

# Liberia Education Update

February 2022



Toe Gbardee UMS 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class in Diyankpo, Sinoe County, February 3, 2022.



Toe Gbardee UMS 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading class.



The Liberia Annual Conference held in the Ganta UMS gym, February 11, 2022.



Abraham Carr from Maryland County, Rev. Stanley Mulbah from Nimba County, and Peter Harris from Grand Gedeh County are current United Methodist School principals who were beneficiaries of scholarship gifts sent to The Advance#15125B. I met with principals in the Ganta UMS library during the Annual Conference, February 12, 2022.

The 2022 Liberia Annual Conference was held in the gym of the Ganta United Methodist School (UMS) on the Ganta United Methodist Mission Station in Nimba County from February 9-13, 2022. When I moved to Sinoe in October 2021, I wanted to visit all 11 United Methodist schools in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties before going to the Annual Conference in February.

I visited the eleventh school, Toe Gbardee UMS in Diyankpo, Sinoe County, on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and flew to Monrovia to go by taxi to Ganta. Toe Gbardee UMS is an elementary school with students in nursery through fifth grade. The school does not have its own building so the Women's Village Savings Club is allowing the school to temporarily use their building on weekdays.

I spent 2 days in Monrovia after the Annual Conference and stopped in at the baccalaureate service for the graduating class of the J. J. Roberts UMS. On February 17, I flew to Zwedru in Grand Gedeh County and missed the J. J. Roberts UMS graduation at which Jewel Howard Taylor, Vice President of Liberia, was the guest speaker.



Baccalaureate service for 2020/2021 graduates of J. J. Roberts UMS in Monrovia in the school's gym on February 16, 2022.



Zwedru UMS land that needs to be fenced.



Students in class in mud building in Dweken, Grand Kru.



The Zwedru UMS PTA chairperson showed me mudbricks that the school made to begin the fence project. February 18, 2022.



Students coming to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at the Flanagan UMS in Fish Town, River Gee County, February 24, 2022.

Construction of New School Buildings #3020670  
Missionary Support #3021129  
Operation Classroom # 3020494  
Scholarships #15125B  
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During my week with the Zwedru UMS, the 2020/2021 graduating class worked with the school administration to plan its graduation program. I asked the graduates why they thought their performance on the West African Senior School Certificate Exam (WASSCE) was so much better than in past years. The answer- because they spent more time studying. They had extra classes after school and on Saturdays.

PTA chairperson, Mr. Joe A. Geweayee, is a building engineer and has the vision to fence the school to prevent encroachment, for the security of the school property, and to focus on making the best use of the land. They have already started making mud bricks for the fence and asked for financial support to complete the project.

From Zwedru, I had a 4-hour motorbike ride on muddy roads to Fish Town in River Gee County to see the progress of the Flanagan UMS which opened for the first time in November 2021. When I was at the school in December 2021, only a few students had uniforms, the floors were rough, and students were sitting in plastic chairs because the wooden chairs were not ready. Now the students are wearing uniforms, all but 3 classrooms have smooth floors, and all the children are sitting in wooden school chairs. The best news was that on February 19, the students won the Fish Town spelling bee and quizzing competition! Thanks again to the Vermilion River District of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for their support in making this school an active place of learning.

Next, I was off to Dweken UMS in Grand Kru County- an hour motorbike ride from Fish Town. When I reached the Dweken check point, instead of the usual questioning, the security officers asked if I was with Education. They told me that the teachers were waiting for me at the church. The officers were expecting me! I met with the principal and all 9 teachers to discuss United Methodist School System policies and the role and responsibilities of a United Methodist School teacher.

*Thank you for supporting education in Liberia.*

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Global Ministries Missionary