

# Liberia Education Update

June/July 2021



Distributing gifts from the Holston Conference at the C. W. Duncan UMS in Clara Town, Bushrod Island, July 2, 2021.



Sanniquellie UMS students participated in spelling bee, July 9, 2021.



Students at Garr UMS in Garr Dingamon, Nimba County, June 15, 2021.



Nursing student, Shirley Sua, and Gompa District Superintendent, Rev. Aaron Yankee, at the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station, June 14, 2021.

## Second 20-foot container from Holston Conference

For years, the Holston Conference has faithfully sent a 40-foot container with school, health, and food supplies that usually arrives at the port of Monrovia the end of July. In 2020, Holston Conference sent two 20-foot containers. The first one arrived in July 2020. The second one began its journey in December 2020 and reached the GBGM Missionary Compound in Monrovia on May 17, 2021. We distributed supplies in June and July to United Methodist Schools (UMS), the Liberia Annual Conference Health Department, and orphanages. Once again, we send a big thank you to all the congregations in the Holston Conference that donated supplies during the Covid crisis.

## School visits in Nimba County

Rev. Stanley Mabah, the principal of the Agnes Labala UMS in Sacclapea, Nimba County, drove to Monrovia in July and when he was ready to return to Nimba on July 8<sup>th</sup>, we loaded his car with Holston Conference supplies for six schools in Nimba. I rode with him as far as Ganta and then went by taxi to our schools in Garr Dingamon, Gbedin, and Sanniquellie. I had the unexpected pleasure of being in Sanniquellie, Nimba County's capital city, for a spelling bee held at the County Administration Building. Students from ten schools, including the Sanniquellie UMS, participated in the spelling bee and our sixth-grade student, 12-year-old Philip Komon, came in third place.

## Scholarship support helps dreams come true

During a trip to Nimba County in June, I met with Gompa District Superintendent, Rev. Aaron Yankee and Shirley Sua, a nursing student at United Methodist University's Ganta campus. They each told me about their time in a refugee camp in Guinea and their desire to go to school. Rev. Yankee recommended Shirley to be a scholarship recipient. She is now doing well in nursing school and has a dream to continue her education. She would like to get a degree in biochemistry and then go to medical school. With generous gifts to The Advance#15125B, Shirley is on her way to realizing her dream.

## Hope for the Deaf teacher training

In August 2019, Dr. Victoria (Vickie) Brown (a former professor at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.) and Abbey Roin-Thigpen (a current teacher at the Maryland School for the Deaf in the U. S. A.) came to Liberia to conduct a training on teaching reading to deaf



Gbedin UMS, Gbedin, Nimba County, July 9, 2021.



High school class at Zwedru UMS, Grand Gedeh County, July 29, 2021.

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Hope for the Deaf teacher training via Zoom, June 28, 2021.

students. They planned to return in person in 2020, but their in-person training was cancelled by Covid. So, Hope for the Deaf joined the Zoom meeting trend. On June 28, 2021, Vickie and Abbey met with David Worlobah (Hope for the Deaf director), Eric Drow (Hope for the Deaf associate director), 6 Hope for the Deaf teachers, and me for a refresher training via Zoom. Electricity and stable internet can be challenging in Liberia. We are thankful to our friends at the Royal Hotel in Monrovia for letting us use a hotel conference room and internet free of charge.

**One week in Zwedu**

Unpaved roads can also be challenging in Liberia, especially during rainy season. So, on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, I flew from Monrovia to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County on the Mission Aviation Fellowship's Cessna and flew back to Monrovia the following Wednesday. I had one week with the Zwedru UMS and joined the 12<sup>th</sup> graders at the government high school for the Saturday classes organized by the Ministry of Education. Students from 15 high schools in Zwedru came together for special classes to prepare for the West African Senior School Examination (WASSCE).

**Textbooks purchased with funds from Germany**

We thank the EmK-Weltmission (Evangelish methodistische Kirche-Weltmission/ Evangelical Methodist Church-World Mission) for offering to give 60,000 Euros for us to purchase textbooks for schools in the United Methodist School System. I went through the Ministry of Education's curriculum and listed books from 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade that could be purchased in bulk in Monrovia. Students in 12 schools that had insufficient, or no textbooks will have textbooks for the new school year.



Receiving textbooks purchased with funds from EmK- Weltmission, July 22, 2021.