



Empowering Liberians to Live Christ-Centered Lives

bridgesofhopewestafrica.com

GREETINGS EVERYONE!

We are thankful to see another successful quarter in Bridges of Hope history. We've had many projects and we continue to evaluate future endeavors. Our recent trip to Liberia, Tim Sigman, five SDSM&T students, and myself was a success. We are thankful to God for safe travels and His protection on this trip. Thank you so much for your continued prayers.

Hope International Christian Academy continues to strive toward being recognized as one of the best schools in Liberia. Our educational committee is working very hard to provide a Christ-centered curriculum. Donated curriculum (ACE) was sent to Global Health Ministry (GHM) in St. Paul, MN in June to be shipped to Liberia. The Scholarship Committee continues to seek scholarship donors for each of our three hundred thirty (330) students. We have about one-third sponsored so far. Rough plans on for a church and hospital are being formulated. An architect to help would be very useful at this time.

We thank God for His many blessings and provisions as He directs us to spread His gospel and bring changes in Liberia for His glory. Please pray that He brings people with the skills needed as we move forward; top of the list an architect. Also please visit our website, www.bridgesofhopewestafrica.com to see what this ministry is doing in Liberia and the needs we have as you continue to stand by our side. Your support is much appreciated as we bring life changing opportunities to Liberian children and employment prospects to the adults who serve Hope Village.



May God bless you all!
In His service!
Martin

UPDATE ON HONEYBEE PROJECT

In May, the first two gallons of honey was harvested from the beehives. Additional hives are being constructed.

HOPE STUDENTS ENGAGE IN NATIONAL TESTING



· by *Stephanie Digler*
· & *Tim Sigman*

At HICA (Hope International Christian Academy), in May each year, the ninth and twelfth grade students travel to a testing center three times a week to take the West

African Examination Council (WAEC) test. This exam is a month-long process which holds high stakes. If a student does not pass the exam, he or she is not promoted to the next grade. For seniors, this means that they do not graduate. We are pleased that HICA students have a 99% pass rate. We celebrate in this while knowing that there is much work ahead of us as we strive towards increasing literacy and providing high quality education at HICA.

Tim Sigman from International Students Inc. (ISI) was able to join Martin on the trip to Liberia in May this year. Martin & Tim were able to work as a team developing a new statement of faith as professional development (PD) tool for the BOH teaching staff. The response of the teachers was very encouraging as they shared how the PD inspired them to make life changing steps personally and implement changes to their future teaching methods. Tim was able to share the Jesus video in the local Kpelle language with almost 100 of the students and many family members. One mother was in tears and deeply touched by a movie in her heart language. Teachers said that seeing the life of Jesus portrayed in their own language was powerfully engaging. Tim was able to leave a copy of the movie in Kpelle with Elijah the principle and he is planning to show it to the whole student body in the future. Martin and Tim taught the school children many new worship songs as Tim played guitar and Martin played the drum. The songs Fear Not and Amazing Grace were powerful to hear with over 300 voices joined together in worship in the auditorium.



GETTING WATER FROM THE WELL

: by Jerry Scott, SDSM&T
: Team Member

Life in Liberia had its challenges, one of which, prior to our installation of a submersible pump in the new well, was pumping water from a well and carrying it to the village. However, doing it with the kids was one of my favorite activities. Sometimes 5 or more kids would



help us carry water, but occasionally it was only Adonesia and Joshua, the principle's sons who carried water. They worked hard and never complained, even though carrying a full five-gallon bucket of water balanced on their heads was hard work, especially since we had to go up hill and do it multiple times. During the trips we would talk and pick on each other. Joshua explained what the different plants were and described how they made rice bread. Adonesia got a real kick telling us to go and take a nap because we "needed" to rest. I turned the joke on him when we left and gave him the eye cover given out

on airplanes and told him he needed to take a nap. We did many things at the well such as putting pebbles down each other's shirts and climbing palm trees. They only climbed about 6 feet high because I got nervous and wouldn't let them go any further. The kids really knew how to have a great time while doing such a chore.

WATER PROJECT

: by Emilia Nelson, Engineers
: and Scientists Abroad (ESA)

Hi, my name is Emelia! I'm a student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and I was part of an engineering service project in Hope Village this past May. Our team was made up of five Mines students from the club Engineers and Scientists Abroad (ESA), a student organization whose mission is to plan and execute engineering-focused service projects in developing countries. Having worked on a service project in Hope Village last summer as well, ESA knows that the people of Hope Village are kind, generous, and dedicated students and teachers. They must work hard every day to get safe water, pumping it by hand from a well and then carrying it back home to use, so our goal this year was to help the community by improving access to clean water. In May we spent three weeks in Liberia working on fixing a disused water tower in the village, developing a piping network from the water tower to different locations in the village, and making repairs and improvements to the rainwater harvesting system we built there last year. It was a wonderful experience that our team members will never forget!



SUPPLIES AND CURRICULUM TO BE SHIPPED FROM MINNEAPOLIS TO LIBERIA

: by Stephanie
: Digler

Many, many hands have been involved in preparing to ship school supplies, books, shelving, and adopted curriculum for 1st- 12th grade that was donated by Covenant Church in Spokane, Washington and Liberty Baptist School in Rapid City, SD. Also shipped was a curriculum that the Education Committee wrote for grades nursery, K.1, and K.2. God answered our prayer for someone to transport the shipment to Minneapolis. The shipment will arrive in Monrovia in late August.



PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Much has happened these last few months and much is still needed. Here is a list of praises we hope you will rejoice with us over and also some prayer requests we hope you will pray with us about.

PRAISES

- Partnerships with: Abundant Life (Custer, SD) and Covenant Church (Spokane, WA)
- Over 1/3 of students sponsored
- Curriculum, school supplies, Bibles, and shelving for the library leaving Minneapolis last week of June with ETA in Liberia of late September
- Successful trip of School of Mines students, Tim Sigman, and Martin Digler to Liberia in May
- Teachers at Hope (HICA) are so eager to learn and grow professionally and share the gospel of Jesus through their teaching
- Education Committee work on nursery, K.1, and K.2 curriculum that was sent with shipment

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Holy Spirit would continue to move and work in the hearts and lives of the students and teachers at HICA. Please pray that they will become change agents in a corrupt society and consciously live God's word.
- God's protection for all at HICA which the children call "HOPE."
- Direction for the Agriculture Committee
- A volunteer to draw the blueprints for the clinic/hospital and church
- Additional Student scholarships and volunteers, Student Scholarship Advocates, who recruit needed scholarship donors. Our goal: a scholarship for each student.
- Great wisdom, discernment, and unity for all in leadership
- Church Partnerships in Liberia for building a Bible teaching church
- Wisdom for teachers as they prepare to use the new curriculum this next school year

OUR WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED

Cory Church spent hours redesigning our website and building in our renewed goals, Dream and Vision for Bridges of Hope. You can see pictures of the teachers at HICA, watch videos of Elijah (principal), Rev. Sackie (Bible Teacher), and Helen (2nd Grade and Registrar). You can also sign up to provide scholarship to a child, and much more! Please check it out at www.bridgesofhopewestafrica.com. We also encourage you to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BridgesofHopeWestAfrica where you can stay up to date with all the happenings of Bridges of Hope and our projects.