

# Liberia Education Update

January 2020



*Team from Peoria First UMC present nursing textbooks to the Winnifred Harley College of Health Science at the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station.*

## **Volunteers from California work at St. Matthew UMC Clinic and School**

In March 2019, Rev. Janette Saavedra, senior pastor of Memorial United Methodist Church (UMC) in Clovis, California, visited United Methodist Schools (UMS) in Montserrado, Bong and Nimba Counties. In January 2020, Rev. Saavedra returned to Liberia with a team of 3 health care professionals- Celerina Carlos, Lynette Grandison, Rob Poseley, and Kisha Xiong- to volunteer at the St. Matthew UMC clinic in Logan Town on Bushrod Island. The school, clinic, and church are all in the same compound. While pediatrician, Lynette Grandison, and her teammates attended to 550 patients at the clinic over 4 days, Rev. Saavedra met with female students to teach and discuss feminine hygiene and the use of reusable feminine products from the organization, Days for Girls. The male students requested a return visit with special sessions just for them.

## **Volunteers from Illinois Contribute to the Nursing School and Korsen UMS**

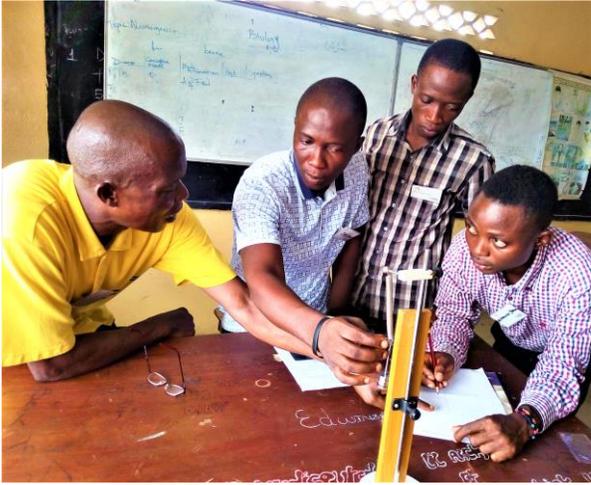
Julie Rolffs from Peoria First UMC in Illinois made her third trip to Liberia in January. Peoria First UMC has been a strong supporter of the Winnifred Harley College of Health Science (the nursing college) on the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station in Nimba County. Julie came with her pastor, Rev. Tim Ozment, and 2 other church members, Dan Phillips and Amy Zuehls, to meet with the nursing students they support with scholarships, see the improvements in the school's physical space, and give textbooks to the school. This congregation also sent funds to construct a school building for Korsen UMS in Nimba County. Last year, I shared that Korsen UMS was having classes in a rented house and in



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*Korsen UMS students and staff at construction site of new school building.*



Physics teachers proving Hooke's Law during the January 2020 lab training.

the church building. The landlord is no longer renting the house and the Ministry of Education does not allow schools to have classes in church buildings, so the new school building is very much needed.

We travelled to Korsen to see the progress in the construction work and visit with the students and staff. Pastor Tim was welcomed by the congregation with the gift of a white chicken as a sign of their pure hearts. The team enjoyed their chicken dinner the next evening at the Ganta mission station guesthouse.

### Sanniquellie UMS

On the way to Ganta from Monrovia, we stopped for lunch with Rev. Dr. Anna Labala, principal of Tubman-Gray UMS on the Gbarnga Mission Station. The team visited every class at the school. Before returning to Monrovia, Gompa District Superintendent, Rev. Aaron Yankee asked the team to visit Sanniquellie UMS. It was great to see the improvements that Bro. Maxwell Gausi made since he became principal in 2015. There used to be a concern that the school needed to be moved from its location on the other side of the railroad tracks and a foundation for a new school building was started next to the Sanniquellie UMC. Now that the Nimba Community College is on the other side of the tracks, the area is developing, and the school enrollment has grown from 30 students when Bro. Gausi became principal to 199 students this school year. The students are studying agriculture and working on a school garden. When I visited the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class, the students tested my knowledge by asking me questions about types of soil and times for planting.

### Physics Lab Training

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, Peace Corps Volunteer, Michael Pistininzi, led the third in a series of science lab trainings for our United Methodist teachers in preparation for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). Eleven teachers from 9 schools participated in the hands-on physics training at J. J. Roberts UMS in Sinkor, Monrovia.



Children in class at Sanniquellie UMS.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

I wish you the love, joy, hope, and peace of Jesus Christ.

Helen Roberts-Evans  
[hevans@umcmision.org](mailto:hevans@umcmision.org)



The Sanniquellie UMS motto is "Cracking for the excellent core".