



# Village Ministries Newsletter

Liberia Christian Outreach Society

October 2013



## LIBERIA

### -- HEALING LIVES IN A HURTING NATION --

In Liberia, everyone is hurting in one way or another. More than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 3.5 million people are still living on less than a dollar a day, with barely enough food to stay alive, no money for medical treatment, at risk of Malaria, Hepatitis and Typhoid on a daily basis, risking death from childbirth and dirty water. Hundreds of thousands of children are unable to attend school due to lack of school fees; unemployment is still at 80% spawning on-going corruption and violence. Our message of hope through God's love is like a drink of cool, clean water on a hot and dusty Liberian day. With the opportunity for free education and employment, safe drinking water for the village and support for weary pastors, Village Ministries has been proclaiming the mercy and grace of God to the hearts of Liberians for over 7 years.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### GOD'S AMAZING STORY—INFLUENCING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST IN LIBERIA

Saving lives with clean water—8 wells—40,000 people

Multipling indigenous missionaries

The power of obedience

## FUNDRAISING / Networking

In 2013 we held two yard sales, a summer Garden Tea and a silent auction/dessert night. We are also planning a Fall Fundraising Dinner/AGM on Oct. 26 at Marrion Village in Victoria. Holding events to raise funds for ministry in Liberia does more than pay for projects. They are times to meet past donors, find new donors, create a deeper public awareness of who we are and what God has done through donations of time and money.



Other ways people can give :

- Using the Donate Now button on our web site where you can use your credit card and print off your receipt at the same time.
- Using a Credit card or cheque donation mailed directly to ICMS to receive a receipt in the mail (Please see the note at the back regarding ICMS).
- As an estate bequest. (If Village Ministries ever dissolved, all assets and future gifts would be given to a ministry, of similar faith and work, as supervised by our legal counsel).



- Donate your old car for us to sell.
- Christmas giving to the desperately poor, Transform a gift into a life changing donation
- Join us in Liberia for a first-hand experience and share that with folks at home.
- Invite us to speak at your school, church or event.



*"When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."* Luke 14:13

*"Let us not love in words only but in action and in truth."* 1John 3:18



### A WORD FROM PASTOR ERIC

Obedience is the key to pleasing God. Whenever you disobey God, everything around you will be affected. We need a spirit of obedience to enable us to obey the voice of God. Obedience means to be on the move at God's command. Disobedience makes us go backwards while obedience makes us go forward (Jeremiah 7:23-24).

Some Christians hear God but they have a problem in obeying Him. As a confident believer in Jesus as the Son of God, his mother told the disciples "Whatever He tells you to do, do it." John 2:5

Jesus understood the critical nature of obedience in His relationship with His Father. Everything obeyed Jesus because He obeyed God. Jesus tells us: "I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." John 5:30

If you walk in obedience you will receive divine direction. Many Christians are dormant today while the Muslims are trying to get the entire world to submit to the religion of Islam. "For Islam to fulfill their goal they enter into fighting and destroying and use every power available everywhere --this is Jihad." (quoted from Syed Abul A'la Maududi)

If people who don't know the truth can obey, have respect, and take risk for a cause that offers no hope, what about the Christians? Finally, we need to be obedient to God in **every** aspect of our life not **some** part of our life. Don't hold back from doing what the Lord wants you to do, and do it without question.

Obedient people are risk takers. Look at Abraham, in obedience to God's command, he, by faith, took the risk with his only son Isaac. Many believers are afraid to take a risk for Him, are you?



A graduate from our school



A well donated by a sponsor



Map showing the extent of our work

## MINISTERING IN LIBERIA...

...and so we go, by jet, jeep, dugout canoes; through rivers and jungle, across borders and cultures, into villages, and shanty town slums, raising up churches and going into homes and into people's lives...with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



The first two posed problems of transporting supplies in a truck that got stuck in mud up to the axel. It took all night to empty the truck, get it out of the mud and reload it again before moving on to waiting villagers. For fifteen years the people in these isolated settings were digging in dry river beds during the dry season searching for water and on finding the dirty water it was discovered to be full of parasites that were causing diseases and killing their children.



Within his network and after prayer, Pastor Eric chooses certain villages to offer a well to provide clean and safe drinking water. In spite of religious differences the appreciation and respect for Village Ministries, showing compassion, love, and very hard work on behalf of those suffering in poverty and without Christ is great --especially when all they can give in return for a well is a live chicken.



To them, that gushing beautiful water, was like a banquet saving lives and deserving of their invitation for us to return and hold an outreach with the Jesus Film. One chief even offered a building space with a cement foundation where we could build a Christian church. We could do neither because we had no money to fund the outreach.

The third well we were digging was on the cusp of the "rainy" season and it was filling up with rain water each night.

Daily we pumped the well dry in order to keep digging to a depth that would produce water even in the dry season. These wells have become the key to opening doors of ministry opportunity. We are able and waiting to take the Jesus Film and former Muslims with a Christian testimony (even in Arabic) to people deep in the jungles of Liberia's interior. All eight wells we have put down to date, are still functioning and saving lives from disease and death.



*"Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvelous deeds among all peoples." Ps.96:3*

## TRAINING THE TRAINER – ANSWERING THE CRY OF GOD'S HEART.

In March 2013 we organized a teaching conference in Monrovia for 150 Christian and Muslim women from many outlying villages with the theme "Serving God from the Inside Out." Speaker Esme Newman, assisted by Missionary Terri Cannon covered topics from knowing Jesus as your Lord and Saviour to understanding our identity in Christ. Prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit, discipleship and mentoring were also covered. This was a time of learning and encouragement for the women, with a valuable Question and Answer session for doctrinal, marital and personal questions completing the sessions.



Immediately following this, there was a nine day teaching conference for 700 pastors and church leaders. It was held in three venues close to their villages, although they still needed to come a great distance each day for the training and for the two study books from Dr. Willis Newman. He also answered their many questions about doctrine and the necessity of practical godly choices in their own personal situations.



The Conference goal was to spiritually strengthen the men to obediently live out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in their respective villages.

Dr. Newman (of Newman Ministries, Tacoma WA) has established a Bible School in Monrovia for national Pastors, with fifty in first year and fifty that have already moved on into second year. Newman Ministries is financially supporting the School and the Liberian administrator while Pastor Eric teaches (without wages) every Saturday on Sermon Development and Bible Interpretation. Outcomes from the conferences are stories of reconciliation and faith as indigenous people join us to declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. (from Psalm 96:3)

# HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP VILLAGE MINISTRIES

## RECYCLE YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES, JEWELLERY, SCARVES, PURSES. BOOTS, SHOES IN VICTORIA, BC.

My Sister's Closet consignment store at #5 - 1516 Fairfield Rd. (Thrifty's Plaza) will sell them and give Village Ministries 80%. Please say they are for our ministry, a/c 2881. Items need to be 3 years old or newer, seasonal and in good condition.



## PENNIES FOR HEAVEN

The Canadian penny is out of circulation but we can still collect and cash-in any that may be available in the community. HELP US COLLECT PENNIES, we will wrap, bank them and send \$\$ to Liberia to help with general costs. For pick-up call Helen 250.595.2881

## VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



We put on Garden Teas, dinners, and garage sales and seek creative people to help with these and other fundraisers. You will be part of one of three teams of helpers.



## WEBSITE AND BLOG

If you have skills in this area and have a little time to help, please call us.

## VICTORIA BOARD MEMBERS



We welcome professionals or retired individuals who have a heart for missions to participate on the Victoria Board of LIBERIA CHRISTIAN OUTREACH SOCIETY.

Please contact us at: [info@villageministries.com](mailto:info@villageministries.com)

Helen Fletcher  
International Coordinator  
Village Ministries Inc. (Liberia)  
Liberia Christian Outreach Society (Canada)  
250-480-6848 or 250-595-2881  
E-MAIL: [info@villageministries.net](mailto:info@villageministries.net)  
BLOG: [www.villageministries.wordpress.com](http://www.villageministries.wordpress.com)  
WEB: [www.villageministries.net](http://www.villageministries.net)



\***ICMS** | International Christian Missions Service | Box 24 Stn.A Abbotsford, BC, Canada V2T 6Z4  
To donate for tax receipt, please make cheque/m.o. payable to ICMS  
and in the memo designate to **LCOS** (Liberia Christian Outreach Society).

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