

Liberia Education Update

October/November/December 2021



Renovation work at Harrison Grigsby UMS in preparation for the opening of school, October 19, 2021.



Land Cruisers lined up in mud on the way to Greenville, Sinoe County, October 18, 2021.



School buses donated by Sinoe County representative, Connor O. Duncan, parked on Mississippi Street in Greenville, December 25, 2021.



Combined nursery and kindergarten class at Flanagan UMS, Fish Town, River Gee County, December 3, 2021.

Move to Greenville, Sinoe County

In 2011, when I first went to King William's Town in Sinoe County, I was impressed by the serene environment- coconut and almond trees along the beautiful beach and lush vegetation up the hill where people lived quiet lives in a clean town. No car road reaches King William's Town. People travel by canoe along the ocean or walk through the forest. I have done both.

I knew that I would enjoy living in Sinoe, teaching God's Word and helping with the schools. On October 18, 2021, I packed my things in a Land Cruiser and moved to Greenville, Sinoe County.

I still work with the Advance projects related to education and I'm in almost daily communication with the Department of General Education & Ministry in Monrovia and with United Methodist Schools (UMS) throughout the Liberia Annual Conference (LAC), but now I'm the Coordinator for the Southeast Region of the United Methodist School System. I will spend more time in United Methodist schools in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties (Garraway, Gee River, Kru Coast, Nana Kru, and Sinoe Districts of the Liberia Annual Conference).

Southeastern Liberia is underserved due to the distance from the LAC Central Office in Monrovia. The unpaved roads turn to thick mud in rainy season, making travel by car difficult, but there are 11 United Methodist Schools in these 4 counties that need to be supervised and supported.

I began my work in Greenville by helping the staff at the Harrison Grigsby UMS prepare for the opening of school. We interviewed teachers, made class schedules, and had a refresher training for teachers and orientation for students. Schools in Sinoe began the 2021/2022 school year on November 15, 2021.

Flanagan United Methodist School opens in Fish Town, River Gee

For the past several years, the Gee River District of the Liberia Annual Conference has been working to build a school in Fish Town, River Gee County. The Flanagan UMS opened on November 1, 2021, with students in nursery through 9th grade. On November 29, I went by motorbike about 7 hours from Greenville to Fish Town to spend time in each classroom and meet with the teachers, school administration, and local school board.



Bishop Quire walking to Francis Asbury UMC, Nana Kru Town, Sinoe County for the opening of the Nana Kru District Conference, December 8, 2021.



Women processing to church for closing worship service of the Nana Kru District Conference, December 12, 2021.

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 Missionary Support #3021129
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The Sinoe River at Jack Town Mission, December 28, 2021. The river is the road from Greenville to the Mission.

We are grateful to the Flanagan UMC and others in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for their financial and prayer support for this school building. The toilets need to be installed, columbo blocks need to be put in the windows, and more chairs and tables need to be made but we are thankful that the school is open, and children are in class learning.

District Conferences

In November, I was the Bible study leader at the Nana Kru District Women’s Conference in Konwonkpo, Sinoe County and then the Bible study leader for the Sinoe District Women’s Conference at First UMC in Greenville. This year, the theme for the LAC Women is “Bold to Go.” Following the theme, in December, I was bold to go as the Bible study leader for the Nana Kru and Sinoe District Conferences. I went by canoe with Bishop Quire for his first visit to King William’s Town and walked to neighboring Nana Kru Town for the conference.

Jack Town Mission

In 1890, Rev. James Bowie Robertson was bold to go to Africa to share God’s Word. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland and was buried on the Jack Town Mission in Sinoe County. The mission has not been active since the war, but the Sinoe District Superintendent, Rev. S. Snoh Myers, assigned Peter Kpanyan as pastor. In December, we went to visit the small congregation of the J. B. Robertson UMC. We saw Rev. Robertson’s grave and the spaces where a church building, house, and school used to be. This is the only Christian congregation in the town. There is currently no school. I’m looking forward to returning with a Bible in the Sapo language for Pastor Kpanyan to read. There is great potential for spiritual and agricultural growth in Jack Town Mission.



Grave of Rev. James B. Robertson, Jack Town Mission, Sinoe County, December 28, 2021.