

LOTT CAREY Herald

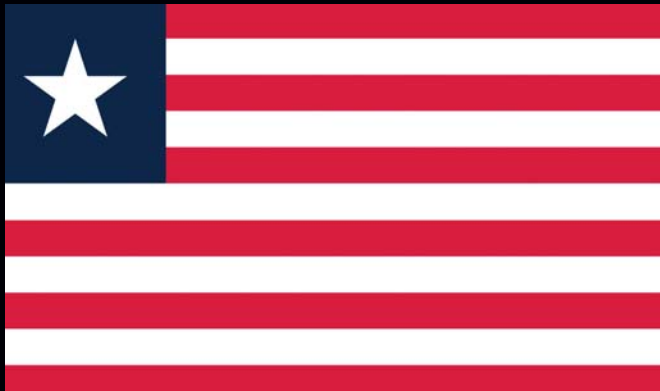
Published by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention

June 2011



The Faces of Liberia

*Personal Accounts
from the Lott Carey
Team Reveal New
Faith, New Hope and
a New Future*



*Special
Poem,
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Lott Carey

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The Reality: Education is Key, Children are the Future

Part of Jesus' message in Luke 4 contains these words:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor" (v. 18a, NIV).

Suppose the poor showed up at your church. Will there be any good news for them? By speaking of the "poor," I mean something different than the U.S. Census Bureau's definition of just under \$25,000 income per year for a family of four. By poor, I refer to the untold number of people around the world who live on less than \$2 per day. Do you have any good news for the poor?

One way that the Lott Carey family seeks to offer good news to the poor is through our ministries of empowerment. Empowerment is one of our key expressions of missions. When we collaborate with sisters and brothers to enable them to do more than they could otherwise, we engage in ministries of empowerment:

- In Ethiopia, we help women forced into commercial sex work to gain skills for legitimate employment and, sometimes, start-up funds for

new business ventures.

- In Jamaica, we partner to help young adults gain job skills in areas like cosmetology, computer technology, and hospitality.
- In Zimbabwe, we help young pastors preparing for ministry learn agricultural skills so they can better provide for their families.

Working with people toward empowerment to live with more dignity is an important expression of missions. This has historically been the case with Lott Carey and continues to be a priority. It is not enough for us to tell people who live in desperate poverty that Jesus saves while they continue to starve.

Education is key for empowerment around the world, and Lott Carey has been engaged in education in Liberia since 1908. The Lott Carey Mission School has provided children with quality education in a Christian environment for over a century. Since 1980, however, our work in Liberia has been tough. The civil decline that began in the 1980s and the civil war that commenced later that decade have been horrific for Liberians. For

a generation, we supported our Liberian leaders and children through turmoil and war. In the words of one of the late school administrators, Lott Carey has been "the best friend we have had. They have been with us when times were good and when times are bad."

This edition of the Lott Carey Herald introduces you to some of the celebrations and challenges with our partners in Liberia. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing, and learning community where students and staff are enabled to thrive. We are maintaining a steady course through turbulent economic and political times. Yet we are confident that as we plant and water, God will give an increase. I have learned through the years that as we are faithful, God provides. I hope the Herald inspires you to pray and to invest in this ministry of empowerment in Liberia. Children are the future.

Grace,

David



'The very foundation of this school is built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ'

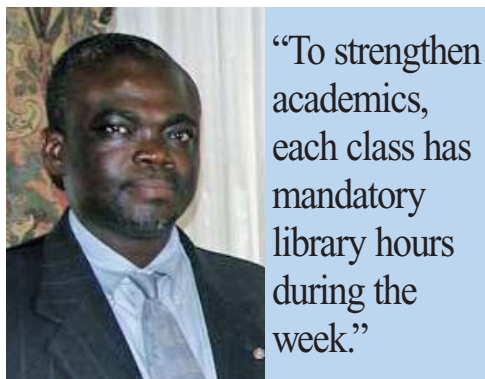
By The Rev. Emile D. E. Sam-Peal

The administration, teachers, staff and students of the Lott Carey Mission Schools continue to be amazed by God's grace. We offer thanks and appreciation to our global Lott Carey network for its prayerful commitment, faithfulness, service and generosity, which enables us to fulfill our mission of providing a quality education to youth in Liberia.

Our Work

Since 1908, Lott Carey Baptist Mission Schools in Brewerville and Bopolu have been committed to providing quality education for academic excellence in a disciplined, safe, caring and nurturing environment. Our recent enrollment figures: 734 students (381 female and 348 male) on the Brewerville campus; 182 students (63 female and 119 male) on the Bopolu campus.

Our core work as an educational institution (Nursery through 12th grade) is even more important



now, as we march on in advancing the work of the kingdom by "touching lives with transforming love" through the nurturing and molding of young people. Our watchword is scholarship at the highest level and a place where we build character needed for a vibrant, productive and wholesome society. We do education with a Christian emphasis.

Spiritual emphasis: The very foundation of this

school was built on and through the evangelization of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is vital as we work to affect the whole person – spiritually, academically and socially. The spiritual emphasis is through daily devotions, vespers, Bible clubs, Bible teaching, being examples for the students to see, and other activities and programs which help to steer and influence their person.

Academic Excellence: This has always been a hallmark of this institution and is succinctly stated in our school's motto, "Character, Industry, and Scholarship." To strengthen academics, each class has mandatory library hours during the week. We have also initiated a reading program in the elementary division encouraging our students to check out books to read at home with their parents. In the "A Word A Day" program, a word is announced each day in chapel, and students are challenged to define the

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‘Liberia was my first West African experience and shall be remembered forever’

The Rev. Emile Sam-Peal, Superintendent of the 103-year-old Lott Carey Mission Schools in Liberia, was a gracious host. He met us at the Monrovia airport with an air-conditioned van and navigated us through the throngs of people. A truck carried our mountain of luggage. Jackson, our driver during the trip, was a mild-mannered, kind, patient soul.

Our living accommodations were exactly what I asked for in my prayers— clean, comfortable bed and bathroom. For nine days we lived in a guest house staffed with a cook, housekeeper,

security guards and a driver. Richmond, our housekeeper kept our quarters spruced, clothes and shoes clean and served us lunch/dinner daily. The cook, Ms. Valerie, made us delicious traditional dishes such as sweet potato greens, fried cassava fish balls, various cakes and muffins, plantains, Jollof rice, and pow-pow— mango fried pies.

Rev. Sam-Peal shared Liberian history daily during dinner table discussions or as we journeyed from location to location.

On our first day at the

school, we attended devotions where the students and staff lead the program. It was inspirational to observe the proud students and staff describing their school and country.

I was assigned to observe and in-service the senior secondary division which includes grades 10-12. I count it all joy to have the opportunity to visit this school and work with teachers eager and excited to learn new methods of instruction. It is simply amazing to see teachers do so much



with so little. The school system does not have any textbooks, computers, pencil sharpeners, fans, air-conditioners, lunchrooms, wastebaskets, bulletin boards, calculators, science labs or the usual school supplies that one would imagine necessary to enhance the learning process. Students use the black and white marble composition notebooks and pen and pencil to take notes as teachers present the lesson on the chalk-

board. The teachers were nurturing to the students and extremely knowledgeable in their subject area. Most have degrees from the university in their academic areas but minimal instructional strategies. That's where my expertise was needed.

I delivered two workshops on Lesson Planning: Using Backward Design and Reading in the Content Areas, Including Reciprocal Reading Strategies, Bloom's Taxonomy and Venn Diagrams. The administrators reported that mission teams had come before us but most were white Americans not African Americans. They were grateful for our time, talents and service to them. It was a wonderful spiritual feeling to observe and work with the teachers and students eager to learn more, and who displayed aspirations and dreams to do better to help others in their country to do better. Students were articulate, inquisitive, and well-mannered in displaying leadership skills.

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‘I left Liberia with a personal commitment to raise awareness, money and provide resources to the school’

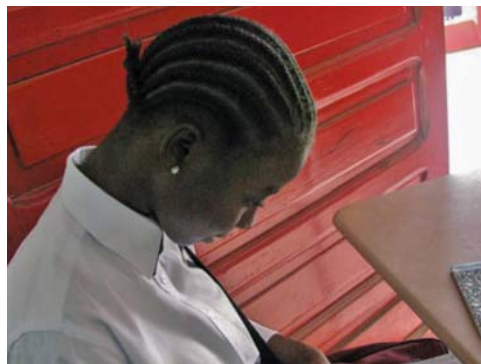
Never having been out of the country, I boarded the plane to Liberia with excitement, anticipation and anxiety—the anxiety of where we would stay, what we would eat, and even how we would be received. We were greeted by the Rev. Emile Sam-Peal and members of his staff and all anxieties went away. The housing and food was secondary at this point and I was just happy to be in Liberia. However, the housing was much more than I expected—a beautiful six bedroom home. And the food? Outstanding.

My primary goal was to observe and assess the needs of the school. I met with Rev. Sam-Peal, his administrative support team, as well as the students, parents and teachers to get an idea of their primary needs.

Parents are very appreciative of the Lott Carey School and continue to make tremendous sacrifices for their children’s education at Lott Carey Mission Schools. But all agreed the extra effort was worth it because education is essential if their children are to have a better life. When we asked one of the seniors of the school what he wanted to do after graduation, he stated that he wanted to attend college in America. “An education is key to ignorance not being the cause of another war,” he said. All the children said they wanted to continue their education to “help my people.”

The teachers were grateful for our presence and desperately want to welcome more Lott Carey visitors. We gave all the teachers modest gifts and shared the joy giving creates. And we talked about their dreams for the school.

Where do we go from here? I left Liberia with a personal commitment to raise awareness, money and provide resources to the school. I want to create “Team Liberia” to fulfill the school’s many needs:



- Basic school supplies, including pencils, paper and calculators)
- A computer lab, including wi-fi on campus
- Sponsorship of a librarian to assist the administra-

tion in redesigning the library

- A science lab equipped with high-powered microscopes
- Video and audio equipment
- Generators and, eventually, a solar energy system
- A cafeteria to house a breakfast & lunch program
- An inside gym
- Teacher exchange program
- Choir to visit on a 5-6 week concern tour leading to Lott Carey’s annual session in 2013
- Security fence around the school to discourage loitering
- Redesign of classrooms

Rosette T. Graham is Director of Missions at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va.

RAINER JOURNAL: Continued from Page 4

The educational team spent their days observing classroom instruction, critiquing lesson plans and speaking to small groups of students about various topics. In the evenings the mission team collaborated on our findings and brainstormed suggestions for improvements and stateside mission projects.

Some activities stood out in my mind such as birthday parties for the orphanages. Children there do not know their birthdays and never have birthday parties. But church sponsors brought

celebrations to the orphanages, providing game day, face painters, toys, cakes, candles and, of course, the birthday song.

We heard about the homes for young mothers ages 10-15 and the babies that were the result of rape; they had been banned by their families and villages. So the missionaries go to the homes and give the girls and their babies gifts, and encouragement and hope to go on with their lives. The girls are only allowed to stay in these homes for a short period of time and are trained to sew, cook or learn a skill that may translate into a job after leaving.

The second school we visited was in Bopolu, about 70 miles north of Monrovia on the border of Sierra Leone. It took more than two hours to travel the partially paved roads and rickety bridges to get there. We attended devotions in the chapel and were formally greeted by the chief. It was evident there were few girls present. We were told about a tribal custom to remove the girls ages 10-15 at a certain time of the year for womanhood training, genital mutilation and marriage. This takes place in a secluded

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Mission Team Summary Excerpts



“We’ve made a commitment to our students and parents that we as administrators and teachers will always put our best foot forward to ensure a wholesome and nurturing community of learning,”

— Rev. Emile D.E. Sam-Peal,
Superintendent and Principal.

Roses

- All children are engaged and excited about learning
- All instructors are familiar with the content they present
- Teachers are dedicated and passionate
- The teachers are doing an excellent job with resources
- It’s good to see male teachers
- Special needs children seamlessly incorporated in class
- Alumni stay involved

Thorns

- Noise levels from machinery made it difficult to learn
- Library - Dewey Decimal System not being used; encyclopedias old; computers broken; AV and journalism materials needed.

Goals

- To share the library with other local schools
- Have a trained librarian assist teachers in using the library.
- Team planning for teachers
- Create a wish list of needs for children and resources



CHURCH FOUNDATION: Continued from Page 3

word, give its root, and use it correctly in a sentence. At the end of each week student winners are announced and given prizes. We also inaugurated the Jeremiah W. Walker Spelling Bee competition and the interclass quizzing competition.



Kindergarten graduation, June 2011

Professional Development Training: We are convinced that students will be excited about learning when they interact with teachers who are trained, motivated, and enabled to teach. So another core value of our institution is to facilitate the training and equipping of our teachers to be the very best. One of our goals is to ensure that LCM becomes a laboratory for teacher training. We intend to be a reference point for excellence in teacher training. We recently shifted our teaching methodology from a “teacher centered” mode of learning to that of a “student or learner centered” mode of learning. This has greatly inspired and motivated our teachers who are putting their best foot forward at all times.

Investing in the Future

We are also investing in some of our school graduates who are now in universities acquiring higher education with a commitment to contribute meaningfully to the community. Muriel Craigwell is currently enrolled at the Stella Maris Polytechnic University Teacher’s College and is already serving as a student intern here. Bendu Nyornoh is currently enrolled at the University of Liberia.

We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to our gracious global Lott Carey family for all your love and support over the years. To our mentor, Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, we say thank you for your leadership, your encouragement and patience.



Lott Carey Herald/June 2011



Liberia 365 Campaign

Your Chance to Contribute to Change

The Lott Carey Mission School has been educating the children of Liberia since 1908. Even two decades of political unrest and civil war could not close its doors. Through vision and leadership it continues to provide a high-quality education to youngsters in kindergarten to Grade 12, even to those who were child combatants in the civil wars.

“We’ve made a commitment to our students and parents that we as administrators and teachers will always put our best foot forward to ensure a wholesome and nurturing community of learning,” says the Rev. Emile D.E. Sam-Peal, Superintendent and Principal.

Education is widely regarded as a key ingredient in the resurgence of The Republic of Liberia as a leader in western Africa. It is also a way to heal the wounds of the past and help us work together to restore the nation. The future of the country is wrapped up in the future of the children. If we are to enjoy a stable and secure Liberia, we have to invest in the education of our children and youth today. We have to plant seeds. We have to help young people think about what it means to live a constructive life that serves God, the nation and their families.

“Lott Carey has been in Liberia in the past, we’re here in the present, and we will be here in the future.”

—Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention



“Lott Carey has been in Liberia in the past, we’re here in the present, and we will be here in the future,” says Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. “Our connection is cemented, our commitment total.”

Visit

LottCareyMissionSchool.org
to donate online; or call 202-543-3200 for more information and a brochure.

The Faces of Liberia





*Behold the faces of Liberia
Waiting in a far away land;
And GOD, we pray, will lead the way,
And help us lend a hand.*

*These are the faces of Liberia
Unassuming and unaware;
Full of faith and with GOD's grace,
Entrusted to our care.*

*These are the hearts of Liberia,
Standing so meek and mild;
With hope so pure, as they endure,
May GOD bless every child.*

*Deep in the land of Liberia,
We hear our fathers call;
To serve, to pray for salvation each day,
And compassion for one and all.*

— Poem by Donna L. Scott





RAINER JOURNAL: Continued from Page 5

ed location in the bush. The schools and tribal councils are at an impasse concerning the womanhood training conducted during the school year instead of during school break in June, July or August. Families feel compelled to oblige the tribal councils and send their daughters to womanhood training for fear of being ostracized by their chiefs. This leads to the need for medical mission teams because of numerous female medical problems, including botched mutilation, infections, and fistulas caused by early births.

During our workshop the teachers freely discussed their challenges—no electricity, no toiletting facilities, no desks, no books and poor lodging for teachers. They also spoke of a lack of transportation back to Monrovia for medical treatment and dealing with children walking up to three hours one-way to attend school but who are too tired and hungry to learn. Still, the teachers were knowledgeable and eager to learn new teaching strategies. It was a rewarding session.

I did not dare sleep during the van ride to Bopolu School for fear of missing the majestic view of the Liberian countryside—lush green landscape punctuated with swaying palm trees. We passed the upland rice fields, vegetable gardens, mud huts, termite hills, women washing clothes in the streams, men walking to vegetable



gardens with big machetes. Villages had one central water well and pump and absolutely no electricity. Children played and I thought, “Wouldn’t it be nice to have a book mobile to travel from village to village, toot the horn, read to them, give them a book and a snack, and do the same village after village.”

Lydia Rainer is Director of the Tutorial Ministry at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va.

“It was a wonderful spiritual feeling to observe and work with the teachers and students eager to learn more.”

‘The goal is to prepare the hearts and minds of new generations of Liberians for leadership’



The purpose of the Alfred Street Baptist Church Missions Ministry is to serve and teach through commitment, prayer and dedication. The Missions Ministry strives to be about God's business in church, community, district, area, state, national and foreign missions. This charter was once again put to into full operation as five members of the ASBC family recently journeyed to Monrovia, Liberia, to visit and collaborate with the Lott Carey Missions Schools.

Missions Director Rosette T. Graham led the Alfred Street team—the Rev Laura O. White, Lydia Rainer, Crystal-Marie Grant and myself. Barbara Crump led the Lott Carey team—the

Rev. Dawn Sanders, the Rev. Trevor Beauford and Evelyn Holmes. Together, we provided teacher training and assessed facilities and educational support requirements at the two LCM, in Brewerville and Bopolu.

Lott Carey believes that education is a key component in the security and well being of a community and a country. Therefore, its goal is to help prepare the hearts and minds of new generations of Liberians for leadership and contribution to their communities. This goal was realized as the missions team worked with the teachers and students, providing relevant and realistic training on foundational and advanced education concepts. The students were eager to demonstrate their many talents, and the teams were

impressed as the students welcomed us with songs and the weekly news briefing they present to faculty and students. The LCM Press Club also interviewed us.

The Lott Carey Mission Schools provide high quality education in a nurturing, caring, and learning environment. The Superintendent/Principal, the Rev. Emile D. E. Sam-Peal, solicited our help in building the school into a premier institution. His goal is to improve facilities, teacher education, and standards of education, thereby enhancing the quality of education for students. To support this objective, the teams conducted teacher workshops and hands-on

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assessments of facilities, working with teachers and students to identify needs. Identification of these requirements will not only help the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention and ASBC develop specific long and short term objectives in support of the school, but also assist the ASBC Missions ministry in developing objectives for other projects.

We all came to serve but we experienced personal and spiritual growth as well. It was easy to be moved by the optimistic young faces full of hope for the future. Rosette concluded the visit allowed us to connect to a beautiful country and beautiful people devastated by war. Lydia felt as if she had come home . . . and felt a “kindred spirit” with old and young alike.

The LCM students are extremely bright and articulate and expressed with pride the importance of the LCM School and what it meant to not only their personal growth, but the future of the nation. Many of the students expressed a desire to continue their education abroad with the intent of returning to Liberia to serve their country.

During the 10-day visit, the Alfred Street team worshipped at Providence Baptist Church, our sister church in Monrovia. We were welcomed by the Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Reeves, Jr., Senior Pastor. The congregation was moved as Rev. White preached and marked her 30th anniversary in ministry.

We are certain the trip will reap rewards as the mission team develops short- and long-term strategies for the future. Our collaboration allowed us to assess vital needs and develop relationships with faculty and staff that will last a lifetime.

U.S. Army Col. Donna L. Scott is an attorney and member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va.



“The LCM students are extremely bright and articulate and expressed with pride the importance of the LCM School and what it meant to not only their personal growth, but the future of the nation.”





“Faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future.”
-The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

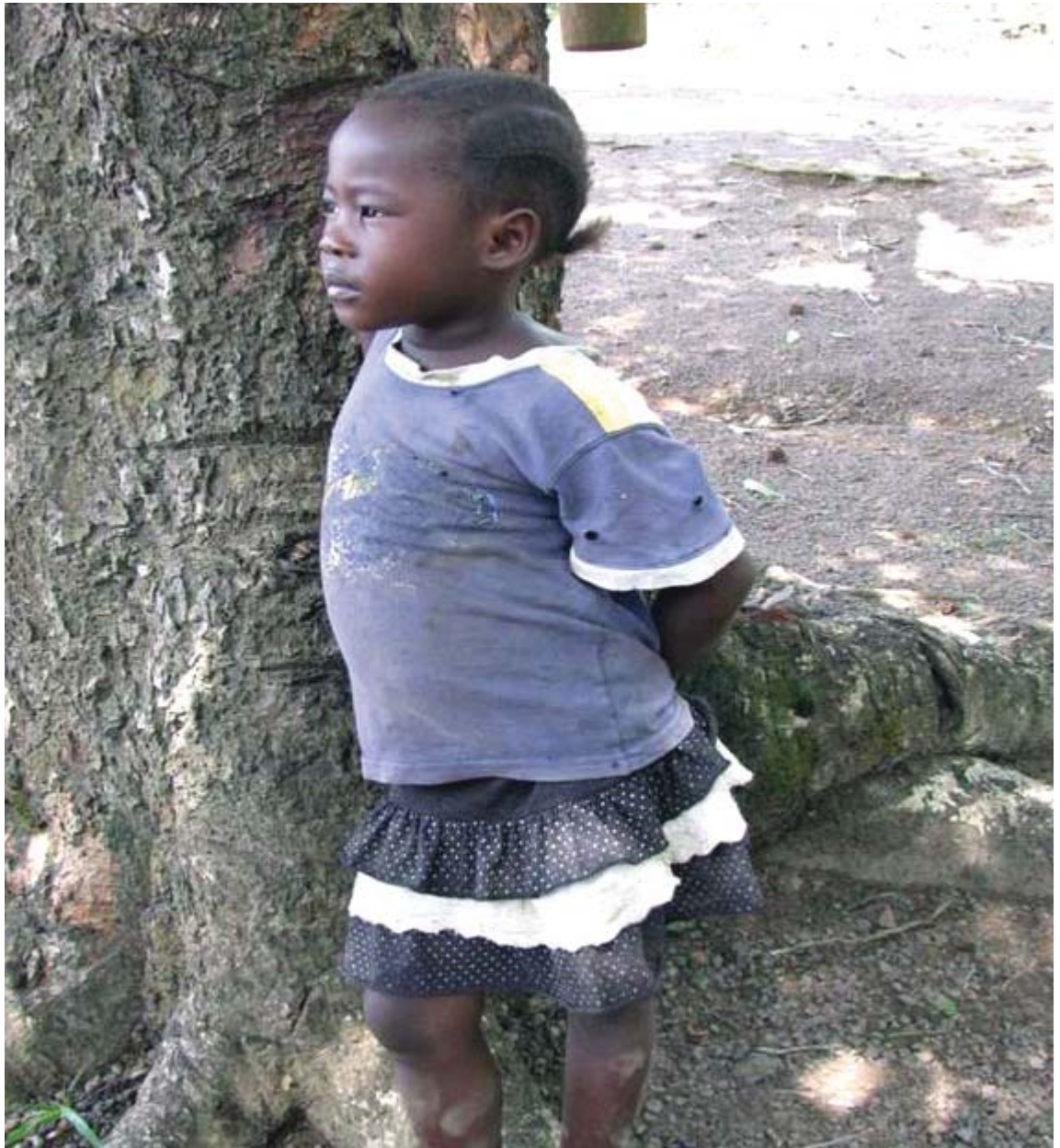
“A child is a quicksilver fountain . . . spilling over with tomorrows and tomorrows.”

—Tom Bradley,
former Mayor of Los Angeles



“Children
are the only
future of
any people.

If the
children's
lives are
squandered,
and if the
children . . .



. . . are not fully
developed at
whatever cost and
sacrifice, the people
will have consigned
themselves to
certain death.”

—Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, psychiatrist



‘Nearly 5,000 miles away . . . and I’ve never felt more at home’

It was my first journey to Africa and I was privileged to land in Liberia as part of a mission team assessing and evaluating the educational needs of the Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville. My focus was the Berthenia D. Horne Building, where the library is housed. There are also plans to establish a new computer lab when funds become available.

We found students reading a variety of materials—from entertaining magazines to reference books. But I found the environment dismal and dark; and the bookshelves were sparse. Specifically, some shelves were bare while others

were filled with multiple copies of the same archaic book. They were clearly archaic. These books, although treasured, provide only limited value since the information is dated. The encyclopedias were also old and the several computers clustered on a table did not work.

But we were encouraged during our session with a group of students, who discussed their resolve to get an education and feed an

unending hunger for knowledge. When students were asked about books of interest, science, biology and mathematics were among the most popular. Others spoke of literature, the classics and books about culture. They also longed for working computers and connection to the Internet.

Despite the challenges, the library was functional. Princess, the librarian, effectively used a filing system. I thought about how wonderful it would be to provide the library with a computer containing a pre-loaded library catalog system.

But the situation is worse in Bopolu, site of the other LCM facility. I’m almost a loss for words. Bottom line: Resources are almost nil.

“I am grateful for the experience and look forward to one day returning to my ancestral home.”



They need almost everything. Children walk miles to come to school but have no place to nap and have no breakfast.

There is much to do but I still am struck by how beautiful Liberia is—so green and full of life. The students, educational and administrative team were embracing and loving. The Rev. Emile D.E. Sam-Peal and his staff were gracious and humble, and extremely accommodating. We did not want or lack for any necessity, and anything I was accustomed to in the U.S. soon became insignificant. I am grateful for the experience and look forward to one day returning to my ancestral home.



The Rev. Laura O. White is an Associate Minister at the Alfred Street Baptist Church



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