



Sustainable Liberia

2107 North Decatur Road, Box 308
Decatur, GA | 30033
404-354-4432 | info@SustainableLiberia.org



Summer Ministry Update

Countering Hopelessness in Liberia



The Sustainable Liberia Container Experience

Be encouraged by the following inspiring account by Shirley Noles, former Sustainable Liberia board member and Ministry Team Leader at Haddock Baptist Church

One afternoon in January, Rex Lee, a member of Haddock Baptist Church, was listening to the radio on his drive home. He heard that countries who previously grew cocoa beans were not growing any due to Civil War destruction in their countries. He also heard that the prices of coffee, chocolate, etc. would rise here in the U.S. He was distraught over the loss of business for these countries who badly needed help. He arrived at home and then went to Haddock Baptist Church where he leads the Royal Ambassadors (RAs), a mission organization for boys.

On arrival at church, he discovered that Jessy Togba-Doya would be speaking and the RAs would hear him share the latest work going on in Liberia. Our church has sponsored this work in the Bong County area for over 10 years, but Rex had not heard Jessy speak before. Well, God used that radio message to prepare Rex for one of the largest undertakings



in which Haddock has been involved.

I was out of town and when I got back my phone was ringing. Rex was so excited he could hardly speak. He said, "We can get a tractor and some tools for them to start the production of cocoa beans. Jessy told the church that the work was slow with bamboo tools, but the Liberians have hope for beginning this work again after their Civil War." Chris Mayo was listening and thinking the same thing.

The following Monday night the Men's Ministry met. Word had spread over the church about the idea of sending a container with a tractor and tools for the people to be able to work faster in the production of the beans. Lonnie Smith, Jr. said he could

have the container put in his yard so it could be packed in one place, and he could weld some shelves in the top to hold smaller goods we could send. We were understanding so much better the new name for our ministry: "Sustainable Liberia."

We had a meeting with Jessy and Bill Ginn. Over lunch we discussed the plans and got extremely excited over this new project. We also realized as we prayed that God definitely wanted us to do this project. Rex discovered that he, Jessy, and Bill knew some of the same people who might be able to help us. Because we were seeing so much fall into place at one time, I just kept sitting there at the table saying, "This is a God plan. This is a God 'sighting'."

Bill Ginn arrived one day with a truck, trailer, Bibles, and many supplies to be loaded into the container. Most were donated items. Two young men working with Lonnie helped to load the boxes. They became very

*"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.."
Matthew 19:26 (NIV)*

interested in the work that was going on and were glad to be a part of the loading process.

Groups of people talked and began donating items to be shipped. Many began giving extra monies for the project. Lonnie said he and his wife wanted to pay for the container to travel from Haddock to Liberia. He barbequed ribs and sold them to the community and church family to help raise these funds. The day that the ribs were ready, it was like the community of Jones County kept driving into Lonnie's yard to get their ribs and see the container that was being packed. Different people were digging deeper in their pockets to be a part of this project.

Many people have never heard of Haddock, GA. It is a rural community in Middle Georgia with a church that believes in missions: community, state, U.S., and the world. The church reaches families from Jones, Baldwin, Putnam, and Wilkinson counties. Our mission is "Sharing Christ through a Caring Church for a Changing World."



Members of the community buy donated ribs from Bubba's to help pay to ship the container from Georgia, USA to Liberia.



Bubba's, owned by Lonnie Smith Jr. and his wife, provided barbequed ribs to sell to the community and church family for the fundraiser.



Two tractors of different sizes were donated, along with a "bushhog" which will clear land very quickly compared to manually clearing the land by hand.



Groups of people bring donated items to fill the container, many giving extra funds to ship it to Liberia.



Pastor Ron serving barbeque for the congregants of Haddock Baptist Church.



Lonnie Smith Jr. serves slabs of ribs to church and community members.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house... See if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."
Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

For several years we have raised money through Vacation Bible School to help with projects in Liberia. We built a latrine, helped the Coal Pot Queens with pots and pans for their restaurant, and helped to pay the teachers. **This year we raised over \$1,200 to be used in our container project. This project has helped our church grow closer together and is talked about in our Sunday School classes and around the campus.**

Members are gathering things to share with our friends in Liberia. We will leave the container for Liberians to use as a classroom/office. We will have a Prayer Walk around the container before it leaves for Savannah, praying for God's guidance in the ministry being done in Liberia. We have already had people praying as they walked around the container. **On June 3, we began to pray fervently about the fees to ship the container to Liberia and praying the President of Liberia would reduce these for agriculture supplies for non-profits.** We look forward to the day when Jessy can bring us back some cocoa beans that have been harvested.



On June 6, Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls in Action (GAs) groups took vans to the container in Lonnie's yard to write messages on dry erase boards to the Kpelle tribe in Bong County. Some were scriptures in their language and some were English messages from the children. They were excited that their messages were going all the way to Liberia to be seen by boys and girls over there. **The children were having their first experience of shipping goods for Sustainable Liberia. It will be a day they remember all of their lives.**



The agricultural equipment will greatly assist the farmers and cocoa business, as well as the village gardens and the farm/gardening training programs. The many donated seeds will be planted to provide a sustainable food source during a difficult economic season.



School and office supplies, books, sports equipment (and so much more!) fill the container to provide countless students with necessary tools for their education. Items to make eyeglasses for vision care, along with first aid supplies for emergencies, help us care for physical needs, as well as spiritual ones.



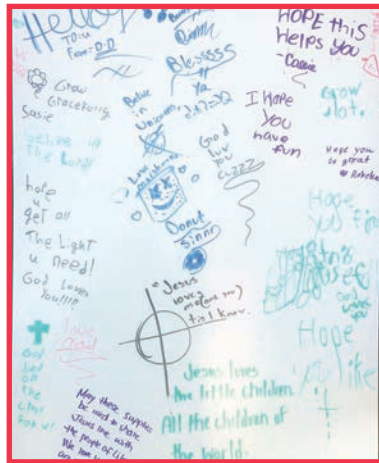
600 lbs. of beans are being shipped in the container to provide food for the Coal Pot Queens Restaurant and Training Program for young women who are healing from trafficking and exploitation.

We at Haddock Baptist continue to pray daily for this shipment, the work that will be accomplished in their cocoa production, and the sharing about Jesus through this ministry. **We want the people of Liberia to know that we love them and want to help them have a better life.** We hope to follow the shipment and continue to pray for the goods going across the Atlantic to make a lasting difference in their lives. Our prayers will

continue until we see a picture of the truck driving into the interior of Liberia to share with God's people.

Thanks be to God for Rex, Lonnie Smith, Jr., Chris Mayo and our other men and women who caught the vision through **Jessy's** talk one cold winter night in **January, 2018, in Haddock, GA.**

To God be the glory.



The container represents the idea of "from ashes to hope" for those living in Liberia. We are grateful for the people of Haddock Baptist who are inspiring to other churches and individuals - they may be a small congregation, but they have big hearts and are making a significant impact!

Would you or your church be interested in partnering with Sustainable Liberia?

We would love to connect with you.



Mailing Address:

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

Donate Online: www.SustainableLiberia.org

Phone: 404.354.4432

Email: info@SustainableLiberia.org

facebook.com/SustainableLiberiaInc