives were lost but that all of the homes were lost except for about twelve that had tin roofs. Some of the people had gone to church on Sunday morning when the fire had reached the town and by the time they returned they were literally left with only the clothes they had on their back. Brenda saw one woman going through a pan of burnt peanuts just trying to salvage the few that weren't burnt black. Others sat by what was left of their buildings-a few mud blocks. A number of men sat for shade under mango trees with dried up leaves. It is all so sad. Two of

the NEA (our sister Board) staff members have family homes in this village. GRID/NEA will have a part in the restoration efforts. Already it has been possible to send enough used clothing (leftover from the last container shipment) for everybody to get clothing. During this church tour, at one of the meetings, David asked the question of the men: "Do you still beat your wives?" Most of them chuckled and said they had "gone past that". For some reason David persisted and pointed randomly to one man and asked "Do you still beat your wife?" The man replied "sometimes". David then talked with them about some of the cultural norms that now as Christians, they must cast away. The man understood the error of his actions, repented and was fervently prayed for by those Christians present. Having visited Ghana on several occasions and having met many of the people who have become Christians with a glowing testimony for Christ I can't help but think that in our "civilized?" countries we need to do some "casting away" of the old life that holds us back from serving the Lord in a more fitting way.

You may remember that in the last newsletter I mentioned that one of our Board Members, Dr. Norman Musewe and his wife Endra would accompany Brenda back to Ghana. God gave them a safe trip coming and going. Dr. Musewe trained people at one of the local hospitals, in the use of the Imaging Machine which he had previously sent over. Seeing the work first hand touched their hearts greatly as even in our Project Sites with the difference that teaching agriculture, getting wells in, providing immunization, making medical clinics available -yet he found and was concerned with the evidence of borderline malnutrition. Does that give you an idea of the great need? Imagine the children in villages not yet touched by GRID or other organizations. As a doctor from a large Toronto hospital he was moved by the poor facilities of the hospitals there. Back home, Dr. Musewe continues to tell the story of the great need and to enlist support and assistance from others. A group of students from Mc Master University had a fund raiser after hearing the conditions at the Tamale Hospital Maternity Ward described, and raised \$700.00. They are expecting more donations to come in. How these students have encouraged us. Chairman Doug and myself have been encouraged as we have had opportunity to do a few GRID presentations around Nova Scotia. We visited a small church group in Digby Co - people with a purpose and a vision for the poor. With the support of their Pastor and his wife they have stepped out in faith and are committed to sending the money to put in a well. Their vision is our encouragement.

Everything is going well at the project sites. The rains are now beginning to come in Ghana.

PRAYER is vital to the success of the work that GRID carries on in Northern Ghana.

Here are a few specific requests for which we would ask you to pray.

Please continue to pray for Director David and Brenda as they continue to visit the churches and assess the needs of each village.

Pray that God will bless them with good health and that he will protect them from harm.

As David works through problems, lifetime dogmas, tribal conflicts, wildbush fires, fetish priest problems, - all kinds of conflicts that must be resolved - that in every situation he will be granted wisdom and strength.

Pray for the new believers, among whom there are Imams and Witch doctors
Pray for the Christian Chiefs as David continues to meet with them and encourage them in their faith

Pray for our Grid Board Member, Jacques Lapointe and his wife Brigitte as they leave for a 2 week field trip to Ghana starting May 21'. Pray that they might have safety and good health.

Pray for Brenda and David as they travel back to Ontario for the Annual Grid Board Meeting the last of August.

Also, please continue to pray for Carole Mensah who continues to experience problems with the facial nerves. Pray that her doctors might find the solution to this problem.

There is no lack of work that needs to be done or no lack of people that need our help. We pray that God will give each one of us a "newness of heart" this Spring with a renewed desire to be part of helping those in need. We have so much. They have so little.

If you can support this mission in a big way then we pray that you will do that. If you can help in a small way, we pray that you will do that remembering that "little is much when God is in it".

God bless you,
Ella J. Porter

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" - Romans 8:32

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