



2107 North Decatur Road, Box 308

Decatur, GA | 30033

404-354-4432 | [info@SustainableLiberia.org](mailto:info@SustainableLiberia.org)



# Summer/Fall Ministry Update

*Countering Hopelessness in Liberia*

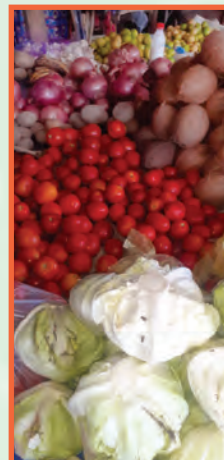


## Joy at Harvest

**T**he objective of our garden program is to help families grow their own food for livelihood and income generation. Cecelia and Magdalene are two sisters sharing in the joy of freshly harvested corn from their backyard gardens in Paynesville. They joined the Sustainable Liberia garden program in late February of this year determined to help supplement their families' income and keep food on the table.



During the prequalifying interviews, the sisters informed the Sustainable Liberia team that they have always had the desire of owning a family garden but were lacking land, tools, and seeds. We were able to give them just that, and partnered with land owners in the community to arrange plots to make their dreams of a family garden come true. Cecelia and Magdalene cleared the brush on their plots, manually tilled the soil, and planted gardens that are now growing with corn, okra, peppers, collard greens, cabbage, potato greens, and other vegetables.



On weekdays, they work the garden while their husbands and children are at work and school. The husbands and children usually join them over the weekends to help in the gardens.



When asked about their greatest joy of gardening, both ladies responded that *"it's the children's smiles at harvest and the income that we make from vegetable sales."* Our team at Sustainable Liberia is grateful for the opportunity that we have to help families put food on their table and keep children smiling.

[www.SustainableLiberia.org](http://www.SustainableLiberia.org)



## Digging the Books

The Mack & Pattie Hannah Library has become the learning hub at Gbansue Elementary School. Education in oratory society, where students learn by rote memorization, has its own pros and cons. On one hand, students in oratory societies learn and retain information very well through repetition. On the other hand, they solely depend on their teacher as the primary source of that information. As such, the absence of one teacher in the wake of a limited number of teachers creates a gap in the education process.

The teachers at Gbansue Elementary School are mitigating these challenges by encouraging students to develop the habit of doing extra reading in addition to classroom instruction.

As you can see in the picture, Gbansue students are getting accustomed to independent reading and spending more time in the library. Jerome Tulwon, the lead teacher at Gbansue School, says that “students learn to read by reading.” Meanwhile, he encourages his students to “dig the books” by spending more time in the Library.



## COVID-19 Health Protocols at Gbansue School

The COVID-19 pandemic is still a global concern. As the number of infections and death rates in India and other countries increase on a daily basis, parents are becoming more anxious about the safety of the children at school. As preventive measures, parents are sending their children to school with pieces of fabric to use as nose-masks and key limes to use as hand sanitizers.

Additionally, we have set up handwashing and temperature stations at the school entrance. As further precautionary measures, students and teachers are required to wash their hands and get their temperature taken before entering and



leaving the campus. While we pray for India and other countries that are greatly impacted by this pandemic, we are also praying for God’s hedge of protection upon our community.



## Proofing the Pudding

Testing is an important part of the learning process, as it allows students to show what they've learned and what they are capable of doing. As part of the evaluation process, testing gives students the opportunity to express themselves individually. It's definitely the most quiet and focused time. It is also the most stressful time for students.

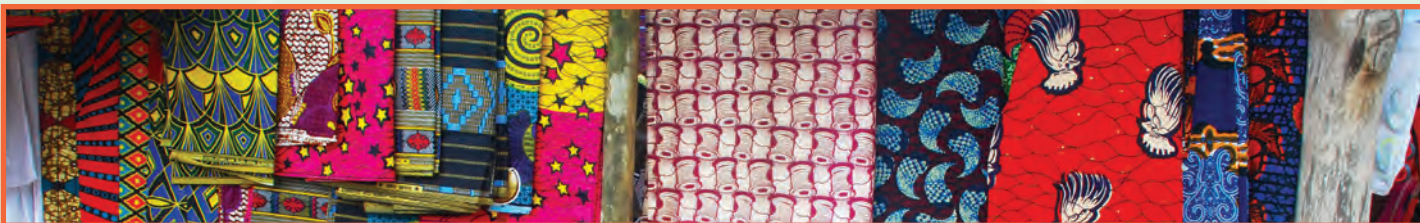
During exams, the school experiences a decline in attendance. To address this, principal James Gwemenie convened a meeting with the fifth and sixth graders to explore and discuss some of the reasons why students are missing school, especially during test time. Many students said they would rather take their examinations by themselves than in group settings with other

students. **The lack of electricity and light at night limits the time the students have to prepare.** Students say the lack of time to prepare,

plus the stress of testing is the reason for much of their absenteeism. Students in the meeting said that they feel under pressure during exams, whether that comes from their parents, teachers, or their own peers. This can affect how well they perform.

Nowai was taking a fifth grade math examination. She feels that she struggles with math and finds it to be a real challenge. So, for this test, she was focused on doing her very best in hopes to please her parents, teachers, and peers. *"The only way that I can prove to them that I understand math is when I make a good passing grade,"* Nowai said, *"since the proof is in the pudding...I can only tell it by showing it."*

Nowai told her teacher that she would rather have an individual examination than to test in a group setting. This creates more work for the math teacher, who has already set up a study class for students who are currently struggling with math; but this goes to show how **the teachers and administrators go out of their way to ensure a quality education for their students. Please pray for Gbansue teachers and administrators as they strive to meet the individual learning needs of each of their students.**





## Light is Life

Paynesville is one of the fastest growing suburbs of Monrovia, but is still without electricity and running water, a problem exacerbated by a huge socio-economic divide among its inhabitants. The few residents who have jobs and can afford it live fenced-in and use private generators as a power source. The remaining majority of the population use disposable battery-powered torches to light their homes. The night life of Paynesville clearly affirms that light is life.

Our Coal Pot Queens (CPQ) Compound in Paynesville was initially set up to house Sustainable Liberia's offices, restaurant, and training programs. In addition to its stated purpose, **it has also become a beacon of light for residents who do not have electricity.** It is one of the few public places with charging spots for cellular phones, televisions, and cable connection to show soccer games for community dwellers.

Boys and girls in the neighborhood nag their parents for permission to let them visit after dark. When waiting for CPQ gates to open, children sitting by the curbside usually scream "*current na come!*" at the turn of the generator. Nat Morris, a soccer enthusiast and regular visitor, said of the compound, "*Coal Pot Queens provides light*



*and keeps me abreast on news and current issues in sports."* These services give us the opportunity to be present in the community and to share Christ with our neighbors and those who visit the compound.

**Please pray for our generator. The only 5KVA generator on the compound is on its last leg.** It runs from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm to provide electricity for the restaurant and vocational training programs. We shut it down for two hours to help it cool off, and again turn it on at 7:00 pm to power freezers and provide light for security purposes. We are trusting God for a stand-by generator to enable us to continue the light- and life-giving ministry in Paynesville.

When the Sustainable Liberia Board received this information from Jessy, they donated the money to buy a new 5KVA generator. After further study, **we believe it would be prudent to raise the money necessary to buy a larger generator to meet the current needs of the CPQ Compound and use the 5KVA as a back-up.** Jessy will be sharing more about this with our partners while he is in the U.S. this Fall.



### Mailing Address:

2107 North Decatur Road, Box 308  
Decatur, GA 30033 USA

**Donate Online:** [www.SustainableLiberia.org](http://www.SustainableLiberia.org)

**Phone:** 404.354.4432

**Email:** [info@SustainableLiberia.org](mailto:info@SustainableLiberia.org)

**f** [facebook.com/SustainableLiberiaInc](https://facebook.com/SustainableLiberiaInc)