

Liberia Education Update

August 2022



Harrison Grigsby UMS students at Closing Program in First UMC, Greenville, Sinoe County, August 1, 2022.

The container from Holston Conference was opened in the compound of the Central Office of the Liberia Annual Conference on the morning of August 23, 2022.

The container lock was broken, the door opened, and the supplies were taken into the offices of the Department of General Education & Ministry (DGEM) for distribution to United Methodist schools, the Department of Health & Social Welfare, and other ministries of the Liberia Annual Conference.

Photos by Cephas Williams, DGEM Accountant

The abbreviated school year in Liberia ended on July 31, 2022, and schools across the country had closing programs to recognize the students and staff for their performance throughout the school year. Parents, students, and staff of the Harrison W. Grigsby United Methodist School (UMS) gathered at First United Methodist Church (UMC) in Greenville for the closing program on August 1, 2022.

At closing programs, the first and second dux for each grade is named and students receive their report cards if they passed all the subjects and paid all the school fees. Students who fail one or two subjects go to vacation school. Students who fail more than two subjects repeat the grade. Now that school was officially over and vacation started, many students returned to families outside Greenville where there are no junior or senior high schools. Students told me they were leaving to go to the bush.

A much anticipated 40-foot container from the Holston Conference filled with school supplies, medical supplies, health kits, and food buckets arrived in the port of Monrovia on August 16, 2022. Each congregation in the Holston Conference contributed items to this huge donation. I think each item was given with love.

Thank you, Holston Conference!!!





The canoe for public use on Lexington Creek.



S. D. Mayson Memorial UMC in Lexington, Sinoe County.



I took this photo of Lexington Creek while in the canoe going to church.

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In my June/July update, I shared that I was still teaching chemistry for grade ten and biology for grades ten, eleven, and twelve. Well, I was still the biology teacher for the entire month of August. After the school year ended on July 31, vacation school started on August 2. Students who did not complete or pass a class attended vacation school. About half of the high school students needed to come to biology class. During the school year they were distracted with other life concerns such as not having money to pay school fees, motorbike accident injuries, illness, death of a relative, and caring for their own children. For these students, attendance was poor, and learning was poor. I do not want students to pass to the next grade without learning, so I was at school every day (except August 24, Flag Day) to work with students. One young man said, "We can really learn when there are not many in the class."

Spending the month on the campus of Harrison Grigsby UMS meant that I still could not travel to visit schools in other counties, but I did go to a Sunday church service at S. D. Mayson Memorial UMC in Lexington. Lexington is near Greenville, just across the Lexington Creek. Liberia is beautiful. I pray that the students will learn and appreciate what is true and what is beautiful.

*Be well and safe in God's Kingdom.
Helen*

Helen Roberts-Evans

Global Ministries Missionary

Coordinator for Southeast Region

of the United Methodist School System

Department of General Education & Ministry

Liberia Annual Conference/The United Methodist Church

hevans@umcmmission.org