

# Liberia Education Update

October 2020



Frequent handwashing is one of the COVID-19 prevention guidelines for schools. This is one of the several handwashing stations at Ganta UMS.

## Ganta United Methodist School Debate Team

The Ganta United Methodist School (UMS) debate team successfully competed against other schools in Nimba County and will compete in the national finals of the Youth for Change competition to be held in Monrovia in November. I observed the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in class and met with the debate team. Team member, Albert N. Joe, Jr., has a passion for writing and shared with me his vision for writing clubs to promote literacy in Liberia. We discussed how to start with a club at Ganta UMS.

## Special and Inclusive Education

The Ministry of Education's Division of Special and Inclusive Education had a 2-day (October 19 and 20, 2020) consultative planning meeting to share ideas on adapting the national curriculum for students with special needs. This UNICEF funded meeting brought together teachers and administrators from schools for the blind and deaf in 6 counties. It was another step in the journey to quality Education for all.



On October 9, 2020, the Ganta UMS debate team (8 male and 2 female high school students) explained to me how they won the Youth for Change debate in Nimba County by successfully defending their position that National Service should not be compulsory.



David Worlobah, Hope for the Deaf principal (on the right), in our small group discussion on adapting the curriculum.

## Give to Advance Projects

<https://advance.umcmmission.org>

Construction of New School Buildings  
#3020670

Missionary Support #3021129

Operation Classroom # 3020494

Scholarships #15125B



Deaf students in nursery through grade 6 returned to the classroom in September. On October 1, I observed teacher, Love Voker's second grade class at Hope for the Deaf in Monrovia. Love is a graduate of this school.



Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo, President of the College of West Africa in Monrovia, worked with a vendor to purchase these books for the United Methodist School System.



Students in the Library of College of West Africa, October 30, 2020.

“If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
If I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
Your right hand will hold me fast.”  
Psalm 139:9,10

Be well and safe in God’s Kingdom.

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**Books Arrive!**

In March 2019, when Rev. Janette Saavedra from Memorial UMC in Clovis, California visited Liberia, we discussed the need for high school textbooks that would prepare students for the math and science exams on the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations. Memorial UMC sent funds to buy books, but we were waiting to purchase them at a lower price. The desired *A+ Series* and *Aki-Ola* textbooks are on the market in Liberia for US\$35.00. We waited for a shipment from Ghana and purchased 81 books for \$10.00 to \$15.00 each. We are so thankful that United Methodist high schools that do not have any high school math and science books will receive copies of the desired books for the new school year!

**Liberia Reads!**

In past updates, I shared about the *Liberia Reads!* project at Ganta UMS. In October, J. J. Roberts UMS teachers were trained and are now part of *Liberia Reads!* The training was a wonderful opportunity for the teachers (and me) to review the components of reading and to practice using this phonics-based, student-engaging approach for promoting literacy in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.



*Liberia Reads!* trainer, Mr. S. Kokoyah with teachers at J. J. Roberts UMS in Sinkor, Monrovia.



On October 30, 2020, the last day of the 2-week training, J. J. Roberts UMS teachers received certificates from *Liberia Reads!* Thank you to Dr. Geri Melosh, former Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, for developing and sharing *Liberia Reads!*