

BRIDGESOFHOPEWESTAFRICA



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CHAIRMAN UPDATE



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
We serve a mighty God who loved us and continues to love us. He provides our needs in ways we do not understand. He is our strength. The Lord is our rock and our fortress and our deliverer, our God in whom we take refuge, our shield, and the horn of our salvation, our stronghold. We will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised (Psalm 18:1-3a). He provides our daily bread (Matt. 6:11). Our Father in heaven (Matt. 6:9b). "Give thanks to the Lord, for He

is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1-3)

Our God is so good! He is Emmanuel, God with us! We are again grateful, and we will forever be grateful for your support of our ministry. God first, but without the steadfast love showered through you, Bridges of Hope would not be able to serve the people and children in Liberia.

As you can see from the photos, wonderful things are happening on our campus. Our students did very well in the national exams and because of their performance can enroll in any university in West Africa. A major renovation project took place in July and August. The campus now looks more updated.

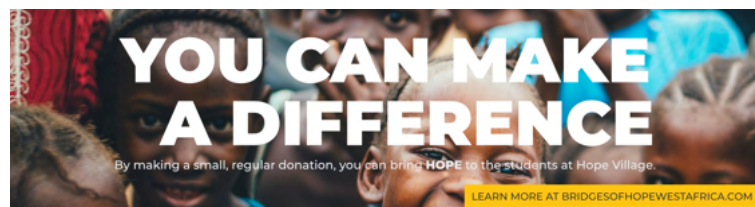
The campus church continues to grow. Pastor Mike Sullivan, of Texas, is once again preparing for another visit to Hope next year to provide additional biblical training for local pastors and their wives. Presently, the meeting we have remotely almost weekly helps and encourages and motivates them to continue to live a Christ-centered life.

We continue to plan and work towards the healthcare aspects of the ministry. Currently, we are fundraising to build a clinic which will serve the school and community. Please join us in prayer for God to provide the financial means to build the clinic.

Our previous medical mission trips have been successful, providing needed surgery to some and medical treatments to still more. Our next trip will be in October 2026, Lord willing.

On a personal note, I want to update you on my health. Since the news of my surgery in our last newsletter, I have continued to be strong, working full-time, praise be to God. I am on the mend but scheduled for the appropriate follow-up after surgery for intestinal cancer. So, please pray for and with me as I continue to journey this season of healing in my life. I know God is sovereign and is in control.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Martin Digler



GRADUATION TIME

Graduation for twelve students completing high school occurred this Fall after they completed their West African Senior School Certificate Examination that took place last summer certifying their completion of secondary school. They must achieve passing marks on tests in four core subjects—English, mathematics, integrated science, social studies. Once again graduates of Hope International Christian Academy scored well.

FUTURE PROJECTS

The board of directors just learned that electricity will be brought to the nearby community of Bensonville. Post the prolonged civil war when much infrastructure was destroyed, electricity was largely unavailable except in the nation's capital. Our very capable school administrator has secured an agreement to extend that electricity a few miles to the Hope campus. This is a huge blessing as it will prolong the life of our generators, reduce the need to purchase diesel and allow electricity anytime of the day or night instead of only when the generators were running. This will also allow much needed security lighting in the Hope Village community.

PRESENTATION AT PARKVIEW CHURCH

Members of the March 2025 Bridges of Hope West Africa Medical Team gave a presentation to Parkview Evangelical Church in Rapid City. Team Members from both the surgical and clinic sites spoke of their experiences treating over 1,000 patients in Liberia. The group shared personal stories, testimonials and challenges encountered serving others in a third-world environment. Doris, our surgical nurse, shared how after lifesaving goiter surgery a young woman told her she could "get married now." Mike, our surgeon shared how a woman told him "Thank you for giving me my



face back.” Extreme medical conditions not only cause physical problems but often socially ostracize people. Partnering with local doctors at Phebe Hospital, our surgical team performed over 147 surgeries. Jessica, a nurse practitioner on the clinic team at Hope Village, spoke of two children extremely ill from malaria. They had high fevers



and were severely dehydrated. With our supplies exhausted, Hope Medical dug into their personal supplies for anti-nausea medicine, bottles of water and surrounded the children with prayer for hours. After a surprisingly brief period, one of the children stood and said he was ready to walk home! Both children survived.

The Clinic Team of eight treated over 1,020 patients and distributed donated baby formula and medication. Each one of these 1,020 patients were prayed for by our Prayer Team as they moved through the treatment process.

There are so many more stories. Stories not just of how a patient's life was changed but how the lives of our mission team members were impacted. Despite over 28 hours of travel and sparse living conditions, many members of the Team expressed an interest to return to Liberia, and its wonderful people.

While providing medical care otherwise unavailable to these precious people is important and rewarding, it is not the whole story. Being the hands and feet of Christ using our medical skills gives us the opportunity to present the Gospel to people who otherwise may never hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their lives on this side of heaven are unbelievably difficult, and it is critical that they be introduced to the hope of eternity with Jesus.

We are sincerely grateful for the prayer and financial support that makes these trips possible. Those who send us into the mission field are a vital part of the effort to reach the people of Liberia.

Plans for the 2026 Medical Outreach are underway. Please watch our social media for updates including a link to needed supplies on our Amazon Wish List.

STUDENT & SCHOOL SUPPORT

Bridges began the child sponsorship program in 2015 with \$240 per child annually or \$20 per month. There have been no increases while expenses have climbed. Everything from school supplies, the cost of rice, materials to maintain the school, paper, toner, ink, and diesel fuel for the generator have all increased, particularly during the Covid period. Therefore, at a recent board meeting we reached a decision to increase sponsorship support to \$360 annually or \$30 monthly beginning with renewals in 2026. We understand that our own economy in the U.S. has made continued sponsorship support difficult for some sponsors. We appreciate the blessing of your sacrificial support so, if this is your situation, rather than discontinuing your child sponsorship, please maintain your current level of giving.

IMPROVEMENTS



recently, prior to the start of school, ceilings and floors were repaired and classrooms were painted. New dry erase boards were placed in each classroom and chairs and tables needed were purchased or built. Floors in the hallway were tiled, and columns and banisters were placed to improve drainage and the stability of the roof.

In the recent past a waterproof coating was placed on the roof to prolong the life of the metal material. More



ENGINEER SCIENTISTS ABROAD

In May, two students from the Engineers and Scientists Abroad Org. South Dakota Mines travelled to Hope Village on a ten day project trip. The club has sent a team every spring for the last four years, but new leadership meant that it would be both of our first time in Liberia. It was a perspective altering experience to contribute to, but also learn from such a welcoming community. Throughout the school year, and with guidance from the bridges of hope organization, the club planned and prepared a couple different projects that were implemented during our time there.

The first project was the installation of a Starlink internet system on the hope campus. Bridges of hope invested in a high-speed satellite dish, which we brought and mounted on the roof of the main school building. Once connected, we confirmed that the signal was strong. When the router was brought outside, the signal reached the entirety of the hope campus. This should allow for clear video calls and meetings with Hope Academy, along with the possibility for student internet use in the future.

Next, we ran physics, biology, and chemistry labs for the high-school age students at Hope. Over a few days, the 9-11 graders got to learn lab etiquette,

procedures, and analysis. Though the labs were conducted with only materials that were easily accessible, they demonstrated some complex science- even DNA extraction from a banana! It was amazing to watch the students eyes light up as they watched the concepts they learned in class come to life.

The final goal was to map out the utilities in the village. We walked around with Elijah and created a map of all of the power, water, and sewer lines. This will be hugely beneficial for future development of the site, as the documented locations can inform planning. A visitor map including building locations was also created, which will make it easier for newcomers to navigate.

The impact that the Bridges of Hope organization has had on the people Hope Village was apparent. It's inspiring to see how even from across the ocean, a support network like Bridges can make an impact on developing communities. We are so grateful to Martin and Stephanie Digler, and to everyone at Bridges for facilitating our planning and trip. We will never forget the time we spent in Hope Village.



Christmas Blessing

As Christmas approaches Bridges of Hope will send a special gift this month to Hope Village so that additional food items can be purchased as a Christmas blessing for those living at Hope Village and attending school there. If possible, we will also send small financial gifts to reward our teachers or to purchase school supplies. You can participate in this special Christmas gift by sending your donation in the enclosed envelope or you may go to our website – www.bridgesofhopewestafrica.com – to make your gift. As always, the board of directors and the children of Hope Village appreciate your generosity.

