



Hope Teachers Met in September for Professional Development Training

302 REGISTER FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Why engage in providing education to Liberian children?

- ▶ 73% of girls 15 and older are illiterate
- ▶ 66% of primary age children are out of school
- ▶ 1 book for every 26 students
- ▶ 21% of children are engaged in child labor
- ▶ 54% of people live in poverty



STUDENTS ASSEMBLE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY



Every school morning at 7:45 students gather to begin their day with songs of worship and a devotional lead by an upper class man. Liberian songs are beautiful in rhythm and melody. This is followed by the pledge to the Liberian flag. It was beautiful to see school days begin with the Word of God.

TEACHERS TRAVEL TO HOPE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT

Kari Smith & Stephanie Digler were in Liberia Thanksgiving week working with teachers. They provided encouragement & professional development to the staff, met with parents to share the vision for HOPE, had lunch with recent graduates, brainstormed



with teachers, gave encouragement to the students & gathered information on how to best help our Education Committee partner to promote a Christ-centered education. Warm welcomes and bright smiling faces are how the students embraced Rapid City educators, Kari and Stephanie. Many of them walk two hours to reach Hope. The students are dedicated and eagerly raise hands saying, "teacher, teacher" because they wanted to be called on and share their knowledge.

HOPE FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

"Hope" this is how the students refer to their school. As you look at their faces, you see hope, hope for the future. During the welcome assembly for Rapid City visitors Stephanie spoke to the students about loving God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, about working hard and taking care of what they have been given. Kari prayed for the students reminding them that Jesus wants their hearts, praying that God would embrace them and that they would bring glory to His name in all that they do.



66 CENTS A DAY PROVIDES A SCHOLARSHIP FOR THESE CHILDREN.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

For \$20 a month you can provide a child scholarship to one of the 312 students attending classes at HOPE. We want to provide for each child and that means finding big-hearted people willing to commit 66 cents a day to a child in need of a scholarship. That is a large task, so we also need your help recruiting additional sponsors. If this is an area where you can help, please contact Arlen and Gwen Pequette at 605-430-2544 or email us at info@bridgesofhopewestafrica.com.

SEND & RECEIVE LETTERS!



Due to more frequent visits to Liberia by board members it is now possible to send a note of encouragement to a student you sponsor and for that student to write to you. Your letters will be transported each spring and return letters will arrive here late in the calendar year. Contact us for info.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION - SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

For the last 12 years the logistics of an all-volunteer organization required that student scholarships be received in a single \$120 check for the school year. Inflation & mounting expenses necessitate an increase in student support from our scholarship donors as we continue to provide a quality education and sustain school infrastructure. To accommodate the need and family budgets we will now be able to receive scholarship donations as \$20 deductions from a bank account or credit card; orphan support will be \$40. The efficiency of this change will allow us to remain an all-volunteer organization with no staff expenses & the associated overhead so that we may continue to send 100% of your gifts to Hope Village/School.



In 2018, Hope Village & Hope School Turned 12 Years Old

SDSMT STUDENTS VISIT HOPE VILLAGE

A new 8kWh generator was installed in a building constructed by engineering students from the SDSM&T.



These young engineers also installed a water collection system to catch runoff from school roof.



The students were the first to make use of the New Guest House when they visited in May.



A DEEP WELL

In June another well was successfully drilled to a depth of 146 feet, providing a source of water even in the dry season. Previous attempts were complicated by encountering hard rock. This well was capped and a submersible pump will be installed capable of filling a water tower bringing "running" water to Hope Village. Clean water is essential to combat water-borne disease so common in Africa.

NEW MEMBERS/OFFICERS

Martin & Stephanie Digler have joined our board of directors. Martin grew up in Liberia and brings new perspective and skills to our efforts. Stephanie is an educator committed to bringing a quality education to our rural Liberian school, Hope.

The September Back to School Professional Development – Lead Like Jesus had sessions on Head, Heart, Hands, and Habits was very well received by Hope teachers.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee has been meeting frequently to research and develop a Christ-centered curriculum and to equip teachers with strategies that will help students become active learners. Professional Development utilizes the framework: Leading Like Jesus with Your Head, Heart, Hands, and Habits. Elijah, the school administrator, said September's Professional Development effort was life changing.



MS. ESTHER'S SUBSTITUTE

On Stephanie's second day at Hope she had the opportunity to substitute in the first grade, an interesting experience. Globally, students know that substitutes do not know the ropes of the class. Culturally, the teaching looks very different but new relationships were forged. Twelve-year-old Elsie has a smile that radiates. Smart and a bit mischievous, she is eager to answer yet she struggles to be quiet. Josephus is known as "pastor" in the class as he has the gift of prayer but was caught throwing a paper wad during class. Cultural differences aside the students display behavior typical of students everywhere. What an experience! Stephanie gained a lot of insightful information for the Education Committee.

BEE UPDATE



Sixteen additional hives have been constructed and 6 have colonized. there is local enthusiasm for this opportunity. The collected honey will provide and income for the school and nourishment to the village.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Our board of directors has developed a chart consistent with the goals of Bridges of Hope, Inc. To the original vision of supporting a school & orphanage on 50 acres at Hope Village (HOPE), we've added Hope Health - a new goal of developing a clinic to minister to the many health needs encountered in Liberia. You can soon find a copy on our website.

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND A BLESSED CHRISTMAS WISH TO ALL!

It is our sincere hope that you will remember Bridges of Hope with year-end gifts to support the good things happening in Liberia.