



Bridges of Hope

Empowering Liberians to Live Christ-Centered Lives



your help is needed

and you have the ability to make a difference.

how will you help?



CHAIRMAN UPDATE



“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.”

These verses of Psalm 95 reiterate how God is in charge. I am grateful to see how He is providing the needs of Bridges of Hope not only financially but also through gifted and talented men and women that are engaged in carrying out the dream and the vision. As you read the newsletter, you can see our great God at work. He holds everything. He owns everything. He made everything. He is able to do more than we ask or think. So, let us sing and make a joyful noise to our Rock. Thank you for your prayers and support to Bridges of Hope.

Blessings,

Martin Digler Chairman, Bridges of Hope, Inc.

SCHOOL OF MINES STUDENTS PLANNING FOURTH TRIP TO HOPE IN MAY

Five students from South Dakota Mines Technology, Engineers and Scientists Abroad (ESA) club whose purpose is to carry out student-designed and student-led service projects around the world will be traveling to Hope campus May 10-21. This will be their 4th trip to Hope.



From left to right: Riley Olsen, Spencer Lund, Benjamin Brenholt, Armand Lannerd, and Connor Ullrich

They have many small projects while on campus. Their list of projects include completing the construction of the drainage field system for the student bathroom, test the application of an anti-rust coating for the school and village roofs, and conduct surveying for a future clinic building on the main campus property. If time permits, additional maintenance, utility planning, and future building planning work will also be completed. The students are very excited to go and not only complete the planned work, but also learn more about the people and culture of Liberia.

PASSING THE TORCH

Many of you have been in touch with Arlen Pequette regarding sponsorships in the last few years. He joined the Bridges of Hope board at the beginning stages 17 years ago. He and his wife,



Gwen, graciously agreed to help start the student scholarship program and have served wholeheartedly. He recently resigned from leading the student scholarship team as well as the board. We wish him the best in his second retirement.

We are pleased to announce that Cathy Conor will be leading the student scholarship program going forward. She is excited to serve the students, sponsors and school. She sees God's hand of blessing on the vision and mission of Bridges and is thankful to be a part of the team. Moving forward if you need to be in touch about student scholarships, please email her at savedbygrace109@aol.com or call/text Cathy at 484-636-9458.

DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

KEBBEH G. HOLDER

A 12TH GRADE STUDENT AT HOPE

How are you experiencing God at HICA (Hope International Christian Academy)?

"I am experiencing God at HICA because it has brought changes into my life. At first, I never used to have devotion in my house but HICA has made me to do that each and every day."

What do you love about HICA?

"HICA is the most beautiful, amazing school in the world. HICA has taught me a lot of things that when I go out tomorrow, I will be able to represent it. The most beautiful thing I love about HICA is their educational background."

How has HICA impacted you to live a Christ-centered life?

"HICA has impacted so many things in my life. At first, I never knew God to the bottom of my heart. From the time I entered HICA, HICA has made me to learn how to pray, fast, and how to worship God. I bless God the Father Almighty for his love, power, strength, and protection for making me come to HICA."



2 WEEKS OF FASTING AND PRAYER – THE GENESIS OF HOPE CHURCH

In January, Pastor Mike shared during a weekly fellowship time with Donovan Broberg and Martin Digler of how the Holy Spirit had brought strong conviction to start a church at Hope campus. He asked us to join him in two weeks of fasting and praying. He also asked the upper-level students to join him. For two weeks they prayed when they arrived at school, during lunch, after school, midnight to 1:00 AM, and 3:00 – 5:00 AM. In the beginning, the students



struggled, but after the first few days, they were engaged. The students experienced God moving in their hearts. They were praying, confessing sins, and asking God to deliver them from the bondage of sin. Please join us in praying for the students to live in a position of submission to God and His Word as they battle spiritual warfare in a culture saturated with witchcraft.



Please join us in congratulating Dearth Diggs on being named "Best All Around Student at Hope". She is a great role model for her fellow classmates.

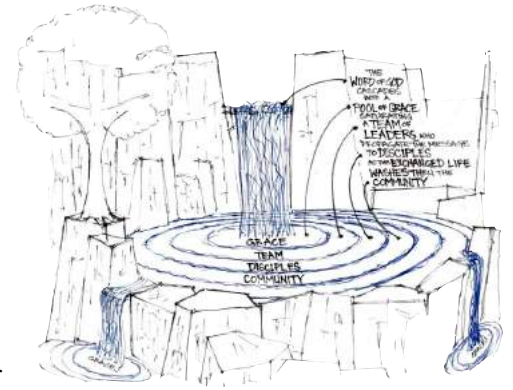


Reading Fluency is the foundation of learning and continues to be one of our major initiatives. One of our first-grade students, Grace Woah, is engaging in practice.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Team began the process of strategic planning in January 2023. The team was commissioned by the Board to engage in a process that would result in a long-term strategic plan and address short-term direction. Since January, the team has met together over 15 hours in meetings and conducted additional research outside of those meetings. The team is largely using the Strategy Planning in Nonprofits (SPiN) guide as a model for the steps required to work through the strategic planning process. The team has reviewed the mission, bylaws, history of the organization, organizational design, and key capabilities that the organization needs. One key activity the group has undertaken is evaluating a list of peer non-profit organizations to analyze what these groups do well and identify if there are any elements that Bridges should model from their example. The organizations that were chosen as peers are Hands of Love, Heart for Africa, World Vision, Compassion International, Doctors without Borders, and Christ's Hope International.

The team has determined that the mission and bylaws need revised to better align with the current direction of Bridges of Hope and that empowering Liberians through self-sustained, entrepreneurial engagements will be critical to the long-term success of the work in Liberia. The team reviewed a number of immediate recommendations for next steps in the process. These steps include continuing the peer analysis, creating clarity for the role of board members, formalizing organizational design, and redrafting the bylaws. The team is targeting to complete the strategic plan later this year but hope to have more immediate actions for review by the Board in July.



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

- ✎ God's great wisdom, direction and guidance as we work on:
 - ✎ strategic planning
 - ✎ as the student scholarship team selects a software to help us work more efficiently
 - ✎ as education admin work on scheduling, contracts, student handbook, and decision on staffing for next school year
- ✎ School of Mines students that are traveling from May 10-22:
 - ✎ safe travels, unity, and ability to accomplish their tasks
 - ✎ their own personal growth in knowing God
- ✎ Starting and developing a church on campus
 - ✎ the Holy Spirit to heal hearts and bring revival on our campus
- ✎ The medical team planned for January:
 - ✎ strong communication with the Phoebe hospital administration
 - ✎ covid vaccine mandate would be lifted
- ✎ God's provision of a lawyer to help guide the organization in all legal matters and secretary for the board

MOST IMPORTANTLY THAT GOD WOULD CONTINUE TO BE THE CENTER AND WE WOULD WORSHIP AND GLORIFY HIM MORE AND MORE EACH DAY! THANK YOU ALL FOR LIFTING THESE REQUESTS TO THE THRONE! HE IS WORTHY!

Please join us in prayer and fasting: May 16th, June 20th, and July 18th.