

Spring 2018

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

Psalm 119:116

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for the people of rural Liberia. My time in the U.S. was very enjoyable and fruitful. Your prayers and concern for me personally are touching and very humbling. Upon returning to Liberia in February, I have been busy working with our staff in the villages and setting up the training office and classroom at the Coal Pot Queens compound in Paynesville near the Baptist Seminary. Following is an update on our programs.

Education

The Balama and Gbansue schools are both in their 4th period (second semester) with more than 375 and 460 students enrolled, respectively. The school year is scheduled to end on July 1, 2018, after which the students will take a break before schools reopen in October of 2018. During the break, teachers at both schools will participate in training workshops in preparation for the reopening of school.

Evangelism

Good News Club (GNC) meetings in Balama and Gbansue are an exciting time for studying God’s Word together as a community. In addition to his role as Lead Teacher, Jerome teaches Bible study and Good News Club. Due to the limitation of space and seating capacity, GNC membership is divided into two groups that meet on Mondays & Wednesdays and Tuesdays & Thursdays. The Club is currently studying prophecies and foretelling about the birth of Christ Jesus.

Derrick continues to use the making of glasses through our Sight Seeker program to share the Gospel in the slums near Monrovia. He also uses Walk Thru the Old Testament seminars to engage the school children in the village schools.

Economic Empowerment

The first quarter of 2018 for the Coal Pot Queens was eventful and rewarding. Sales volume and profitability are gradually increasing. The restaurant, bakery, and community shop generated more than \$200,000 Liberian dollars (US\$1,481). They were able to pay salaries and defray the costs of operation. They are planning to grow sales and profit by 20% in the second quarter. Most importantly, members of the team are growing in their individual walk with Christ as a result of daily devotions and weekly Bible study.



Infrastructural Advancement

The people of Gbansue are clearing brush to cultivate lowland and upland community gardens for food security. They have started growing cabbage, tomatoes, onions, and cucumber in the lowland gardens for the dry season. They will grow rice, corn, cassava, cabbages, tomatoes, and onions in the upland gardens in May when the rain sets in. The lowland and upland gardens give villagers an opportunity to grow vegetables all year round.

Leadership Development

The use and abuse of gateway substances such as marijuana, alcohol, and others are major problems facing Liberian youth and teenagers. Most teenagers get caught up in the use and abuse of these substances. *Zoko*, as they are called in Liberia, are troubled teens who sustain themselves through stealing and other deviant behaviors. When caught up in the gang life, many of them become ostracized by their families and the society at large.

Sustainable uses sports to rehabilitate and reintegrate young adults and teens back into their respective families and communities. Sustainable Football Club (Sustainable FC) is a soccer program that gives troubled teens a second chance. Before playing soccer, Sustainable counselors conduct Bible study and counseling with the young athletes. We strongly believe that the youth are Liberia's future.



Please read about the Gou School and the opportunity we have to partner with the Gou village in the enclosed newsletter.

Thank you for standing in the gap with us for the people of rural Liberia. And, if you want a real ministry challenge, consider going on a 10-day mission trip to Liberia with us in 2018.



By His Grace,

Rev. Dr. Jessy Togba-Doya
Executive Director

P.S. During this time of year for making important project decisions, I hope you will support Sustainable Liberia so that together we can continue to have a meaningful impact on the lives of people in rural Liberia. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."

1 Thessalonians 1:2

From Ashes to Hope: Building a Sustainable Liberia