

LOTT CAREY Herald

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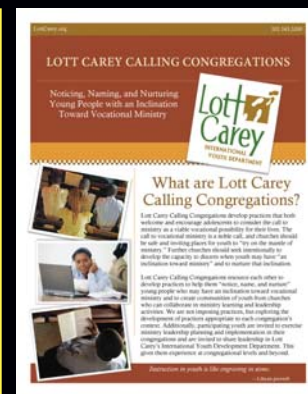
November 2012



Photo: Gabriel B. Tait/Mission with Visions

Developing Future Leaders

Proud to Serve: Students at Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia march during ROTC Cadet Training, which stresses academic excellence, discipline, and honor.



Special Pullout Section:
Lott Carey Calling Congregations identify and encourage youth to consider the call to ministry as a vocation.

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Lott Carey 



Photo: Gabriel B. Tait/Mission with Visions

Photo Essay: Students reveal the serious and playful sides of Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia. **Pages 4&5.**



The 2012 Lott Carey Youth Seminar took over Norfolk State University with a simple and direct mandate—*Share the Love of Christ*. The results were electric because the kids were given the space and trust for service, learning, worship and fellowship. **Pages 6&7.**

Photo: Gabriel B. Tait/Mission with Visions

LOTT CAREY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



*Minister
TaNikka
Sheppard
is Interna-
tional Youth
Development
Leader for
Lott Carey.*

The Annual Lott Carey Youth Seminar is an amazing opportunity for young people, ages 14-21, to connect with Christ and other young Christians who are serious about changing the world. The seminar is an intense and fun week, which stimulates the spiritual growth of students by engaging them in inspirational worship, intentional discipleship, and impactful missional outreaches.

Although the theme and missional foci changes each year, there is a consistent objective to foster five characteristics of teen behavior that fuel positive development—competence, confidence, connection, character and caring.

The seminar is truly a world-class symposium for the synergistic meeting of young hearts and minds from various cities and congregations that results in deeper insights, stronger relationships and greater excitement for ministry and community service. Students and their leaders are so inspired they use the experience as an impetus to change the lives of others in their churches and communities.

As the team leader of the International Youth Department it would be easy for me to laud the seminar and its wonderful results. But I want readers to get a glimpse through the eyes of one participant, one of many youths transformed over the 58 years of the Lott Carey Youth Seminar:

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Churches Should Be Serious About Youth Development

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

Lott Carey, a global Christian missional network, helps churches extend the Christian witness around the world. We are committed to impact, helping people live differently and think differently because of our engagement. While important work happens in various parts of the Lott Carey family, one of the most exhilarating parts of our witness is through our International Youth Development (IYD) community.

The goal of Lott Carey's IYD is to help churches nurture new generations of leaders for the world. How wonderful it is to see young people serving, learning, and growing together. The more that I serve alongside Christian youth and their dynamic young leaders, the more I learn and grow.

The main program of the Lott Carey IYD is the Annual Youth Seminar. Hundreds of young people, most of whom are already disciples of Jesus, gather on a college campus at the end of June for a week of service, learning, worship, and fellowship. Being in their presence is a blessing.

I remember one year when I came across a campus bridge that overlooked a quadrangle where hundreds of our young people were enjoying fellowship, food, and athletics. Some were involved in intense conversation. Others were laughing. Some were playing. Others

were cheering. It was thrilling to see hundreds of young people gathered in Jesus' name to talk about their Christian walk and common challenges.

I have the privilege of meeting adults throughout the Lott Carey family that testify to the great experience the Seminar has meant in their Christian formation and ministry identity. I have met pastors and lay leaders who talk about the lasting impact that the Seminars have made—acknowledging their decision to follow Jesus, a deeper commitment to their faith, and God's call to ministry as vocation.

I even met a married couple that first met at a Seminar 30 years ago. And one of our young leaders completing the final year of graduate theological training says that participating in Lott Carey's IYD was instrumental in discerning God's call of ministry.

Beyond the Youth Seminar, we have introduced Lott Carey Calling Congregations (LC3), an invitation to join a journey of noticing, naming, and nurturing young people who may have an inclination toward ministry as vocation. Part of the work of the church is birthing its future leaders and shaping them for service. The churches of the initial LC3 helped to shape a model that continues to shape their congregational life and their pastoral life. We have captured some of our learning moments and made them available in this edition of the *Lott Carey Herald* in a way



that you can detach it and use it as a tool to help shape the life of your church.

Young people need churches that take them seriously. Communities need young people who are nurtured for leadership. Churches need emerging generations of leaders equipped to serve rather than using a “drag and drop” method of addressing staffing and program needs. Churches need good leaders who can shape Christians to touch lives with the transforming love of Christ.

As you read this edition of the *Herald*, I hope you will gain a clearer vision of how to make a stronger investment in young people. We need new generations of Christian leaders for the world, and you can play a part.

Energized,

David

David

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I was just fifteen years old when I stepped onto the campus of Shaw University to take part in the 2010 Lott Carey Youth Seminar. I had no idea what I had gotten myself into. I definitely did not know that my entire life would change during that hot week in Raleigh, North Carolina, but that's exactly what happened. I arrived as a student debating whether or not Jesus was for me, and I left as a new Christian ready to truly experience God. On that Sunday morning in 2010 when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior a new journey began and my life hasn't been the same since. Now I have more faith and hope for the world around me and I am able to fight against the stresses and pains in my life.

Since that time I have grown drastically in my relationships with God and with others in my church. My heart has grown to be deeply passionate about doing the work that God has called me to do. I am

always excited for that last week of June when I can travel to a college campus and spend a week with hundreds of youth and young adults who love God and serving others. In 2011 and 2012 I participated in the “deep dive” missions, which taught me the importance of evangelism and advocating for principles that Christ is passionate about, such as justice and equality for all people.

I want to thank Lott Carey for what it has done in my life, because it gave me the opportunity to discover who God is and what it means to live a life of service for others. I hope to return to the seminar in the future, but even if I don't, Lott Carey will always be in my heart.

Uele Nayo Boxill

Class of 2013

Bexley High School, Bexley, Ohio



PICTURE PERFECT: *Students make their way to school photo session.*

Learning to be Leaders

The Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia is an oasis for education in a spiritual setting. It provides quality academics, stresses Christian values, and develops leadership skills.

*Photos by
Gabriel B. Tait/Mission with Visions*



HEAD-TO-TOE: *Elementary students review parts of the body during science class.*



ENERGIZED: *Recess for these small scholars means*



an impromptu game of football.



FOCUS: Student concentrates and takes notes during English class.

**Be blessed at the 59th Annual Lott Carey Youth Seminar,
22 – 27 June 2013.**

Online registration at LottCarey.org begins 15 February 2013.

Also... See video from this year's Youth Seminar
at YouTube.com/LottCareyTV.



TRAINING EXERCISE: Teens from Zimbabwe attempt to untangle themselves during an exercise designed to develop cooperation, critical thinking, and friendship.

Lott Carey Summer Program

Norfolk State University Hosts Youth Leadership Sessions, Lessons for Heads and Hearts

Text and Photos by Gabriel B. Tait

Teams of students and youth leaders leave the cafeteria following their morning breakfast. Some laugh and joke, while others wipe the sleep from their eyes. They are heading to their first mission assignment of the 2012 Lott Carey Youth Seminar at Norfolk State University in Virginia. This year's focus—*Share the Love of Christ* as John proclaims in 1 John 3:11: "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

The teams, while diverse in age, gender, and Christian experience, are unsure of what the week will offer. However, they are expecting

that the service they are about to undertake will bring about transformation. For four of the seasoned youth leaders, this idea of transformation has collectively been their focus for more than 30 years:

Zandra Carmichael of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Rectortown, Virginia, has led her youth group to the Lott Carey



Youth Seminar for the past seven years. She has two goals for her youth—surround them with other God-fearing Christians and instill a heart for mission. Reflecting on the years, Carmichael smiles and says: "I started when the seminar was at Shaw University. Now we're here at Norfolk State and the kids are really learning a lot about worship and themselves."

This year, four girls, 14 and 15, accompanied her. "It has been an eye-opening experience coming to Lott Carey," Carmichael says outside of a ballroom filled with five hundred youth praising God. "They can worship in their own way, not our way. They are allowed their own space. I want my youth to view

their service as an act of worship."

Carmichael says participation in events like Lott Carey is essential for young people even if they're from a small country church with limited finances, as she is. "Our youths have to be nurtured and readied," she says, "so the sacrifice we make is an investment for our youth to change lives."

As the Mount Olive team boards the bus for their mission assignment a four-year veteran of the seminar exits the cafeteria . . .

The Rev. Luther S. Allen III, of Second Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, is leading a group of youth from



his church. As one of the host churches, Allen's mission this week is to bring about transformation from a different perspective. He is focused on the "deep dive" immersion experience for a select few in the Lott Carey program. As part of this experience, the youth, who have expressed an interest in understanding issues related to homelessness

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and advocacy, are focused on learning about the homeless population in the Ocean View community of Norfolk.

Participants spend the first three days in the classroom learning about homelessness, evangelism, and issues related to social justice. They then go out to the community and live as homeless persons—panhandling, asking for food, and navigating diverse neighborhoods. Allen, a schoolteacher, is pleased with the growth of the Lott Carey seminar. “When I started with Lott Carey in 2009, they did not have this type of mission opportunity,” he remembers. “This is good for the kids because they like fresh ideas. These students will become experts among their peers.”

When Lott Carey developed this mission opportunity they wanted to spotlight how participants could learn about advocacy and about the people they were preparing to serve. They gain a greater awareness of the community and expand the local network of ministry partners. By acquiring these tools, the youth will be better prepared for callings in real-life ministries.

Jacqueline Vincent of First Charity Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland, understands the life of practical ministry that



Allen and Lott Carey seminar leaders are encouraging.

“I love young people,” says Vincent as she fusses with her group of youngsters and grabs a bullhorn to deliver their marching orders. The 20-year veteran of Lott Carey events is a Mission Mobilizer, responsible for getting kids to their respective assignments.

“Those who are serving at Habitat for Humanity to the left,” she commands. “Those gleaning to the right, and those who are going to the food bank or the women’s home wait here. The buses are on the way.”

The youth come to attention, and file into the bus. Vincent greets each one with a smile and encouraging word about their assignment. Despite the tough exterior, youth development is Vincent’s primary concern, personally and professionally in her work as a business manager and youth director for First Charity.

“I want to help them serve God and develop into missionaries,” she says. “It’s amazing to see how five days at the Lott Carey seminar can transform a youth.”

Her ministry is also dedicated to producing spiritually strong young people who can successfully navigate the obstacles of poverty, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, and bullying.

“Lott Carey helps them take leaps spiritually . . . not steps,” she says. “Despite the challenges they face, which are unimaginable, still they rise.”



The Rev. Gregory Davis of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey, is a firsthand witness of youth transformation as a result of the Lott Carey seminars. For six years, Davis has lead more than 100 young people to the summer gatherings. This year, 12 are traveling with him; seven are first timers to Lott Carey.

During the sessions, he says there are two main concepts that he stresses to his group—service through participation and personal development.

“Keeping youth engaged is about being relevant and inspiring them into partnerships with the community,” he says. His philosophy is that the kids are on “display” to serve as Christ-like examples to other youth and that it is his responsibility to help them understand that vital role in the church.

During a worship service, the youth were

asked to open their hearts to Jesus. To establish this sacred space, there were no chairs on the floor, the youth were invited to remove their shoes, and were asked to sit on a fifty-plus foot florescent taped colored cross. As the music plays softly, the youth are asked to write on a sticky note what they want to release. As the youth write what is on their hearts, their tears flow and praises fill the room. The spirit is moving.

“Many of the kids are dealing with their own hurt and for some it is a strange experience to be vulnerable during worship,” he says. “These new experiences stretch them and allow them to encounter God in a new way. I think they encountered the love of God.”

Gabriel B. Tait is a Ph.D. candidate and Director of Outreach at Total Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky.



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experience. Youth
strengthened . . .
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emboldened*



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worship with Baptist
youth from around the world.



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