

ghana rural integrated development GRID newsletter

November 18, 2009

Dear GRID Support Team:

I am happy to report that the Medical Team which I wrote about in July is now safely back on Canadian soil after compassionately meeting the needs of so many. Our Uxbridge Medical Team Co-Ordinator, Dr. Jennifer Wilson, said that despite having 95 bags of medical supplies, each weighing 50 lbs., their check-in at the Airport went smoothly!

I will try to pick a few "highlights" to pass on to you from my information.

Travelling to the village of Nyamboi by bus, in the intense heat, was a new experience for some of the team but God supplied the necessary strength making it possible to help these village people. When they arrived the medical team held, what they intended to be, a small clinic. That clinic ran until after dark and they saw over 300 people. A number of the people were diagnosed with diabetes and a Diabetic Clinic was held. The Hernia team completed several surgeries as well.

While in the villages the Dental Team was busy-often pulling multiple teeth per patient. In Yaara the doctors and nurses saw a multiplicity of untreated ailments. This area is so remote that most people just live with their sicknesses. The team had a whole tent full of patients to see the surgeon to get on the "hernia list" for 2010! ! They were able to repair about 30 hernias each day-some people had two hernias so that really represents about 20 patients per day.

I want to tell you just one story of many that I believe will touch your hearts. In Yaara a 3 year old boy was brought to the clinic. He was very sick with pneumonia and they were not sure if they could help him or not. An IV specialist was able to get a line in him to start fluids. They felt he would die if they took him to a distant hospital, so they took the little boy back to our project site in Carpenter and the nurses took turns monitoring and reinserting the IV several times. It was later learned that this little boy was David Mensah's nephew and that Peter, the little boy's father, was David's brother. Peter, was already in Carpenter for hernia surgery. At the church service on Sunday Peter addressed the congregation and said that he knew the team was coming again this year

but he didn't realize they would be coming "just for his family". God is good. In Carpenter they saw over 550 people in the clinic-again, people with diseases or various sicknesses that they have to live with. Eye glass stations were set up. As people were identified with sight problems, they would be told to go to the eye glass station the next day.

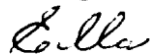
The people are so appreciative of anything that is done for them. The Canadian/European teams received four rams from the villages they held clinics in. During the last clinic, a chief from another village came with rams and yams. Several of the people from his village had visited the clinic that was closest to them so he too wanted to show his appreciation. Along with a cow that the medical teams provided, they celebrated with their Ghanaian friends.

It was an exhausted team that left Carpenter for the 10 hr. bus ride back to the city of Accra. Thank you, on their behalf for your prayer support. I'm reminded of a chorus called "The Lord Is Good". The first line says "tell it wherever you go". Each one of us can tell it in our own way. GRID/NEA tells it by digging wells, teaching agriculture, providing schools, churches, clinics and in many other ways as they set about making the people of Northern Ghana self-sustainable and restoring dignity to their lives. The Medical Teams tell it through providing much needed surgeries and through Health education.

We need many people to help tell this story. As Christmas approaches and we give thanks for the many blessings we have, and even take for granted, would you consider "telling the Lord is good" by your financial support---a special Christmas gift to help lighten the load carried by so many who do not live in our "comfort zones". Under the careful scrutiny of our Director David and Brenda who daily work so faithfully in Northern Ghana, telling the story, and with the wisdom of our Chairmen in GRID and NEA, the money is spent wisely for the good of many, many needy people.

May God bring to your mind the real meaning of Christmas and bless you with a New Year filled with the desire to "help others", as you tell in your way, "The Lord Is Good".

Ella J. Porter



Public Relations.

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Prayer Requests:

For the new GRID Chairman Jacques Lapointe and the GRID Board as changes are implemented to enhance our working operation.

For continued good health for David and Brenda and Elizabeth, Deborah and family and Carol as they continue their studies. Our NEA Chairman and all of the members of the NEA Board and their families. Our Medical Teams who go over from time to time and other volunteers who go in different capacities. Never cease praying for the people in Ghana whom we seek to assist.