



UPDATE FROM MARTIN DIGLER, BRIDGES OF HOPE CHAIRMAN

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Thank you for partnering with us in this life changing opportunity. Through your generous gifts as donors, sponsors, and prayer warriors, Bridges of Hope monthly operational needs are being met. The students are in school engaging in quality lessons taught by our Liberian teachers. It is a blessing to see what God is doing in the lives of the students and teachers. The students are learning Bible verses daily.

Stephanie and I went to Liberia February 18-March 7, spending most of our time with the teachers and students. We shared the Gospel with many different people, including some of our teachers and students. Some shared their testimony about the great things God is doing in their lives. One of the teachers I spoke with was Mr. Hoggard. He said since we started focusing on Christ-centered teaching, his life has changed. He is going to church with his family. There are many stories I could share from this trip, but I just want to let you know that your partnership through financial support and prayers means a lot to us, the teachers, and students at Hope International Academy.

God has also put it on our hearts to share our progress with local, like-minded people. Through your support, we can undertake projects reported in this newsletter. Please receive our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

May God richly bless you until He returns!

Sincerely,
Martin Digler



TEACHER HOUSES RENOVATED

The renovation of twelve homes at Hope Village was recently completed. Constructed more than a decade ago, these homes had declined in the tropical climate. Zinc roofs had rusted through and termites caused support structure deterioration. New doors and windows were installed along with roofing and the entire village was painted. Funds were raised specifically for this project to provide our teachers and children, Hope villagers, with safe, dry housing AND they are grateful.



BEFORE



AFTER

MEETING WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

One can have a vision and dream, but it will not come to fruition unless many people embrace and take part in the vision and dream. Martin and Stephanie met with people that want to see Liberians living Christ-centered lives. The vision and dream to have a Bible teaching church, clinic, and hospital will take many, many Liberians committed to live a Christ-centered life and work with excellence. A WhatsApp group has been created for communication and discipleship, with hopes they will be equipped to engage in the future Bible-teaching church, clinic, and hospital work.

MEETING WITH PHEBE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION FOR OCTOBER MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

We visited Phebe to discuss the October 2021 medical mission trip. The team plans to provide surgery for at least a week at the hospital. Logistics, materials, and pictures of equipment were gathered to help the planning of the trip.

USING CALCULATORS

Nurses at Monument Health Cardiac unit raised funds last year to purchase 25 calculators. The calculators were sent last December and arrived at the time of Martin and Stephanie's visit. Elijah, the principal, educated the students on how to properly use their new resource.



BEN SUNDAY TRANSITIONS FROM A TEACHING ROLE TO DATA MANAGEMENT ROLE

We identified the need to have someone be devoted to administrating assessments three times a year and working to ensure accuracy of our student scholarship information. Ben Sunday, who was our 4-6 grade language arts teacher, also has a certificate in computers. During our time at Hope, Stephanie trained Ben to begin his new role. We are thankful for his dedication to Hope.

OBSERVATIONS AND FEEDBACK IN THE CLASSROOM



During our last visit, Stephanie had the opportunity to observe in grades 1-12. Learning targets were on the chalkboard, teachers engaged

in active questioning of students, and students were excited to learn the content being taught. It is beautiful to see the professional development being put into practice in the classrooms. A recording about Martin and Stephanie Diglers recent trip to Liberia can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/mDftKL5S0gs>

ROUND TABLES

One of the traditions we established at the school on each visit is round table discussions. We sit in small groups of 4-5 teachers and discuss what they are learning, the struggles they have, and what they would like to see happen at Hope. Teachers shared that professional development is helping them to live a life that represents Christ, students have become more excited about learning, and teachers now understand that students can teach each other in the classroom. They also were excited to learn that new methods can build self-sufficiency and independence in students. Reading for comprehension is still hard, but they are trying. They are incredibly grateful for all the discipleship and training they are receiving.



PTA MEETING

A desire for your child to have the best education possible is global. Parents are observing changes that are being made at Hope and wondering why we are approaching education differently from surrounding schools in Liberia. We discussed the importance of building a strong foundation and having a system for learning. At Hope, we are taking a balanced literacy approach meaning that we are focusing on reading, writing, and vocabulary. We also discussed the importance of parents taking ownership of the school. This is critical to have the vision and mission move forward.



BRIDGES OF HOPE MINISTRY
is establishing a **pray team**.
If you have a heart for intercessory pray and would like to join this team, or if you have questions, please go to bridgesofhopewestafrika.com/prayer-team-signup



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Currently we have 257 students sponsored at HICA. We are thankful for God's provision and grateful for your partnership. A reminder to those who sponsored students annually (\$240) in 2020; if you have not already done so, please renew your sponsorship for 2021. Also, keep us updated with new credit card information. Any questions, contact Arlen and Gwen Pequette at 605-430-2545, email gwenarlen@gmail.com, or see our website.

You're Invited: Our next prayer/Bible study/potluck will be Monday, July 12 at 6:00 PM at 1249 Pinecone Lane, Rapid City, SD.

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