EBOLA
LOTT CAREY RESPONDS WITH
INFORMATION • PRAYERS • GIVING
Editor’s Note: Ebola, its rampage through West Africa and foray into the U.S. represents an ever-changing news event that can be covered 24/7/365. Amid the confusion, fear, and hyperbole comes news of real progress in Liberia . . . finally. “Signs of normalcy are returning to the capital,” The Washington Post reported Nov. 7, 2014. “With the rate of new Ebola infections down, traffic is up. Boys play soccer and girls play kickball, less afraid of skin-to-skin contact.” There are even rumors of school reopening in January. This Special Issue of the Lott Carey Herald represents a snapshot of a crisis, presenting facts, ideas and stories that speak directly from and to the global community of missions—from the people in offices to the people on the front lines. It is our hope you will be inspired and motivated to act as you read the information, prayers and giving messages provided.
Behind the Ebola statistics are the stories of people’s lives. That’s what this Special Edition of the Lott Carey Herald attempts to provide—a glimpse behind the scenes through information, prayers and calls to giving. And we are constantly gathering new knowledge about this dreadful virus and what we as a global family must do to help our brothers and sisters in West Africa.

The current crisis became personal to the Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia when the mother of two of our students died after contracting Ebola through her work as a nurse. Three middle-school-aged students have died from the virus. Two recent graduates have died. The fatalities continue to grow.

And there are those Lott Carey alumni who graduated from college a few years ago who do not know anyone who has died. They have seen death only through television news coverage. One graduate was laid off more than two months ago because the health crisis has brought commerce to a halt. While not close to anyone who has been infected, she and the entire region are affected.

The unprecedented nature of this crisis calls for an unparalleled response of collaboration. Lott Carey is working to communicate and cooperate with a wide network of partners so that we can demonstrate the compassion of Christ in word and deed.

Lott Carey recently shipped more than 40,000 pounds of food and hygiene supplies for distribution to vulnerable households, and we are currently:

- Promoting education about the virus in Africa and in America. Misinformation endangers people in the region and distracts people outside of the region from helping as they could.
- Offering a prayer guide on our website—navigate to www.lottcarey.org/disaster-services.
- Supporting almost 100 LCMS staffers with monthly food assistance grants until schools reopen.
- Generating new revenue to supplement past shipments and to collaborate with other church and non-governmental organizations that are seeking to relieve suffering in the region.
- Coordinating the African-American Baptist Mission Collaboration’s efforts to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for care and support in West Africa.
- Exploring how African-American Baptists and Methodists can plan now for a post-Ebola ministry of resurrection when the immediate crisis gets controlled.

These are difficult days for our sisters and brothers in West Africa. The concern and generosity that is growing among the Lott Carey network will bring help and hope to many who are living with fear and uncertainty.

By God’s grace and with your prayers, we will help people smile again.

Hopeful,

Ebola: Lott Carey Dedicated to Preserving Lives Beyond Statistics

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

“Misinformation endangers people in the region and distracts people outside of the region from helping”
The stories coming out of Liberia are chilling and heartbreaking. Hundreds of people are sick or dying of the killer Ebola virus. Some are in hospitals, but many are in temporary medical shelters erected to offer beds and medical aid. Scores of patients are refusing to get treatment for fear that they’ll be separated from their families forever – alone and dying among strangers. And a generation of children is at risk of being left orphaned as the disease marches through segments of the population.

Undaunted by Ebola

Officials Meet, Scientists Probe, While Missionaries and Volunteers Continue to Make a Difference

By Geri Coleman Tucker
The government of Liberia has declared a state of emergency and instituted a curfew in its efforts to battle the spread of Ebola. Family members and friends are shedding long-held traditions of hugs and kisses of greeting for fear of contracting the virus. Funeral rituals are being upended as cremation replaces burial as the necessary method of handling dead bodies to prevent disease transmission. In taxis, at markets, and in churches, people are finding ways to avoid physical contact to keep Ebola at bay.

And then there are the missionaries and aid workers and doctors and nurses who are risking all to bring comfort and a chance at healing to those in need. Liberia, a country already decimated by years of war – and rebuilding – and then more war, is dealing with a health crisis the likes of which it has never seen. Ebola has brought Liberia to a “standstill,” Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said in “Letter to the World,” an appeal to the international community for help.

“Across West Africa, a generation of young people risks being lost to an economic catastrophe as harvests are missed, markets are shut and borders are closed,” Sirleaf said. “The virus has been able to spread so rapidly because of the insufficient strength of the emergency, medical and military services that remain under-resourced.”

Missionaries and aid workers from the United States and elsewhere are playing a critical role in the recovery. Some have defied orders to return to their home countries, instead choosing to stay and attempt to stunt the seemingly relentless spread of Ebola through the country and neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea. The World Health Organization estimates there could be as many as 10,000 new Ebola cases each week by the end of the year.

The agency had reported 15,145 cases and 5,420 deaths from Ebola as of Nov. 16. More than 2,964 of those deaths were in Liberia.

Ebola is responsible for at least one death in Spain of a nurse and the death of a Liberian man who traveled to Dallas, Texas. Two nurses who treated Thomas Eric Duncan in Dallas have contracted the virus but received treatment, were cured and were released from the hospital.

President Barack Obama implemented new screening procedures at key U.S. airports to minimize the chance that anyone carrying the virus enters the country. He has also ordered...

Continued on Page 6
UNDUNTED
Continued from Page 5

rapid-response teams that will rush to treat anyone who comes down with the virus.

The Church Responds to Liberia
Concern is on the rise in the U.S. although only a handful of people have contracted the virus. But worldwide, the spotlight remains on Liberia. And in keeping with its history of partnership and aid to Liberia, the Lott Carey global Christian missional community has been part of that story – bringing aid and comfort to those in distress, says Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, executive secretary-treasurer.

Lott Carey and its network of partners have donated thousands of gloves and sanitary wipes, household sanitation materials, canned food, bleach and hand soaps to Liberia. A recent “Heart for Liberia” event in Philadelphia, for example, collected more than seven tons of food and supplies. Rev. Alyn Waller of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Lott Carey first vice president, helped spearhead the effort that involved 25 churches. Lott Carey is also helping to pay the cost of shipping and distributing supplies and has purchased rice in bulk in Liberia to feed those in need.

Like all schools in Liberia, the Lott Carey Mission School has been closed during Liberia’s state of emergency. But Lott Carey is using the money that would have gone toward salaries to provide family grants for its staff of nearly 100 and help them through the crisis.

“We are also trying to communicate through our teachers, alumni and the communities where we have schools the facts about how Ebola is spread and how to protect against the virus.

Lott Carey is working with a number of partners including the National Baptist Convention USA, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention of America and National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, and with African-American Methodists.

Of course, it is no surprise that Lott Carey remains a visible force in Liberia during this crisis. Its namesake, the Rev. Lott Carey, was one of the first American missionaries to West Africa and settled in Liberia in 1821 when he brought a missionary team there to preach, teach and heal. He also organized the first Baptist church in Liberia, the Providence Baptist Church of West Africa.

But Lott Carey is helping

While research continues (top of page), thorough handwashing is crucial for medical staff, volunteers and citizens.
others despite suffering its own recent losses in Liberia, says Dr. Goatley. As of mid-November, more than 10 members of the Lott Carey family in Liberia had died from the Ebola virus or the complications caused by the crisis. Among those who died were at least three students, two alumni, a parent, a nurse and a pastor who was employed by the Ministry of Health as well as the doctor who treated him. One young woman died because complications related to the Ebola virus prevented her from getting treatment at a hospital, Dr. Goatley says.

Churches around the world continue to take up donations to aid Liberia in overcoming the largest Ebola outbreak to date in West Africa. And Lott Carey and its partners are assessing what else needs to be done, Dr. Goatley says.

Liberia’s Needs Still Growing

Meanwhile, economic growth in the country has slowed to a crawl as travel to and from Liberia has declined dramatically in the wake of the crisis and the curtailment of flights. “Since the cessation of conflict in 2003, Liberia has sought to reactivate the productive sectors, repair destroyed infrastructure, rebuild dormant institutions, develop capacity, and promote democracy in an open society,” Sirleaf said in a statement last month. “The results were slower than we had expected, but the progress unmistakable.”

“Our development agenda was interrupted by the Ebola outbreak which started in March and returned with intensity in June, spread into the capital city where one third of the population resides,” she added. “More than ever we need qualified and dedicated staff to join the fight against Ebola and we need to ensure that it all comes together immediately.”

Part of the reason for the rapid spread of Ebola across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea is the shortage of medical care in those countries. In Liberia, for example, just 51 doctors were serving the country’s 4.3 million people before the Ebola outbreak, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

To help, the international community has rallied to Liberia’s support. There has been a massive influx of money, food, humanitarian donations and other supplies from the U.S. and other countries. There has even been a continual flow of health care workers from around the world and from groups such as Doctors Without Borders.

Yet in some cases health care workers still lack the masks, gowns, goggles, gloves and medical equipment needed to treat patients and block the risk of coming into contact with the virus. The virus is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids of the infected person, including sweat, tears, blood, vomit and other discharges.

Certain needed medical supplies are actually in the country but sitting in cargo containers on docks, unable to get where they are needed because of political infighting in the country. In other situations, those demanding more money for their entry hold the equipment hostage.

Further complicating the medical morass in Liberia was a recent strike by health care workers who are pushing for extra hazardous duty pay for the risks they are taking in dealing with patients who have the deadly disease. The National Health Workers Association ended its strike last month, bowing to pleas from fellow Liberians and the international community. In some clinics, workers had walked out because of low pay. Assistant Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah told the Associated Press that hazard pay is now $435 a month, down from the previous $700, because of pressures on the country’s budget. Sirleaf recently told Reuters that her government is preparing “incentive pay” packages to get and keep health care workers on the job.

Still other aspects of the country’s politics may be hampering efforts to fight Ebola. Sirleaf has asked her government for more emergency powers to handle the crisis. But there is resistance from the opposition party to her plan to amend the constitution because of the amount of power it would give her. As of Nov. 19, the Senate had still not acted on Sirleaf’s request for emergency powers.

Pressing Toward the Mark

Lott Carey and its partners are undeterred in their determination to aid Liberia and the other countries. And they are working hard to bolster understanding in Liberia and abroad of what the Ebola virus is and how it spreads.

“We need to be as informed as we can be about Ebola so that we are not vulnerable to conspiracy theories and fear mongering,” Dr. Goatley says, referring to the unfounded fears, myths and misinformation circulating in the media and elsewhere about Ebola.

“But we as Christians also need to be prayerful and generous in our response to the crisis,” he adds.

Geri Coleman Tucker is a freelance writer in the Washington, D.C., area.
This whole crisis has hindered the development of the educational sector.
The Ebola virus has done what two civil wars could not—close the Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia. Our students have lost an important educational anchor in the community. In some cases, even lives have been lost. Morris Morlu, 19, who graduated from the school this past June, died from Ebola. Three other students and another graduate died from other ailments because they couldn't get treatment from nearby hospitals or clinics because of the Ebola crisis.

All schools in Liberia were closed last August as part of the state of emergency declared by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. They will remain shut until the virus can be contained, she said. So even though we are eager to see schools re-open, it's not safe at the moment. It's not prudent to have schools open in the midst of the high infection rates of Ebola that we're experiencing in the country.

As an educator who is very proud of the progress that the school has made, this whole crisis is particularly devastating. It has hindered the development of the educational sector in the country. We were already behind because of the past civil wars. Now children stay home without access to instruction. It definitely affects the emotional development of the children as well as their academic development.

My wife, Beatrice, and I came to the U.S. to attend the Lott Carey Annual Gathering, and while here, spend time with our children, visit Lott Carey churches and share what's going on in Ministry in Liberia. But flights to Liberia were suspended. We should have left the U.S. on the 26th of August.

Our other son is still in Monrovia. We talk to him by phone every day. He is fine and trying to stay safe. But he's bored to death because no schools are open. And most parents are keeping their children confined because you have to be very careful who you mingle and mix with so that you don't get infected with the virus.

Continued on Page 12
To live in Liberia in The Time of Ebola is to know and see real pain. Almost daily, I witness the effect on families – and especially children.

I am a teacher and a mother. But these days, I’m also an aid worker, working in and around Brewerville with the Liberia Orphan Education Project, a U.S.-based humanitarian group that uses Liberian teachers to educate other Liberians about the Ebola virus and how to stay healthy. The group also provides hundreds of sanitary hand-washing stations to families in rural Liberia where safe, clean water is not available.

But so much more help is needed.

Children are not getting the attention they require and need. Some have seen parents and family members taken away by what looks to them like people in strange white suits. It is very distressing for the children when parents don’t return home. Younger children continue to ask for their parents; older children grieve without any hope for the future.

There are cases of children who have become infected and survived Ebola – yet no one wants them because they are afraid. In some places, the disease has wiped out families, leaving children as young as 4 as the sole survivor. Some of these children are still living in Ebola containment centers long after they are well because they have nowhere else to go.

With many businesses shut down because of the crisis, out-of-work parents are finding it hard to feed their families. Some children are going hungry; others are forced to engage in petty trading to help parents sustain the family.

Schools are closed. And children have been instructed not to touch or play with their friends. Day in and day out they have nothing to do. Teenagers are a special worry. Youth wander the streets aimlessly. There is also concern about girls becoming pregnant if they are not monitored.

But there are no services in homes to engage children or give them an opportunity to study. The staff of the Lott Carey Mission School is working to change that. As of mid-November, the department of instruction had made plans to assemble home-schooling packages for drop off to the homes of our students. Meanwhile, hand-washing hygiene stations for the community have been placed around the campus.

Ebola is not the only illness we worry about here. The heavy rains caused a rise in malaria, pneumonia and other sicknesses. People are afraid to go to hospitals and instead are treating children at home because of the fear that their children will be taken to Ebola centers. Many young children have died because of this practice.

To make matters worse, some Liberians still live in denial of Ebola and are very suspicious of health care providers and the government. There is this invisible unexplained enemy taking lives, and some people have reacted by refusing to accept that Ebola exists. During the war, many people could run and hide from the enemy. But with Ebola, there is nowhere to go, nowhere to hide.

Cultural practices, such as honoring the dead by washing and preparing the body, still contribute to the spread of Ebola. People move from one community to the other without telling community members that they left their previous community because of Ebola deaths. As a result, more families are infected with the virus.

But there are positive signs in some communities where acceptance of the reality of the Ebola

Continued on Page 12
Talking to Kids About Ebola: Honesty and Calm Work Best

By Geri Coleman Tucker

The impulse of many parents and other adults is to try and protect children from scary news stories and images. But television, the Internet, alerts on mobile devices and radio and newspaper headlines make that almost impossible. That's especially true when it comes to a story like the Ebola crisis, says Scott Hirschfeld, director of Education, Program and Community Engagement for U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

Hirschfeld says one of the most important things parents can do to keep kids from getting overstimulated and overwhelmed by breaking news on Ebola is to limit their media consumption. But chances are, children will probably still hear about the crisis in West Africa.

So what's a parent to do? “Be clear and factual,” says Dr. Rossi A. Hassad, PhD, MPH, epidemiologist and professor at Mercy College in New York. “Reassure them that they are safe.” Other tips from the experts:

• Find out what the children know and don't know – and what their questions are. A young child, for example, might only want to know if he can get the Ebola virus. Simply answering “no” might be enough for him. “You don't need to go into issues that are not on your child’s radar,” Hirschfeld says. Older children might want to know more. First, ask what they’ve heard, whether they talked about Ebola in school, and what other kids are saying about it. “Do not make assumptions about what they may know or are thinking,” says Dr. Hassad.

• Use simple language.

• “Make it clear that while there are many people around the world getting sick, Ebola is not something they're likely to get,” Hirschfeld says. In fact, the risk of becoming infected in the U.S. is extremely low to zero, says Dr. Hassad. Ebola is transmitted through bodily fluids; a common cold or the flu is much easier to catch, he notes. Let children know that they can’t get Ebola from holding someone's hand or sitting next to a friend. Hirschfeld says this is a good time to remind children that there are things we can all do to keep ourselves healthy: Talk to them about washing their hands often during the day with soap and water and avoiding touching their mouth, nose and eyes. Children should also be careful not to share cups, bottles and utensils.

• Be honest, not anxious.

• Kids are quick to pick up on adults’ emotions. It is OK for you to acknowledge if the news about the Ebola crisis makes you sad, Hirschfeld says. But be able to have a calm conversation about it with your children. Find opportunities to share stories about those who have had the virus but gotten well, he says. And let children know that there are people around the world who are trying to make their communities safer and healthier.

• Differentiate between health care in the U.S. and in the countries where the Ebola crisis is centered. Explain that part of the reason the Ebola virus is spreading so quickly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea is that – unlike in the United States -- there aren’t enough doctors and nurses, or medicines and other resources. “In the U.S., we have an abundance of health care resources including highly competent healthcare professionals,” notes Dr. Hassad. “This is quite the opposite for the three most affected West African countries, where the epidemic is rapidly expanding, and hence this risk of becoming infected there, is high.”

Finally, Hirschfeld says this is a great time for older children, especially those ages nine to 12, to gain a greater understanding of the way the world works. “It is an opportunity for parents to talk to kids about inequality and about poverty, and to let them know how fortunate we are in the U.S. to have the resources we do,” he says. It's also a chance to build global citizens. You can let children know there are things they can do to help children who don’t enjoy the same opportunities they do.”
I've been telling our faculty and administrators to stay focused, be encouraged and take all necessary precautions to stay safe because this virus knows no boundaries, it doesn't discriminate, and it's fast. What started as a health issue is now also a social issue, a security issue and an economic issue with the potential to cause political instability in the country.

President Sirleaf and her representatives have talked about the ripple effects of the Ebola crisis and how it's impacting the economy. Businesses have closed, people have lost their jobs, there's a food shortage and prices have gone through the roof. Economic growth has also been affected. The government had projected a seven percent growth but in light of the crisis says it will probably be 2.7 percent for this year. The United Nations is estimating it will take another six months to contain and eradicate the virus. I'm not sure we can survive another six months.

We're grateful to the U.S. government and other aid agencies that heard our cries and are doing their best to help. We're praying that the Lord will give guidance and strength and focus to all who are involved. Ebola is a common foe. This is a global war. We're praying that the Lord can and will intervene to bring this to a quick halt so that we can move on with our lives because at the moment our lives are on hold.

Rev. Emile D.E. Sam-Peal is Superintendent/Principal of Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia.
Ebola virus is not spread through:

- Air
- Casual contact
- Water
- Food grown or legally purchased in the U.S.
- Body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola. (blood, vomit, urine, feces, sweat, semen, spit, other fluids)
- Objects contaminated with the virus (needles, medical equipment)
- Infected animals (by contact with blood or fluids or infected meat)

How you can get Ebola

Direct contact with:
Objects contaminated with the virus (needles, medical equipment)

Body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola.

Infected animals (by contact with blood or fluids or infected meat)

Early Symptoms

Ebola can only be spread to others after symptoms begin. Symptoms can appear from 2 to 21 days after exposure:

- Fever
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising
- Muscle pain

When is someone able to spread the disease to others?

Ebola only spreads when people are sick. A patient must have symptoms to spread the disease to others.

After 21 Days

If an exposed person does not develop symptoms, they will not become sick with Ebola.

Infection: Ebola can spread quickly through the body once the virus makes direct contact with bodily fluids. The virus can survive for several hours on dry surfaces, such as counters, doors knobs and furniture. And it can live even longer – sometimes days -- on damp or wet areas. Chlorine and bleach solutions can kill the virus.

Progression: The Ebola virus can move rapidly through the body. It pierces and infects a host cell then uses that cell to replicate and create more copies of the virus. Then the process repeats itself, affecting cell after cell.

Symptoms: Early signs of Ebola can mimic the symptoms of flu, with achiness, headaches and even fever. It can take 2 to 21 days for symptoms to appear, according to the Centers for Disease Control. As the disease progresses, vomiting and diarrhea may occur. In many cases, there is also bleeding from the eyes and mouth and internal hemorrhaging. Eventually the victim’s organs fail and death occurs.

Treatment: There are experimental drugs in the U.S. that have had some success in fighting Ebola.

Graphic: Dash Parham

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers For Disease Control and Prevention
“Lord, in Your mercy, dispel all fear.”
– GUYANA

“We pray for the lonely and the bereaved.”
– HAITI

“Someone’s crying Lord, Kumbaya.”
– JAMAICA

“Oh Lord, we are losing brothers and sisters of great talent.”
– MOZAMBIQUE

“You are God, who conquers and heals all diseases.”
– REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Grant Revelation to the Medical and Scientific Research Communities

Dear God,
Your children in Guyana cry out to You on behalf of our brothers and sisters in West Africa who are suffering because of the outbreak of the Ebola virus. God of Shalom, You are the healer of our bodies, minds, and spirits. Please manifest Your healing power to all those whose lives are threatened by the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. Make a way so they can receive the treatment they need. Help their bodies fight the infection. Please protect health care practitioners and other caregivers from contracting the virus as they minister to the sick.

Lord, in Your mercy, heal this land and grant Your Shalom.

God of Love, according to Your Word, “perfect love drives out fear.” (1 John 4:18) Your Word also tells us, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am Your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10) Help Your children to heed Your word. Grant them boldness to seek the knowledge and understanding they need to fight this disease. Please empower health care and humanitarian workers who are collaborating with government and community authorities to spread accurate information about Ebola and what must be done to contain the outbreak and save lives.

Lord, in Your mercy, dispel all fear.

God of infinite wisdom, grant revelation to the medical and scientific research communities who seek a cure for this deadly disease. Provide the needed resources, and remove the spirit of greed in our research communities. Please help these communities to embrace Your spirit of love and compassion for all humanity.

Lord, in Your mercy, grant revelation of Your wisdom.

God of hope, inspire and enable all those who are laboring to end the spread of Ebola. Let their actions bear fruit in healthy lives and communities. We pray that You would provide the needed resources to fight this disease. Grant to Your people the spirit of generosity. And grant to those agencies receiving their help the spirit of accountability.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers and grant these desires of our hearts, according to Your will.

Amen.

Rev. Brenda Kirton Harewood
Superintendent Pastor
Guyana Missionary Baptist Church
Georgetown, Guyana

Shower Them With Miracles of Healing

O God,
Hear the voice of our supplication as we cry to You for help. Open our eyes that we may see the salvation of Your providence. Make Your face shine upon those stricken with the disease of Ebola. To Your church trapped into the prey of this adversity, grant the faith that works miracles of healing.

Gracious God, You are the source of love and compassion. Strengthen Your faithful ones to work together for the healing of all the nations trapped by the virus of Ebola and to preserve all the other nations from being contaminated. Inspire us to build on Earth the kingdom of love.

Gracious God, we pray for those who know they must shortly die. Grant them peace and hope for a new life in Your eternal home.

We pray all these things in the name of our beloved Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Amen.

Dr. Joel Dorisiville
Professor
Universite Chretienne du Nord d’Haiti (North Haiti Christian University)
Limbe, Haiti
Lord, Heal This Area of the Earth with Your love

Lord God, 
We ask You to heal our hearts and bodies broken by illnesses and the constraints of life that we face daily as Your children. Forgive our sins and give us peace.

We pray that Ebola will be stopped by Your mighty hand of power so that the world will once again witness Your presence in every situation we face here on Earth – and now, especially, in West Africa.

We are daily losing our families, leaving us with a huge gap that cannot be filled again. We are losing our generous friends, who could make a great difference in this world. We are losing our simple men and women of prayer. We are daily losing people of courage. Oh Lord, we are losing brothers and sisters of great talents too.

Oh Lord, this area called West Africa, centuries past, lost millions on the sea – taken by force into slavery to many parts of the world. Lord, heal this area of the Earth with Your love, with Your protection.

Lord, I pray that mighty men and women will rise from this area to study and develop mechanisms that will prevent new evil attacks from different types of calamities.

Bless this region with Your support from every corner of the world.

(Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 NLT)

Pastor Manuel Moises Quembo
General Secretary, Convenção Baptista de Moçambique (Baptist Convention of Mozambique)
Beira, Mozambique
God, Our heavenly Father,
We come to You with hearts full of pain. This pain is caused by the attack on us as Your people. The Ebola virus has caused serious pain in our hearts. We have lost thousands of our sisters and brothers in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. We acknowledge that the sudden attack by this virus has even caused fear that the disease will spread through the whole continent of Africa and to the rest of the world.

We come to You, our Father, for we know that You love all the people of the world. We come to You because we know that You are the All-powerful and Almighty God. You are God who conquers and heals all diseases.

We have a testimony of what You did for us when HIV and AIDS made its vicious attack on humanity. You gave us a victory over it. We now see the rate of the infections going down drastically. We come to You with the same faith now – and the knowledge that You carried our suffering to the cross and by Your wounds we are healed.

Now, dear Father, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we pray for the healing of those who are already infected. We pray for protection over those who are at risk of being infected. We pray for the protection of the medical doctors, the nurses and all the volunteers who are doing Your will to heal the sick. We pray for the medical doctors and scientists who are working tirelessly in laboratories to find a cure and a vaccine for the Ebola virus. We pray, Father, that You will grant the wisdom that they need at this present moment.

Please, Father, move upon the hearts of the governments of this world to use all the resources that You have given to them to fight the spread of Ebola. Please, Father, touch their hearts so that they will be full of mercy and compassion. Please, Oh God, touch our hearts too that we should be full of compassion to do whatever is in our power to help in this fight against Ebola.

Your Word reminds us that Your name is a strong tower, and when we run to it we are safe (Proverbs 18:10). And we say this prayer by faith in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

Rev. Ngwedla Paul Msiza
Pastor
Peniel Salem Baptist Church
Pretoria, South Africa
and President-Elect
Baptist World Alliance

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO SURVIVE

Please give generously.

Lott Carey Missions, P.O. Box 48339
Washington, DC 20002-0339
www.lottcarey.org/disaster-services
Enon reaches out to aid Ebola-stricken countries

By Arlene Edmonds
Tribune Correspondent

(Editor's Note: This story and accompanying photograph was originally published in The Philadelphia Tribune on October 17, 2014. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Senior Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, is also First Vice President of Lott Carey.)

“Heart for Liberia” brought together a multigenerational group of volunteers to get much needed food and medical supplies to the Ebola-stricken West African country. With the theme “Walking Thru the Word,” the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church held the contribution drive at its Mount Airy campus, 2800 W. Cheltenham Ave. on Saturday, Oct. 11.

The donations are on their way to Liberia with the assistance of the Lott Carey and the National Baptist Convention. Sanitation supplies and canned or dried food items were put in large boxes en route to A&H Shipping in Hyattsville, Md. From there they will make their way to the Lott Carey Mission station in Brewerville, Liberia.

Among the youthful volunteers was Jaron Hopkins, an 11-year-old sixth grader at the J. S. Jenkins Academy in Chestnut Hill. He was at the initial sorting table separating the bleach wipes from the canned tuna and sardines.

On the other side of the Enon’s Family Life Center 12-year-old Rachel Alexander, a seventh grader at the West Oak Lane Charter School, was putting canned beans into boxes.

“I think this is important because there are people in Africa who are suffering. When I heard about it I knew I had to do something. It feels good to help people who need our help,” Alexander said.

Jared Stevenson, a 14-year-old freshman at Cheltenham High School, said he wanted to help in his church’s drive as soon as he heard about “Heart for Liberia.”

“As soon as my Mom told me that there were going to be volunteers here for the Ebola victims I knew I wanted to take action,” Stevenson said. “We have been discussing it in school. I’ve been watching news reports about how it’s affecting people’s lives. Usually I volunteer at church because I’m in the AV [audio-visual] ministry, but this is about saving lives.”

In his early morning remarks, the Rev. Alyn Waller said that Enon became involved knowing that the donated items would get directly to those in Liberia who needed it most. He traced the founding of the Lott Carey movement as one started by the African American Baptist churches who were interested in foreign missions on the African continent. He said the Rev. Lott Carey had been born enslaved and after gaining his freedom he visited Liberia. “As a member of Enon and Omega Omega when I heard the cry for victims suffering in Liberia I gathered support from our chapter,” Parkinson-Hall said. “It’s great that we have many here who are not members of Enon and who are not members of just our group. So many have come together to do their part in this global effort.”

Enon member Sandy Byrd agreed. She said that in previous years she was part of an entourage that was involved in going to Capetown, South Africa on missions. She felt that partnering with Lott Carey with “Heart for Liberia” was a savvy move.

“We had a speaker from Lott Carey speak at our church last Sunday. It’s important for all of us to do our part to help others because we would want others to help us if we needed it,” she said.

He said he was grateful for all those who contributed to the drive. When he made calls, many nonprofit organizations as well as African American fraternal and sorority groups stepped up to the plate to lend their support.

“We have many practical things to send that are going to make a difference,” Waller said.

Among the groups that were present for the “Heart for Liberia” was the Omega Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Carol Parkinson-Hall, the group’s first vice president, brought along dozens of volunteers to the event.

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Veteran Missionary Says Giving Medical Supplies and Food Will Make a Difference

By Geri Coleman Tucker

The Ebola virus should not ignite in us a spirit of fear – but one of action. That’s the message the Rev. Dr. Roxanne Jones Booth wants to convey.

The veteran missionary sees the Ebola crisis as an opportunity for giving to help others.

“Too often we think that if a crisis is not touching our shores, it is not relevant to us,” says Rev. Booth, who co-pastors Riverview Missionary Baptist Church in Coeymans, N.Y., with her husband, Rev. Antonio Booth. “If it’s not economically affecting us, we don’t notice it.”

But the Ebola crisis is teaching the world a different lesson – that we need to reach out and help others, says Rev. Booth, who is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Africana Studies at the State University of New York in Albany. She says her hope is that “the rest of the world will recognize that we don’t have to quarantine ourselves off from West Africa but instead we need to send our best health care professionals.”

She is grateful that there are health care workers who say, “I need to go and I can go. And they understand the risk.”

Rev. Booth has deep roots in mission work. For years, she served as a missionary in the Kingdom of Swaziland and in South Africa. In fact, she was originally slated to serve as a missionary to Liberia in the 1990s after finishing up her master of divinity degree at Howard University in Washington, D.C. But her plan was disrupted by a coup in Liberia. She ended up working in Swaziland instead under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board of The National Baptist Convention, USA.

Rev. Booth says one of the most important things for Christians to do is to arm themselves with information about Ebola and how it is spread as well as learn from those who have been fighting Ebola for years in various parts of Africa.

“We should not be spreading fear,” she says. “We should not be spreading stories that are driven by politics and economics.”

“Instead, Christians should be praying and giving,” she says. “There is a need for medical supplies and food. When it comes to sending aid, we don’t have to reinvent the wheel but collaborate with those groups, like Lott Carey, that have done it in the past.”

Rev. Booth says it’s also important to pray for the pastors and church leaders in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

“They have to come up with creative ways of staying in community with one another without spreading the disease,” she says. “Pray that they can continue to come together and have their worship.”

BEFORE THE EBOLA VIRUS-AVERAGE LIBERIAN INCOME IS $454 PER YEAR
(per capita income)

Help us make a difference! Before Ebola families lived on less than $2 per day.

$227 6 Month Salary

$114 3 Month Salary

$38 1 Month Salary

Pray
Mobilize with Lott Carey to pray for the nations devastated by the Ebola outbreak.

Care
Since 1908, Lott Carey has provided support to our partners in Liberia. Help us serve survivors, the orphaned, and those living with Ebola.

Give
Help support those living through the crisis. Give a gift of compassion:
1 month-$38;
3 months-$114;
6 months-$227;
1 Year-$454

GIVE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT: WWW.LOTTCAREY.ORG/DISASTER-SERVICES
A staff member from the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is screened before attending a meeting at UN offices Monrovia, Liberia. Stories, commentaries and prayers about the Ebola crisis begin on Page 3.