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*"Sustain me, my God, according to your promise,
and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed."*

Dear Friends,

Psalm 119:116

I have been thinking a lot lately about the opportunities that God has provided over these past eleven years of ministry in Liberia. Started back in 2006, supporting only one school in Jessie Togba-Doya's childhood village of Balama, Balama Development Alliance soon added a micro-loan program and started five community gardens. Our goals were simple. First, help establish schools for children and business networks for families, so the community could begin to heal and stabilize. Second, introduce villagers to the Gospel, primarily through the Jesus Film, and help them grow spiritually through teaching and training discipleship groups. Our focus was on a single community, and the name Balama Development Alliance (BDA) seemed a logical fit to this new mission.

Over the next few years, though, BDA expanded its reach to the north, to the people in a village called Gbansue. We also added job training and infrastructure development to the community assistance programs we managed. Empowered by God's Spirit, and the vital prayers and financial support of friends like you, these areas witnessed new hope as the dignity of the people and the recovery of their communities took root and grew.

As God continued to expand the opportunities to serve the people of Liberia, Jessie and the Board of Directors began asking if there might not be a better name for this work, one that more fully identified the growing reach of this ministry. What started out with 25 school children in a small Balama school had grown significantly and was now helping many more adults and families in two distinct regions of rural Liberia. With an expanding vision to provide sustainable and renewable resources, practical and spiritual investments that go beyond initial aid for poor communities, a new name soon came into focus: Sustainable Liberia.



Now the legal work is done, and we are delighted to announce a new name for our work together: Sustainable Liberia. I hope you will share our excitement that this is more than superficial; it gives new clarity to the calling God gave Jessie in the beginning. The mission of local education, economic development, and biblical leadership remains the same, but the vision for impact has grown to match the expanding challenges before us. Repairing

the devastation from the long Liberian civil war and recent communicable diseases will take time, but the progress we've witnessed is confirmation that this is the direction we are to go.

A great deal of our encouragement comes from the many important milestones we've seen this year. We've launched several small-to-medium-sized businesses including the Coal Pot Queens Training Restaurant and the Brendi Cocoa Company. The continuing development of these enterprises (and others like them) will generate much needed job training for individuals and their families, as well as help grow local economies with quality leadership.

Education also remains a high priority. That same desire to empower young people in Balama eleven years ago remains strong. Citizens proficient in reading, writing, science, and math are essential for Liberia to effectively gain the benefits of the modern world, while also resisting its pitfalls. Sustainable Liberia will continue to fill an important gap by training local teachers, providing poor students with supplies, and helping with the educational infrastructure students need to learn and thrive.



These are the vital needs for Liberia: education, economic empowerment, and leadership development. And for true sustainability, the people need to live in communities that have a multi-generational perspective, the hope that God has an enduring purpose for every individual right where they are. The Gospel of Jesus Christ provides this hope and perspective, and we will proclaim it in all the villages and projects to which God leads us. Infusing Liberia with this hope is the center of everything we do and we continue to praise God for the opportunities to serve.

In His Grip,

Bill Ginn
Board Chair
Sustainable Liberia

P.S. Supporters like you are making a difference in the lives of the Liberians who are being transformed by the Gospel through the resources you provide. Please continue to help the struggling people of Liberia with your most generous contribution at this year end. And please pray for this work, that God would be glorified in it. Thank you for being a part of this ministry.

From Ashes to Hope: Building a Sustainable Liberia