



IMPACT

June 2023

Dear Friend,

Welcome to summertime! I am happy to present you with another glimpse into what we're up to at NG. One thing we love to do is to provide a place of belonging for those who otherwise might feel left out, lonely, or without a healthy community in which to belong. What can this look like?

You will meet Qani (pronounced something close to "Chani"), a long-time Albanian "family" member of our Social/Medical Improvement (SMI) work in Pogradec.

We also take you to Ghana, introducing our partner organization D1:8. Here young people and children in the region of Sunyani find a safe place of belonging, discipleship and vocational training. Many of these youth come from unhealthy environments.

We are proud of the multi-faceted "impact" we have in the lives of our ever-growing family.

In gratitude for your partnership,

Michelle Mann

NG USA Executive Director



Finding a home with "the Germans"

We often talk about humanitarian help, financial help, difficult medical and social cases, education, and many others, but we forget to mention stories like that of Qani. Qani is someone who never had a home of his own that loved, accepted, and made him feel he was in the right place, until he came to "the Germans," (which is how many locals refer to NG).

Qani is a 78-year-old man, who comes from a small village close to Pogradec, together with his brother, who has since passed. His mother died when they were little and his father married again starting a new family, in which Qani wasn't accepted, and he was left alone in this world.

Opportunity came for Qani to create his own family, but it unfortunately disappeared quickly for him, as his brother didn't approve of his marriage and Qani divorced his wife and once more, he was left alone and with a broken heart. He left his village and migrated to Pogradec, where he worked for 17 years on the railroads until the 1990s, when everything was destroyed in Albania. But he didn't know that God had other plans for his life, as it was in this time of his life when he met NG Albania and found his new home with "the Germans." When you ask Qani about that moment, he replies, "Oh I've known NG since 1990. I have always found a home here, when no one loved me, and when I was left on the street, alone."

For over 30 years now Qani has visited us every day. He spends time at the Amaro Tan soup kitchen. You can find him most of the time there, eating a warm meal or playing dominos and chess with his friends, or worshipping with Andy and Gian Paul Ardüser during spiritual meetings. We can gladly say that Qani is home, and he belongs somewhere he is loved and appreciated.



NG USA Executive Director, Michelle Mann, and NG USA Board Member, Stephen Kaufman, with some chapters of D1:8.



D1:8 founder, Doris Donkor, prays with some children during an outreach

Partnering With D1:8 Ministries

Red dirt roads cut lines through the green fields of western Ghana. Visible from the window during the 40-minute flight from the capital of Accra, small collections of houses dot the countryside. Wheels hit the tarmac; the stairs are lowered. A tiny airport consisting of two rooms sits alone in the beating sun, welcoming visitors to Sunyani, in the Bono region of Ghana.

It's in this part of Ghana that NG USA partner organization Daniel 1:8 Ministries (D1:8) has been operating since 2017 with the mission "to mentor young people from every background so that they develop into vibrant, capable adults with Godly principles." D1:8 has a multifaceted approach to accomplishing this mission. Through the hard work of staff and many volunteers, they carry out weekly meetings, consistent discipleship, outreach, vocational trainings, and more.

With more than 200 Ghanaian youth involved in the program, gathering all together on a consistent basis can be difficult. Because of this, D1:8 has eight different locations around the Sunyani region in which young people gather for a weekly Chapter Meeting. The primary focus of these weekly meetings is to continue mentorship through Bible studies, life coaching, fellowship, academic support, and anything else that might be needed.

On special occasions, these smaller chapters all come together in one place for summits, workshops, or celebrations. Buses are sent out to the chapters that are further away to give them an opportunity to attend, bringing them back to the main center for D1:8.

In the past year, the D1:8 center has grown with the addition of an Entrepreneurship Training Center. This building provides



The 5 year anniversary celebration of D1:8 in 2022

a comfortable space for some of the young adults at D1:8 to learn valuable vocational skills, like beading or sewing, to give the opportunity of a better future for those that may be disadvantaged.

But D1:8 doesn't operate solely with those involved in their programs. Another way to help mentor their members, the leadership goes out with them to do outreach in local communities. "An outreach is an activity that takes us out there to be able to reach out to a young person and bring them into our circle. Whether we are sharing a flyer, or we are going out there with a giftbox, or something that will draw them to understand what D1:8 is all about and to join us for our chapter meetings," explains Doris Donkor, the founder of D1:8.

Despite only existing for 5 years, the impact of D1:8 is significant. It is often hard to quantify on paper how a ministry like this can affect the life of a child, or a young person, but the influence is undeniable when viewing it firsthand. Teenagers that have been positively impacted by the ministry are now spending their time and energy working with D1:8 and doing the same for their younger peers. The work ethic, attitude, devotion to one another and to the Gospel stands out in each of them. God is changing lives in Sunyani, and he is using Daniel 1:8 Ministries to do so.

(To learn more about Daniel 1:8 Ministries, visit www.d1eight.org.)

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