

Liberia Education Update

December 2022



Nimene Nah UMC and Greenville Central Mosque are next to each other. The people of these two faiths worship side by side in peace. December 15, 2022



Four Harrison Grigsby UMS Operation Classroom Scholars in the computer lab after the Y Club Bible study. In Liberia high school senior students wear neckties. December 5, 2022



The Sinoe District Women prepared and served breakfast and dinner each day of the Sinoe District Conference. December 16, 2022



Stephan Jlakan, a former Liberia Annual Conference Sinoe District Youth President, returned to Sinoe to teach History at Harrison Grigsby UMS. December 7, 2022, in the 10th grade class.

Monday afterschool Y Club

In the late 1800's, there was a missionary from Sinoe to the United States. He was Prince Kaboo, the son of a Kru chief. His English name is Samuel Morris. His short life (1873-1893) was an amazing faith journey that led him from Sinoe in Liberia to Taylor University in Indiana. In Greenville, the Samuel Morris Center works with students in seven schools, including Harrison W. Grigsby United Methodist School (UMS). Each school has a computer lab and weekly Y Club Bible study (Y is for Youth). I participate in the Y Club with Harrison Grigsby UMS junior and senior high school students on Monday afternoons. Brother James, the facilitator, is excellent at drawing students into discussion, really thinking about God's Word.

The Sinoe District Conference

From Wednesday morning on December 14 through Sunday evening December 18, 2022. Pastors and lay people of the 23 United Methodist churches in Sinoe District gathered at the Nimene Nah United Methodist Church (UMC) in Greenville for the Sinoe District Conference. Pastors and Sinoe District church leaders reported on and discussed their congregations, and I spoke on the role of the laity. At the Conference, the Sinoe District Superintendent, Rev. S. Snoh Myers, Sr. introduced two **United Methodist University Graduates**, Stephen Jlakan and Harris N. Wea. In August 2022, they both graduated from UMU's J. J. Roberts College of Education thanks to scholarship gifts to The Advance #15125B, and they have both returned to Sinoe to help with education.



My water source, the well across the street and down the hill from my house. December 27, 2022



Water from the well before and after filtering.

Chapel Service and Quizzing

Harrison Grigsby UMS has a chapel service on the last Friday of the month. The worship service is followed by quizzing. The students on the junior and senior high school quizzing teams study English, History, Math, Science, and current events and have competitions with their schoolmates as practice for competitions with other schools. The 8 Harrison Grigsby UMS Operation Classroom Scholars are in the Y Club and on the quizzing team.

Gift of Supplies for Toe Gbardee UMS

Teacher Emmanuel from the Toe Gbardee UMS in Diyankpo, Sinoe County came to Greenville to register the sixth-grade students for the national exams. We met on December 28 to purchase school supplies using funds from a gift sent by a member of the Michigan Conference. Toe Gbardee's portion of the gift bought 31 reading books, 6 poster sheets, 50 pens, 3 reams of paper, and a ledger book for the school. In future updates, I will let you know how 8 other schools used their portion of the gift.

Gift of clean water

As I reflect on my many blessings in 2022, I am thankful for the gift of clean water. In 2018, when I was last in the States for itineration, Rev. Mike Sluder of the Holston Conference gave me a very portable water filter. At that time, I did not know that I was moving to Sinoe and would need to filter well water every day; but God knew and made sure I had what I needed. "...your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:8



The 12th grade quizzing team played against the 10th grade quizzing team after the chapel service in Nimene Nah UMC. The 7th grade team is seated on the front pew. December 23, 2022

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My Sunday school class at First UMC, Greenville singing during the Christmas Day service. December 25, 2022