

Liberia Education Update

April 2020



Every time I walk down my street, I am thankful for the beauty of God's creation and know that God is still in control.



Working from home, listening to the waves, feeling the ocean breeze, and thanking God for His peace.

Give to Advance Projects

Construction of New School Buildings
#3020670

Missionary Support #3021129

Operation Classroom # 3020494

Scholarships #15125B

State of Emergency

On the afternoon of April 8th, President George Weah announced a State of Emergency to stop the spread of COVID-19. While we have restricted movement and must be home from 3:00 pm to 6:00 am, I find time to enjoy the beauty of each day. I am so blessed to be in the United Methodist missionary compound on the beach where I have a sense of space and a sense of community.

My work with United Methodist Schools (UMS) continues. We are trying to find ways to be supportive of our United Methodist Schools. Most parents are not paying school fees and teachers are concerned about being paid while schools are closed. My office is getting much needed scholarship funds to schools as they are received through The Advance #15125B and Operation Classroom, Indiana. We are very grateful for this support.

Several schools are helping students remain engaged in learning by preparing notes, assignments, and quizzes for parents to pick up. Ganta UMS and Sanniquellie UMS (both in Nimba County) gave students donated books to take home.

The Ministry of Education's teaching by radio classes are on several stations including our Liberia Annual Conference station- ELUM. For now, people can listen in Montserrado and Margibi Counties and the broadcasts should soon be heard in Bomi, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, and Nimba Counties. We hope that the teaching by radio will reach all 15 counties.

The Minister of Education, Professor Ansu Sonii, said (on radio) that schools may not reopen this school year. He asked for non-government schools to join in the discussion about how to proceed. The *Association of Christian Mission School Systems in Liberia* is meeting via conference calls to discuss best practice for opening schools and evaluating and promoting students.

New Staff

From January until April, the office of the late David Geddeh was empty. On April 2, the director of the Department of General Education & Ministry, Rev. Christopher G. Marshall, officially introduced our new staff members. Cephass C. Williams is our new department accountant. Mr. Samuel Karr is our new associate director for administration and scholarship. David Geddeh was serving in all three roles. Throughout April, I met with Mr. Williams and Mr. Karr to familiarize them with our office and their new jobs.



The high school annex for Jasper Grant UMS in Pleebo is ready to be roofed. *Photo from Augustine Krah, chairperson of the Jasper Grant UMS local school board*



The United Methodist Development Services is currently expanding the Gretta Moffat UMS in John Dean Town. *Photo from Jerry Giah*

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27 (NKJV)

Be well and safe in God’s Kingdom.

Helen Roberts-Evans

Global Ministries Missionary
Associate Director for Supervision
Department of General Education & Ministry
Liberia Annual Conference/The United Methodist Church
hevans@umcmision.org

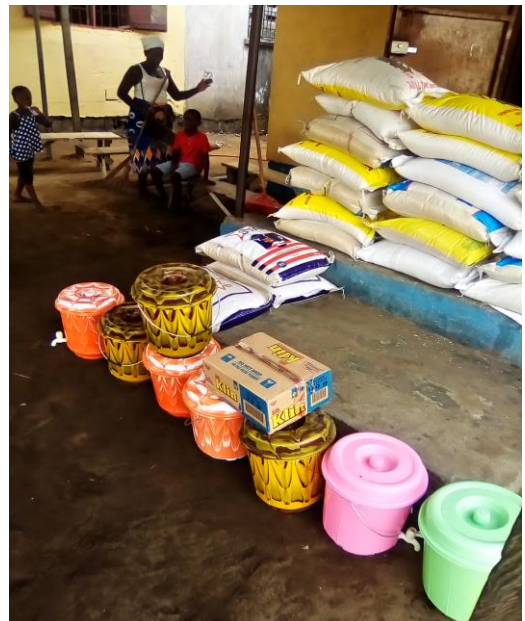
School Construction Work

Construction work is ongoing at Jasper Grant UMS in Pleebo, Maryland County. The annex is now ready to be roofed. Donations to The Advance project, *Construction of New School Buildings*, will help get the roof on and the annex furnished. Liberia United Methodist Development Services (formerly the Liberia Annual Conference’s Department of Community Services) is renovating and expanding the building of Gretta Moffat UMS, our elementary school in rural John Dean Town, Grand Bassa County.

We hope that the construction work will continue smoothly so whenever the new school year begins, students will have spacious classrooms. The additional space is even more appreciated considering the understanding that infected persons can spread viruses when they are physically close to others.

Hope for the Deaf’s Student Support

Mary’s Meals is a Scottish school feeding program based in Tubmanburg, Bomi County that provides food (rice, oil, beans, salt) to several United Methodist Schools, including Hope for the Deaf UMS in Sinkor, Monrovia. In April, Hope for the Deaf, under the leadership of its Director, David Worlobah, provided COVID-19 awareness to the school’s 54 deaf students along with food and handwashing buckets to help keep the children safe and fed while schools are closed. Most families do not have running water, so buckets with faucets are needed for handwashing.



Distribution of rice, soap, and water buckets at Hope for the Deaf was made possible by gifts from Middletown United Methodist Church, Maryland, USA. *Photo from David Worlobah*