Love for Liberia

We Can Make a Difference
Church to Church
Child to Child
For the Children of Liberia
Love for Liberia: A Partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference

“A partnership that involves thoughtful, mutual understanding among Christians from every tradition and culture within the world wide Church is indispensable for faithful united witness to Jesus Christ.”

—Vinoth Ramachandra

After much thought, after many visits from persons from the North Carolina Annual Conference, after much prayer, and after many requests for help from Liberia, the Mission Team of the North Carolina Conference desires to create a partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference.

This partnership would include
- Listening to the requests for assistance from our brothers and sisters in need in Liberia.
- Sharing those needs with individuals and churches throughout our Annual Conference.
- Choosing eight specific projects where our Conference can make a difference over the course of the next two years.
- Working to put a “face on mission” so that the needs of real people in Liberia are shown and so that God’s people can respond.
- Working with and for the children and youth of Liberia whenever possible.
- Working with and through the ministries of the missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.
- Sending work teams to Liberia.
- Bringing persons from Liberia to itinerate among the local churches in the Annual Conference.

Our goals are to be caring, transparent, and effective in sharing the resources that God has so graciously given to us.
Specific Goals for Love for Liberia

• To be in a true partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference by listening to the needs of the local churches, schools, and Annual Conference leaders.
• To make a difference in the lives of children who are often overlooked in a society that is trying to rebuild after devastating wars.
• To teach each local United Methodist Church in the North Carolina Conference that it can be in mission. There is no such thing as a “small church” when it comes to mission.
• To highlight “hands on” mission opportunities.
• To “put a face on mission” by sharing stories from Liberia about ways in which individuals and groups are making progress towards financial sustainability.
• To increase awareness of the work of our missionaries in Liberia and thus to increase Missionary Salary Support of our Conference.
Highlights of the Love for Liberia Program
As Outlined in this Booklet

1. The program fits the Seven Pathways which our Conference has adopted to guide our ministries.
2. The program involves local churches and their pastors in mission. Each local church will be asked to participate in some sponsorship (for example, by buying a Bible) each quarter. The Bishop and the District Superintendents will be crucial in encouraging the local churches and reminding them that no one gift is too small.
3. The program highlights one overall ministry for two years and one specific ministry for each quarter in those years. The Conference Mission Team, which consists of the staff person for Mission and Justice Ministries, the Conference Mission Secretary, District Mission Secretaries, and representatives of all of the major outreach ministries of our Conference, will be responsible for marketing the program and providing resources for local churches to participate in this endeavor.
4. The program will help to bring missionaries to our Conference to visit individual local churches. Districts will be encouraged to offer opportunities for local church leaders and pastors to meet the missionaries in cluster groups.
5. The program will involve a high-energy event on one day of Annual Conference at which time volunteers will load a container of items brought from local churches that will be sent immediately to Liberia from Annual Conference.
Support of Missionaries is a vital part of the Love for Liberia Ministry Program 
Here is a listing of the missionaries working in Liberia through the General Board of 
Global Ministries

**Carew, George B.**
- #13910Z - Professor - Liberia, West Africa.

**Carew, Nancy**
- #13911Z - Teacher with the foods and nutrition program of the Women's Training Center in Liberia, West Africa.

**Gray, James (Jim)**
- #15150Z - Vice President for Research, Advancement and Development at United Methodist University (UMU) in the Liberia Annual Conference.

**Gray, Linda (Lyn)**
- #15149Z - Training and Development Officer with the YMCA of Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia.

**Jaiah, Priscilla Legay**
- #13035Z - Principal of the United Methodist School in Ganta, Liberia, West Africa.

**Jusu, Princess**
- #13037Z - Serving in Monrovia, Liberia, as an instructor at the United Methodist Women's Leadership Training Center.

**Kinkolenge, Frido**
- #15152Z - Director of Children’s Ministries in the UMC Liberia Annual Conference and EmK Weltmission (United Methodist Church in Germany) Children’s Project Manager in Liberia.

**Ncahoruri, Joel**
- #13080Z - Area Financial Executive for the United Methodist Church in Liberia.

**Porter, Suzanne**
- #13929Z - Serving at the Ganta Medical Complex in Ganta, Liberia.

**Simbangoye, Anne-Marie**
- #14209Z - Serving as an educator for the Liberia Annual Conference in Monrovia, Liberia.

**Taryor, Victor**
- #3019571 - Hospital administrator for Ganta Hospital in Ganta, Liberia.

**Willicor, Albert**
- #15151Z - Chief Medical Officer at Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Ganta, Liberia, Liberia Annual Conference.

**Zibgbo, Herbert Sei Lami**
- #10911Z - Serving the United Methodist Church in Liberia as coordinator for the church’s Vocational Training Unit.

**Zibgbo, Mary Randall**
- #10721Z - Assisting the United Methodist Church in Liberia in its development of programs for disabled persons.
2009 Annual Conference Event

During one day at Annual Conference, we will arrange for a truck with a forty-foot container to be on site. We will load the items which will be brought from all of the local churches to Greenville. These are the items which we will ask each local church in a particular District to provide. All items should be collected at one location in each particular District during the week before Conference. The District Mission Secretary will work with the local churches to make sure that items are properly labeled and packaged for shipment. He/she will also arrange for the items to be transported to Greenville from that District. Please note: we are trusting that all local churches will “check” all kits before taking them to the District location. From that point on, all kits will be sent as packaged. Therefore, it is essential that the kits have all of the items so that those who receive the kits in Liberia will be treated equitably.

Burlington, Durham, Elizabeth City and Wilmington Districts will be asked to collect YES (Youth Essential School) Kits for elementary or secondary school students as well as the Teacher’s Kits. (See the packaging list at the end of this document). Local churches should know that these kits are given to the students in an effort to reduce the overall expenses that their parents incur in sending their children to school. Parents are responsible for the uniforms and tuition for the students at the United Methodist Schools throughout Liberia.

Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Greenville, and Rocky Mount Districts will be asked to collect Health Kits (See the packaging list at the end of this document). The health kits will be distributed at the Ganta Hospital through its community health outreach programs.

New Bern, Raleigh, Rockingham and Sanford 6 Districts will be asked to collect Food Kits. (See the packaging list at the end of this document). Most of the food will be distributed through the ministries of Frido Kikolenge which are described in this document. Many of the children and youth that he works with are not able to have good nutritious meals on a daily basis.
How the Program Fits our Seven Pathways in the NC Annual Conference

We are called to center our attention on our United Methodist mission statement: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This overall mission statement is also a statement of mission activity—practicing what we preach.

Pathway One: Transforming existing congregations.
We believe that one way to transform existing congregations is to let the Spirit of God teach us of the importance of being a missionary church instead of a maintenance church. We believe that we are only as strong as we are when we reach out into the world with the word and the compassionate acts of Jesus Christ. We believe that the types of hands-on activities that we are asking each body of believers to do will transform local church members. We believe ultimately that members will learn about poverty, about the call to help others, about Jesus’ words on the subjects of justice and mercy. We have seen again and again how our missionary churches are best prepared to be “lights” that attract even more members who are transformed by the loving embrace of God. In short, the more we reach out and share in the abundance of what God has shared with us, the more we will grow spiritually.

Pathway Two: We believe that new congregations must be developed in our Conference. In this regard, we need to be open to the partnership which we are proposing with our Liberian brothers and sisters. For the facts are that the United Methodist Church is growing in Liberia as it is in other parts of Africa—despite very harsh economic realities. If we truly listen when we visit and if we bring over to our Conference leading African evangelists, we may capture a vision of how to start a congregation which is quite different that what we have practiced in the past. We ask that the Conference be open to how God’s Spirit is moving in other non-Western cultures and see how that might apply to our context.
Pathway Three: Strengthening Clergy and Lay Leadership
We are convinced that clergy and lay leadership can be strengthened when we are willing to look at the direction that Jesus himself sent his disciples. In Acts 1.8, Jesus told the disciples that “you will receive power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” We believe that it is time to let God work through us in a mighty way to spread God’s word and his work in this world. We need leaders who realize that we become spiritually stronger when we share God’s word and his work. We become servant leaders when we minister to the real needs of others—beginning in our own congregations and moving indeed to the ends of the earth (like Liberia). We believe that this program has real, hands-on action plans that will lovingly stretch our Conference, District, and Local clergy and laity leaders. If we let God lead us to do things that we thought were impossible (like meet our apportionments and reach out to the needy in our own Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth), we believe that our confidence and trust in Jesus will lead us to do even “greater things.”

Pathway Four: Teaching the Wesleyan model of forming disciples of Jesus Christ.
We see that our Love for Liberia campaign will help local churches learn the Wesleyan model of forming disciples of Jesus Christ. First of all, we will challenge each congregation during our preparatory quarter to learn about the Wesleyan model of missions. We will give to every local pastor a guideline as to how our campaign follows the Wesleyan model. We will offer specific ways to pray and to study the scriptures daily. We will ask that small groups gather not only to “plan how to be ready for the bus,” but to plan how to grow the Church through this program. We will ask local churches to emphasize the Wesleyan model of “both/and.” That is there should be a connection between evangelism and missions, word and deed, faith and practice. We will offer studies on Wesley, the scriptures, and contemporary United Methodists which will challenge Churches to live up to the great Wesleyan traditions of “hearing and doing.”
Pathway Five: Reaching and transforming the lives of the new generations of children.

We share the Council of Bishops’ dismay at the lack of growth in many of our Churches of children and youth. The Millennial Generation does present a challenge to the Church. But studies continually show that this generation wants two things from a local Church: an assurance that what is spoken is as close to the word of God as possible; and, evidence that the Word is being practiced. Again and again, we find that the Churches that are growing have learned to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Again, the Love for Liberia campaign challenges each local church, each local person, to know that they can be a part of God’s mission in the world. Through concentrating on these hands-on activities, children and youth will learn that their parents and their church family are serious about the sharing their faith in a world that needs the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are especially concerned for the children of Liberia. Many of the children are literally living off of the land, foraging for food. Children are dying of malnutrition, preventable communicable diseases, and HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, educational opportunities are limited and hope for the future because of their recent past of war is tenuous at best. We believe that our children can learn something about the value and blessings of our State by learning and cooperating with children in Liberia. We will literally ask our children to “Get on the Bus” to help another child. One of our children may save the life of another child.

Pathway Six: Eliminating Poverty in Community with the Poor

Even though Jesus told us that the “poor will always be with you,” we do not think that he meant that we should be oblivious to the plight of the poor around the world. We know that there are persons in our own communities that are food deficient. We know that there are persons without gainful employment and persons without health care in our communities. We can and we must do more to share in the abundance of our resources. But we also believe that sometimes we can be inspired by the stories of persons in other countries that have so much less than we do economically and yet have learned to survive and be self-sufficient.
We want to learn more about raising our own food and teaching others how to do that. We want to learn more about micro-enterprises and how we might show persons in our communities how to be more entrepreneurial. We want to share the love of Christ in community with the poor. We do not presume to share our wealth because we have an abundance. We will share our wealth because we recognize that when we place our hope in earthly treasures, we are in fact impoverished. We desire to be in ministry with the poor so that we all might learn of the provision of God’s grace for a spiritually needy world.

Again, our hands-on approach will teach us all that like the story of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, God will take what we have to offer and will use it for God’s own work in this world.

Pathway Seven: Expanding racial and ethnic ministries.
We live in a global society in which no particular race has the right to claim the power of majority. The State of North Carolina is rapidly becoming a “majority/minority” state. Unfortunately, we must confess that we still have to deal with the sin of racism in the Church and beyond. Yes, we absolutely have to reach out to the Hispanic community and other communities in our state. That is part of our Acts 1.8 commission. But we need to recognize our historic racism in our State and in our Conference towards African-Americans who are descendents of slaves brought to this country primarily from Western Africa. Is it not time to reach out in acts of reconciliation to the descendents of West Africans in America and in places like Liberia? Is it not time to ask for forgiveness for shipping slaves to America in the first place and for shipping back numerous ex-slaves to places like Liberia because we did not want those freed African Americans on our soil? Is it not time that we recognize that those actions which were supported by our Methodist ancestors actually created social chaos in Liberia? Is it not time that we realize that action caused newly freed slaves in Liberia to become “lords” over the indigenous persons who were living in Liberia at the time? Is it not time to recognize that seeds of discord sown long ago have been harvested in the form of a civil war?
It may be providential that we have an opportunity to help the children of Africa. It may be that in so doing, we will find the courage to help the children of Africans who are still among us, who worship with us, and who have faithfully been a part of our denomination even when the odds were clearly against them.

It might be that the symbolism of our Conference reaching out to a country which is composed and led by people who are almost totally Black will give hope to the people with whom we have so long mistreated even in our midst.

Would it not be special for our Conference to reach out to a country which has the first African woman as President—a woman who gives credit to the legacy of the United Methodist Church in her country. It was the UMC that allowed her to get an education, that provided leadership possibilities for her, and that provided an undergirding of love and prayer for her administration.

It is now time to work with her and her people to hear their cries for help and to respond. In so doing not only might we become more reconciled to our African-American United Methodist brothers and sisters, but we might also learn to treat them with the love and respect that they also deserve.
Our Theology of Mission

Our Lord is a missionary God! From the beginning of the Old Testament, he has called his people to “go forth.” God’s people have been given the privilege to serve others in the name of Christ. From Matthew 25.31ff, Jesus reminds us that when we do something in the way of visiting those who are sick or in prison or do anything “to the least of these my brethren,” we have in fact done it to Jesus. We are reminded throughout the scriptures that God expects us to be in mission—to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

But who is our neighbor? And how can we possibly respond to the great needs of this world? In Acts 1.8, Jesus said to the Church that “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The Holy Spirit empowered the Church on the Day of Pentecost and from that time until now the Church has been a missionary Church dedicated to the spiritual and temporal welfare of God’s people.

According to Acts 2, the Church in Jerusalem sold all that they had and shared the proceeds with one another as each had need. The disciples of Jesus depended upon God’s steadfast love to care for the widows and orphans in their hometown of Jerusalem. The needy were their neighbors. But they did not stop there. One of the persons who had been set aside to help the apostles take care of the widows and orphans in Jerusalem, Philip, went to Gaza and Samaria and spread the message of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave spiritual bread to the Ethiopian eunuch, someone who would have been on the outside of many places of worship. The Spirit was leading the Church from Jerusalem (their original home) into Judea and Samaria (the regions near their home). The hated Samaritans were in fact neighbors too.

Modern day Churches are called to be in ministry in their home communities (their Jerusalem) and in the regions around them (modern day places that are like Samaria—places that religious people sometimes avoid still). We are also compelled to go “to the ends of the earth.” For there we find neighbors too. And there we are empowered by the same Spirit to assist those in need.

For us as an Annual Conference Mission Team, we have chosen to concentrate on one small country in Africa for a short period of time of two years. We believe that with intense focused involvement, we can make a difference for orphans and widows in Liberia. The needs are great, but our God is a great God and has heard the cries of the needy.

We can respond! We are reminded that Melville Cox, the pastor at Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh, felt a calling from the Holy Spirit to go to Liberia in 1832. He was weakened by tuberculosis and a friend told him that he would die in Liberia if he went. His response was “Let a thousand die before Africa be given up.” So he went. As the first foreign Methodist missionary, he went to Liberia. He gathered Christians together for worship and died four months later.

Now we have spiritual descendents of those early Methodists in Liberia who are in mission activity with the least, the last, and the lost. They are in mission and ask for our help. Their mission is now our co-mission. Together, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, we can make a difference. Let us assist our African brothers and sisters who are desperately saying, “do not let us fall.”
Short history of our connection to Liberia

The first Methodist missionary that was sent into foreign missions from the United States was Melville Cox, who answered a call into missions from Edenton Street Methodist Church in Raleigh.

Many freed slaves from North Carolina and other states returned to Africa and settled in Liberia.

Over the years, the missions agency of the general church established at least three mission stations in Liberia and did significant work in founding what are now United Methodist Churches throughout that country. Around 80 schools for all ages were also established over the years in areas in which there was previously no education for children.

The North Carolina Annual Conference has a long-standing tradition of partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference, including

--Working with Operation Classroom to help upgrade and support children throughout Liberia who are trying to get an education.

--Supporting missionaries with missionary salary support. Among those missionaries are Herbert and Mary Zigbuo (Mary is a native of Bolton, NC), Frido Kinkolenge, Victor Taynor, George Carew, and Mozart Adevu.

--Supporting the Ganta Hospital at the Ganta Mission Station with equipment, nursing and medical supplies, and work teams.

--Sending a number of work teams through the leadership of Jim Perry of Edenton Street UMC.

--Supporting our missionaries by sending them containers of school supplies, medical supplies, agricultural supplies, and vehicles for transportation.

--Working with our missionaries in their programs which concentrate on agriculture, on reconciliation between ex-combatant children, on vocational skills, and medical needs.

--Working with Stop Hunger Now to send meals to the people of Liberia.

--Praying for the needs of the United Methodist Church of Liberia. These prayers have been undergirded by the covenant group relationship of Bishop Gwinn of the North Carolina Annual Conference and Bishop John Innis of the Liberia Annual Conference.

Over the course of twelve years, there were two civil wars which led to complete destruction of infrastructure, demolition of many United Methodist properties, and the creation of mistrust and pain among the ex-combatants of war. The United Methodist Church is positioned to lift up the powerful message of Jesus Christ in the midst of despair. Jesus Christ is offering hope to the people of Liberia. Christ offers healing, opportunities to work together in community, and a message of peace.

In a recent fact-finding visit by three persons from our Annual Conference, person after person said “Remember us.” In one visit to the village of Gbahn, the villagers sang in their language the song “Jesus, Do Not Forget About Us.”

Let us all remember that when we “do it to the least of these my brethren, you do it unto me.” (Matthew 25).
How Will We Remember?

The Mission Statement of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The Missions Team of the Annual Conference believes that as we reach out to help persons in need of the love of Jesus Christ, that we transform the world even as our local churches are transformed.

We further believe that if our energies are focused on one geographical area such as Liberia even for two years, the people of Liberia will be given hope for a brighter future. Furthermore, our local churches will be empowered to more responsive to needs in their own geographic areas while ministering at the same time to the people of Liberia. By focusing on some special ministries in Liberia, we believe that we can offer real changes in the lives of the Liberian people in these places. We believe that Matthew 25 calls us to be involved with the poor in our global neighborhood.

We are reminded of the conditions of many persons in Liberia. Some of the children we help were forced to bear arms. Other were forced to bear children for soldiers. After the war, all are equally bereft of basic human needs.

As we visit our friends in Liberia, we see children foraging for food in the jungle. We have experienced the lack of electricity and of good roads. We see youth selling their wares out of wheelbarrows at the market. We see inadequate schools that have no textbooks and teachers who are being paid $50 US Dollars per month. We see malnutrition, leprosy, AIDS, injuries, that are treated as best they can be in hospitals that have been ravaged by war.

Yet there is hope. Our United Methodist brothers and sisters in Liberia run schools, operate hospitals and clinics, teach literacy, show farmers new ways of raising food, teach children how to love one another instead of fight one another, teach vocational skills. Our missionaries are making a difference. We can too—by reaching out to established ministries and responding to the needs that our sister Liberian United Methodist Church have identified. The needs are enormous, but we can make a difference in eight distinct places. We invite your participation: child to child; church to church; school to school. Working together, focusing on one country for two years, our Conference can live out our mission statement and transform a part of this world for Jesus Christ.
How We Will Proceed

Each Quarter, the Mission Team will lift up one project in Liberia. The project will have a number of needs which will be explained. Then there will be “ways to help” listed. Individuals and Churches of all sizes may adopt a portion of the overall project for that quarter. These projects have been carefully chosen by the leaders of our Mission Team who made a visit to Liberia in October 2008. We listened carefully to our missionaries and to the leaders of the Liberia Annual Conference. We heard appeals for help from Bishop Innis and his staff. We saw first hand the suffering of the United Methodists in Liberia who are in ministry with the least, the last, and the lost of their society. We were moved by the sacrificial commitments of United Methodist people of faith. We believe that we can make a significant difference in the situations that we found in schools, in the seminary at Gbanga, in the University in Monrovia, in the hospital in Ganta, in the agricultural work throughout the country, in the Better Future Center for children in Buchanan.

The Mission Team is committed to transparency in this endeavor. We will clearly follow how our money will be used, how supplies will be distributed, and the difference our gifts will make in the life of our Liberian friends. At the same time, we will not burden any of our partners either in North Carolina or Liberia with so much red tape that we inhibit the work of the ministry. We will encourage and facilitate visits from our Conference—particularly in the way of work teams. We will send Bibles that children and families can read together.

The Mission Team believes that by focusing on one project at a time, we can make a significant difference in that particular ongoing ministry in Liberia. The Liberian people told us over and over again that their desire is to be self-sufficient but that the war has made life very hard right now. Just as importantly, we believe that by adopting these projects, every Church in our Conference can potentially take part. We will enlist the help of our partnering agencies throughout the bounds of the NC Annual Conference. We will enlist volunteers and support to help MERCI and StopHungerNow so that we might send food, medical, and other supplies to the projects that we have chosen. We are committed to partnering with Firestone Rubber Company, Arcelor Mittal, and other companies in Liberia who are using valuable natural resources. We will remind those companies of the importance of helping their employees and families with basic education, safe water and sanitation facilities, and electricity.
How All of This Works

During the last few months of 2009, the Missions Team will be working to let pastors and congregations know about the mission emphasis for the next two years—Love for Liberia. It is our hope that by working together we can make a real impact for the people of Liberia.

During each quarter of the year starting with January 2010, pastors and local missions leaders will be receiving a reminder of emphasis for that Quarter. Local Church leaders then should think about how their church might participate that particular Quarter.

For example, a local church might decide to raise funds to buy Bibles for students at $5 a piece (see the 2nd Quarter emphasis). Sometime during that quarter, then the local church leaders would lift up the particular need—using the resources which will be online at the Conference website for promotions (www.nccumc.org). In addition to those promotional materials, all of the District Missions Secretaries will be trained to help local churches respond to that particular quarter’s needs.

Following this example, then the Church Treasurer would send the money raised for that particular purpose to the Conference using the standard forms for designated funds. A list of those funds for the Love for Liberia program are on the next page.
In order to facilitate gifts of money from local churches, the Missions Team has set up the following categories. Church treasurers should send their checks in the usual manner to the Conference Treasurer with these particular designations. We will be emphasizing particular needs during different quarters over the next 2 years.

1. LOVE FOR LIBERIA FUND:
   A two-year focus of missional action, prayer, and giving for United Methodist ministries in Liberia.
   Gifts can be given to the following:

   - General Love for Liberia Fund .........#S-00221
   - Work Team Support ......................#S-00222
   - Provision of School Books ............#S-00223
   - Bibles for Children and Students ......#S-00224
   - Laptop/Computer Ministry ..........#S-000225
   - Scholarships for College ..........#S-00226
   - Scholarships for Seminary ..........#S-00227
   - Scholarships for Primary Education ..........#S-00228
   - Purchase of Tractors ......................#S-00229
   - Provision of Medications ..........#S-00230
   - Funds for shipping ......................#S-00231
   - Support Agricultural Self Sustainability ..........#S-00232
   - Purchase of Tools .........................#S-00233
   - Provision of Building Materials ....#S-00234
   - Food Provision Ministry for Children ..........#S-00235
   - Purchase of Skills .........................#S-00236
   - Provision of Fuel for Generators ....#S-00237
   - Vehicles for Pastors/DSs/ Mission Workers ..........#S-00238
   - Ganta United Methodist Mission Station ..........#14369T

   Funds received will support rebuilding mission station buildings and infrastructure destroyed in the war.

   - Brighter Future Children’s Rescue Center ..........#3020790
   - Feed My Lambs .........................#S-00179

   Funds received will support Ex-Combatants, Vocational/Literacy Training and Feeding.

   - Sustainable Agriculture and Development ..........#982188

   Funds support technologically appropriate practices and Farmer Field Schools coordinated by missionary Mozart Adevu.
Quarter One: Agriculture and Vocational Education at Ganta Station

In the First Quarter, we will concentrate on the agricultural needs and vocational educational needs of the Ganta Station and the nearby town of Gbahn.

The Ganta Station at one time was virtually self-sufficient as far as food production goes, but during the civil war the buildings which housed their chickens and pigs were “de-roofed.” “De-roofing” in Liberia means that the building was set on fire and all that now remains are the concrete blocks which were the foundation and walls. These buildings can be rebuilt with planning over a two week period by folks from our Conference working with our Liberian friends.

The village of Gbahn is located near the town of Ganta. Gbahn was almost completely wiped out during the war. Tribal bonds have brought extended families back together. Under the leadership of the local United Methodist minister who donated land for agricultural use, Mozart Adevu, Sylvester Kpai and about 42 villagers have joined together to farm together and raise food for their extended families. They are clearing a swamp for rice farming, building snail-raising boxes, harvesting honey from their newly built hives, and planting pineapples and other crops throughout the bush. As this cooperative grows, there is need for support to help these farming villagers expand their work.

People in Ganta and Gbahn want to be self-sufficient. There has been a great need for seed rice to be planted by villagers in this area. Presently, over 90% of rice, which is a staple in Liberia, is imported. Furthermore, a 50kg bag of rice would cost as much as a security guard makes in two months salary. By converting some of the swamp land in to usable rice production, the countryside can become food sufficient.

Action Plan:
—We will support the itineration of Mary and Herbert Zigbuo throughout the Annual Conference Area.
—We will work to open up NC markets to honey and moringa from Ganta.
—We will send a work team to help reconstruct roofs for the chicken house and pig pens which were destroyed in the civil wars. This team also will work with the Station Manager to repair a number of electric saws which have been sent in the past. The team will work with our missionary, Hubert Zigbuo to set up a vocational training center. The team will also assist in continuing to renovate a facility for future work teams.

Ways Churches can help.
—Buy a “share” of the construction materials necessary to rebuild the chicken house and hog pen. One share would be $20.
—Adopt a pig for $20.
-- Adopt chickens at a rate of $20 for 5 biddies.
- Adopt a bee hive for $250.
-- Adopt a snail box for $25.
—Buy seed rice ($50 will buy enough seed for several acres).
—Buy seeds for Moringa ($100)

Raise money for a tractor and bush-hog for Ganta: $25 per share.
The Ganta Mission Station is in the Nimba District of Liberia, northeast of Monrovia. It is composed of about 2,000 acres upon which the following are built: a referral hospital (a new one is under construction); an elementary school; a high school; a nursing school; a guest house; housing for nurses, doctors and other hospital staff; housing for mission station employees; a guest house; an agriculture station; a leprosarium; an eye clinic; and numerous other activities. Much of the Station’s buildings, including the hospital, were destroyed during the civil wars. Many buildings have been reconstructed, but the work is far from done.

Needs mentioned by the administrators of the Station:
--Electrification of the mission station. Right now, one large generator is used for the entire mission station. There needs to be engineering of an entire system with transformers and possible underground wiring that would increase productivity of the system and prevent theft of copper electrical wiring.
--Remodeling a larger guest house that will be used for work teams going to the Ganta Region.
--A tractor with bush-hog (and spare parts).
--School supplies for the students.
--Help for the nursing school.

Main Women’s Ward at Ganta Hospital
--Volunteers to assist the hospital in its plans for community nursing.
--Renewal of the poultry program for the station. The station wants to become more self-reliant for food. The students at the schools will be working closely with the staff and faculty of the schools to learn how to produce poultry products effectively.
--Continued work on moringa production, honey production, and snail farming.

There are enough needs in Ganta to concentrate on this area for two quarters:

Action Plan for Second Quarter:

During the first quarter, we will concentrate on needs of the hospital and of the school in Ganta. As a Conference Mission Team, we plan to
--Send at least one medical work team to Ganta. We will recruit nurses, doctors, and persons willing to work in community wellness programs. The nursing school requests volunteers to help teach basic nursing skills. The team will go in the Spring of 2010.
--Send at least one building work team (especially working on the electrical system). Team would work on building for housing future work teams or nursing students.
--Send supplies to the school— including computers (Pentium III and newer).
--Make school kits and health kits to put on the container which will be shipped to Ganta.
--Work to get High School Physics, Chemistry, Zoology books and dictionaries for library.
--Buy a Bible for a child at a cost of $5 each. The school has 875 students with no Bible to take home.
--Provide laptop for library with Encyclopedia Britannica upon it.
--Have a Stop Hunger Now event at MERCI, inviting persons from the Rockingham, Goldsboro, and Fayetteville districts. Food will go to the children of the Ganta region.
--Adopt a nursing student for $900 per year.
--Adopt an elementary student for $120 per year. [We will need to get first names and pictures and invite churches to adopt a student for an academic year].
--Raise funds for a tractor.
--Work with MERCI and Stop Hunger Now to send a container with food, school kits, and health kits.
At Ganta Station, there is a concerted effort to grow and market moringa.

The Moringa tree has been around for a very long time—people have always known its value," said Fuglie, who heads the West Africa regional office for Church World Service in Dakar, Senegal. "It can purify dirty water in less than an hour—it can do so many different things."

Which is why Fuglie has dedicated himself for the past two years to exploring the tree's possibilities and its implications for African countries. Partnering with Senegalese health clinics and Alternative Action for African Development, a government health service, Fuglie helped lead a Church World Service project in southwestern Senegal that studied the nutritional value of the Moringa tree and its use as a weapon against malnutrition.

"We convinced various doctors at eight different health outposts to recommend Moringa leaf powder to mothers of malnourished infants to see what effect it would have," said Fuglie, who has worked 11 years in Africa with Church World Service, the relief agency of the U.S. National Council of Churches. "Usually they recommend a combination of milk powder, vegetable oil, sugar and peanut butter. By the end of the project, all these health posts had abandoned the old treatments of imported items, and now they were all using Moringa to treat cases of malnutrition."

The Moringa tree is a fountain of minerals and vitamins, said Fuglie, noting that every part—from root to flowers—is edible.

"Gram for gram, Moringa leaves contain three times the iron of spinach, four times the vitamin A of carrots, seven times the Vitamin C of oranges, three times the potassium of bananas, and four times the calcium and twice the protein of milk," he explained. "Nutritionally, you can't beat it."

Parents of malnourished children in Senegal reported rapid weight gains within months after they added Moringa to their infants' diets.

Common throughout Africa, India and Central America, the tree is particularly well-suited to the arid climate of many countries in Africa, Fuglie said, because it is resistant to drought.

"The Moringa tree grows very well in very dry conditions, like sandy soil and direct sunlight," he said, "so it is an ideal tree for those areas where malnutrition is the biggest problem, the dry arid areas of the sub-Saharan region."

The Moringa tree is particularly well-suited to countering malnutrition because its leaves emerge just before the end of the dry season, when leafy green vegetables often are unavailable.

"When you look at malnutrition in West Africa, you're looking at a lack of iron, a lack of protein, a lack of vitamin A--in effect, you're looking at malnutrition caused by a lack of the very things Moringa contains so much," he said.
Quarter Three: Gbarnga Mission Station

Gbarnga (pronounced Bong-a) Mission Station is the home of Tubman-Gray elementary and high school, with housing for staff. Gbarnga School of Theology also has been moved back there from Monrovia after the war. Around 86 ministerial students study and have housing there. All schools are working together to help make their Station self-sufficient. It already has an extensive “community garden” with potatoes, cassava, rice, and other items being raised and consumed.

The school kits and health kits which have been sent from the North Carolina Conference are useful in that they are given to each student who enrolls in the elementary and high schools. Parents and children have to pay tuition for the children. Tuition is about $50 US Dollars for one year. But that $50 USD is about what a well-paid person would receive for his or her labor in Liberia. The scholarships, school kits, and health kits that we can provide makes a difference in the life of children and their families. “Public education” in Liberia consists of government-run schools that are overcrowded, under-staffed and often non-funded. The government of Liberia has recently mandated elementary education, but has not provided resources for their schools. Private schools, such as the ones at Gbarnga are not supported by government funds at all.

Needs: School library wants laptop with Encyclopedia Britannica or other digital encyclopedias. The elementary and high school principal has requested school kits and health kits. The seminary requests books for their library. (Much of their library was burned during the civil war). Books for seminary students are non-existent.

Action Plan:
We are asking that pastors in our Conference send unused books related to ministry to MERCI to be sent to Gbarnga School of Theology. We are asking for school kits and health kits to be made and sent to MERCI. (see at the end of the booklet).
We are asking for desk kits to be built (see the end of the booklet).
We are asking for used computers for classroom and library (Pentium III and higher).
We are asking for scholarships for students whose family cannot afford the $50 per year fee to attend these schools.

Formation of Work team with the following goals:
Working with the children in agriculture.
Helping set up a computer network at the seminary and at the high school.
The seminary would welcome Seminary graduates to come and live on campus and teach day-long classes on a subject which would be attended by all seminary students.
Quarter Four: School of the Deaf

The sign for “I Love You” is universal in every culture. These Liberian children are part of a unique School for the Deaf in Monrovia. Housed in a building owned by the United Methodist Women of the Liberia Annual Conference, this ministry receives little or no other assistance.

There are approximately 60 students who come to school here. None of these students could be served in any public school. Nor are there any public funds available to assist them and their families.

Against all odds, these children are learning! They made handmade pictures of the signs of the English letters that they are using. Their teachers are deaf and are wonderful role models for the students as they will all have to struggle with life-long issues of being shunned and neglected.

The principal of the school and the faculty are “making do” in an overcrowded facility. Their needs are the same as other students throughout Liberia: Health kits; school kits; and scholarships. In addition, new desks would be appreciated.

Action Plan:
We ask that health kits and school kits be sent to MERCI. New Desks can be made and taken to MERCI to be placed on the same container as the school and health kits. Scholarships at a price of $57 per year will send one student to school.
Quarter Five: CESPRO in Kakata City

Kakata City is a village near Monrovia, Liberia which served as a place of refuge for internally displaced refugees during the civil war. Now it is a place of hope, due to the work of Frido Kinkolenge, a United Methodist missionary from Congo.

Frido has started something he calls CESPRO—Children Empowered (for) Sustainability Program. Presently, CESPRO operates in the backyard of a school in Kakata City. Many of the children which come to this Program are girls who were abused by soldiers during the civil war. The stories that they can tell are horrific. Many of the teenaged girls at that time now have young children fathered by the soldiers who literally raped, mutilated, and savaged so many young women.

The boys in CESPRO were ex-combatants. Often they were made to fight at the barrel of a gun. Now, Frido is teaching the boys how to turn swords into plowshares. Some of the bullet shells are literally made into crosses as a way to remind these boys of the Prince of Peace.
But Frido has brought the loving embrace of Jesus Christ to these children, many of them now young adults. These young adults were not able to go to school during the war. Many of them were permanently separated from their families. Frido has introduced them to the family of God and is striving to teach these children marketable skills. Some of the students are tie-dying cloth which is very popular and profitable in the local markets. Others make soap. Still others are learning to weave hair—a skill that can feed a family. Still other girls are learning how to bake bread for their families and to sell. Others are learning to be tailors—using the foot-pedaled sewing machines donated by folks from Wilmington, North Carolina.

During the time that they gather, Frido and his staff (who often have their pay supplemented with small bags of rice) feed these war orphans in two ways: spiritually with devotions and physically with an evening meal. For many of the children, now become adults too quickly, this meal will be the only meal that they have that day.
Action Plan to respond to the needs of CESPRO at Kakata City
Would your church consider giving for these specific ministries? Efforts are being made to help CESPRO be self-sufficient.

—Cash to buy tie dye and materials: $10 will supply one week’s supplies.
—Cash to buy rice: 50kg bag costs $40 US Dollars.
—Cash to buy cosmetology supplies: $10 will supply one week’s supplies.
—A small generator to run hair dryers: Cost in Liberia is approximately $300 US Dollars.
—Cash to buy gas to run the generator at $15 per day.
—Cash to buy sewing supplies: $10 will supply one week’s supplies.
—Making school and health kits.

We would send a 20-foot container to Frido Kinkolenge which would include the following:

—Bibles to give to CESPRO Students and to the students at the school at which CESPRO is housed. $5 will buy a Bible for one student.
—Stop Hunger Now meals. We can send about 100,000 meal equivalents in one shipment (enough to feed the CESPRO children for about one year). Each meal costs just 25 cents. We will have a day at MERCI to assemble the meals and to load them on the container.

Preparing Meals for Liberia through Stop Hunger Now

—The Generator.
Quarter Six: BFC Center in Buchanan

The **Brighter Future Children Rescue Center (BFC)** is located in the outskirts of Buchanan in eastern Liberia. It is here that Frido Kin-kolenge, one of the missionaries supported by Churches in our Annual Conference, has a ministry with children and youth who were directly affected by the Liberian civil wars.

In fact, at least 75% of the 225 participants (including now some of the staff who have been trained at BFC) were directly involved in fighting during those wars. About 20 of the children have no home and live on the streets. The evening meal, which has been facilitated by dehydrated meals sent by the Wilmington District and Stop Hunger Now, are often the only meal these children get each day.

Frido established the BFC in a home that was vacated after the war. After extensive renovations (which were done by the children and their parents), Frido and his staff have a number of unique projects through which they are teaching children and youth that there is a better way: the way of Christ.

During March to May, BFC teaches the children and youth skills so that they can be self-sufficient entrepreneurs, making enough money to support themselves and their families.

Some of the skills that are being taught are Graphic Arts, Soapmaking, Typing, Crocheting, Sewing, Baking, Computer Literacy. The skills are taught even though electricity is available only two hours per day. Most of the equipment used by the children and staff is rudimentary at best. Recent improvements to the property include a well and a latrine.

The BFC needs help to keep this ministry going. Among the needs are

— the construction of a sewing room.
— a larger generator.
— a mimeograph machine.
— basic carpentry tools.
— food for the evening meal.
Quarter Six Action Plan for Brighter Future Children at Buchanan

—Send a work team to Buchanan to construct the sewing room and to work on increasing the capacity of the generator.

—Raise funds for electrical generation so that there will be electricity throughout the day’s activities. $5 US Dollars buys one gallon of diesel fuel which runs the generator for one hour. Churches and individuals are invited to fuel the generator for an hour or more.

—Send a 20’ container to Buchanan with
  —School Supplies collected in the Elizabeth City, Greenville, New Bern, and Wilmington Districts.
  —Food from a Stop Hunger Now Event in the Triangle area with the Raleigh District, Durham District and Burlington Districts working together..
  —A mimeograph machine donated by a willing church.
  —Computers (Pentium III and above) and networking cables (collected by churches in the Goldsboro District?)
  —Carpentry tools. (collected by churches in the Rocky Mount District?)
Quarter Seven: Educational Needs of Students throughout Liberia

Anyone that visits the schools which are run by the Liberia Annual Conference will quickly learn several important things:

1. The school buildings are in decent shape, except for the widespread need of roof repair.
2. The community schools are a source of pride for the local Churches. Students wear uniforms, are respectful of teachers and staff, and are attentive during class.
3. For the most part, students do not have books which can be taken home. Some books can be checked out of the library. Most students copy their assignments by hand into their notebook.
4. There are no provisions for lunch. Children will eat a fruit which they might have picked on the way to school, or they will buy a boiled egg or a piece of bread from local vendors who come onto the school campuses.
5. All of the students and families pay anywhere from $50-$75 per year per child for tuition. (Tuition increases after elementary education).
6. Many of the students are on scholarship from friends in other countries.
7. The gift of school supply kits and health kits from our Conference is a welcomed bonus to principals and parents. Once the materials have been received, they are distributed equitably throughout the school. The materials do help the parents insofar as those donations help to free up money to buy food for the family.
8. One of the major problems is transporting the donated supplies. Ministers, District Superintendents, and some lay members are requested to take a car load of materials to various locations when they are “on the way.”
9. There is little or no electricity available on site at most schools for any grade level. Thus some vocational skills, like computer literacy, is unavailable to many children who will be left with few marketable skills once they leave schools.
Quarter Seven Action Plan

To collect needed school supplies and supplies for health kits,

We will ask Churches, UMW units, etc. to make school bags for the kits to send to MERCI. Volunteers will process the kits and package all loose school supplies to be packed into a container.

We will ask UMM units to make at least one Desk for a School to be shipped on the container.

We will raise funds from throughout the Conference for a vehicle (a pickup with a 350 engine and four wheel drive). [Each district will have a puzzle part of the vehicle].

We will ask for donations of computers with encyclopedias installed for the libraries.

We will ask for the following high school textbooks to be used for reference in the school libraries throughout the country: math, physics, chemistry, world history.

We will ask for Bibles in English and Bassa at a cost of $5.00 each to be purchased and sent to Liberia so that students can have a Bible of their own.

We will pack and send at least one 20’container which will include these items and be packed at MERCI and sent via Firestone Rubber Company.

In addition, we would seek to help Herbert and Mary Zigbuo, missionaries that are supported by a number of Churches in our Annual Conference. Herbert and Mary Zigbuo have been assigned as missionaries in Liberia to help re-establish vocational training in all of the United Methodist High Schools in Liberia.

Modeled on the successful work of other missionaries, Herbert and Mary seek to help graduating high school students have marketable skills to use. These skills are essential in the Liberian society as the country tries to transition from a subsistence mentality to a growth-oriented society.
The Zigbuos have requested a work team to come to Liberia to help reconstruct the vocational program which existed in most schools before the civil wars. This team would travel throughout Liberia, visiting schools and making an inventory of ways to help this program be rejuvenated. This team would scout out machinery that can be repaired, gather parts numbers, and create a method of ordering and dependably shipping spare parts. This team would include persons who can repair electronic equipment, who can repair table saws, and offer training on the machinery once repaired. This team would ideally include persons who would be willing to help teach and learn different techniques which would help the children of Liberia.
Quarter Eight: The Leprosarium at Ganta

Leprosy is still a problem disease in Liberia. Leprosy is treatable and the hospital ministry at Ganta Mission Station provides medicine and the hope of the Lord Jesus to many men and women. We know that Jesus touched and healed lepers. Now there are followers of Jesus who are called to do the same.

In many cultures, leprosy would be treated and the patient would return home. It is not yet possible in Liberia. People are afraid of catching the disease of leprosy and lepers who can find their way to the Leprosarium at Ganta usually stay at Ganta for the rest of their lives. Many female lepers bring their children with them and find room in one of the many cottages at the leprosarium. In fact, the female ward at the Leprosarium has been closed due to the fact that most of the women have children and the whole family is better off at one of the cottages.

Many of the male patients, even those who have lost parts of their extremities to the effects of the disease, have become wood carvers. Others cobble shoes for the other persons in the Leprosarium.

The Leprosarium has recently received a marvelous gift of a new laboratory. But there is only one registered nurse, who is about to retire, that takes care of all of the population when they need medication.
Action Plan:

Our Action Plan for Quarter Eight involves following up after we send a work team of medical personnel (doctors, nurses, physical therapists, lab technicians are all needed). Although the team would only be at the main hospital in Ganta and the Leprosarium for a two week period, this team would document the long term needs of the Leprosarium and share them with the Conference. This team would work and visit during the very first quarter, listening to how our Conference might help, and work with the Mission Team to get the word out to our churches as to how our Conference might help.

[List of needs will be published after the first team goes to Ganta]
Proposed Action Calendar

November 2009– January 1, 2010

Present overall proposal to Mission Team, Connectional Table, Bishop and Cabinet.

In December, we’ll have a training session for all District Chairs of Mission to explain the Love for Liberia program and all of the details and expectations for each mission chair.

Work on logistics for Quarter One Action Plan (container, shipment schedule, SHN schedules, etc)

Set up Web Page….updates, ways to sign up for contributions, sign-ups for mission work teams (dates for the teams), downloadable files, etc. (Use Operation Classroom site (operationclassroom.org) as a model.

Mass mailing (e-mail and snail mail) to pastors, missions chairs, UMW presidents, UMM presidents throughout conference. This mailing would include info on the overall direction of the program. To be done soon after January 1, 2010

Prepare to send first work team.

Get photos of students names that we can help.

Get persons ready to help say “thank you” to churches and individuals that make contributions.

In January, send out Quarter One Emphasis to mailing list...e-mail is preferable.

Repeat the cycle for each quarter.
Secondary School YES (Youth Essential Supplies) Kit

- 4 pens
- 1 solar calculator
- 1 ruler or protractor
- 4 notebooks (8 1/2 x11)
- 1 NIV or RSV Bible*

All items should be placed in a 2-gallon Zip-loc bag or other secure plastic bag—as one kit. Kits should then be placed in plastic totes and labeled as a YES Kit.

Instructions: Items may be placed in a [YES kit cloth tote bag](#). See Operation Classroom website.

New Elementary YES (Youth Essential Supplies) Kit

(for K-5 students):

- 4 pencils
- 1 eraser
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 box crayons (24 count)
- 3 notebooks
- 1 ruler
- 1 pr blunt scissors
- 12 sheets construction paper (varied colors)
- Religious coloring book
- Good News New Testament

All items should be placed in a 2-gallon Zip-loc bag or other secure plastic bag—as one kit. Kits should then be placed in plastic totes and labeled as an Elementary YES Kit.

Instructions: Items may be placed in a [YES kit cloth tote bag](#). See Operation Classroom website.
ET (Essentials for Teachers) Kit

- 1 chalkboard eraser
- 2 boxes white chalk
- 3 notebooks (8 1/2 x 11)
- 6 pencils
- 6 pens
- 4 red pens or marking pencils
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 lesson plan books
- 1 class record book
- 4 Magic Markers
- 1 NIV or RSV Bible

All items should be placed in a 2-gallon Zip-loc bag or other secure plastic bag—as one kit. Kits should then be placed in plastic totes and labeled as an ET Kit.

Instructions: Items may be placed in a YES kit cloth tote bag. (see .pdf file at www.operationclassrom.org)

Health Kit

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 light blanket, sheet, or flannel sheet
- 1 tube of toothpaste & toothbrush
- 1 bar of soap (bath size)
- 1 can talc powder or bottle of body lotion (placed in a ziplock bag)
- 1 bottle vitamins
- 1 bottle Tylenol, or something similar

Instructions: In packing the health kit-- place all other items on the lightweight blanket/sheet. Fold up so that the items are secure inside. Then place the bundle inside a plastic bag or a plastic storage container and pack kits together in plastic totes.
**Food Kits**

1 5 lb Bag of Corn Meal  
1 2 lb Bag of Rice  
1 Bottle of Cooking Oil (48 oz).  
1 2 lb bag of Dried Beans  
1 2 lb or 2 1 lb Canned Ham (available from Dollar General Store).  
1 5 lb bag of Self-rising Flour  
1 box of Powdered Milk (take out of box and pack in Zip-loc bag and label it).  
1 4 lb bag of sugar (available at Lowe’s Foods under “Better Value”)  

Pack all items in a 5-gallon bucket with lid and place a label on the side showing that it is a Food Kit. (Note: These kits are used by the Holston Conference on an annual basis. Due to the fact that there are numerous kinds of grocery stores which carry these basic food items, there may be variations in size for the different items which need to go into the 5-gallon bucket. So, be creative! But insure that all items are still within the “best if bought by date” and that the buckets close securely.)

**Desk Designs**

For designs that local church persons can make, check out the website www.woodworkersworkshop.com

Desks of all sorts are needed in the schools—particularly desks for children.