



Liberia Christian Outreach Society

Village Ministries Newsletter

April 2014



LIBERIA

WOMEN'S TRAINING CONFERENCE

THEME: Created for Influence

A little bit of Heaven? What a JOY to be with 625 Christian Liberian women from six different counties, most of whom had never met, and hear them praise the Lord in such beautiful harmony—faces beaming. They have come from great distances, walking several hours per day to hear truths from God's word and teaching on women's health. The Holy Spirit speaks to us of new ways to evangelize in the country of Liberia. One of these ways is to train Christian women to use their far-reaching influence to bring others to Christ. How exciting to hold a four day training conference on health and teaching of scriptural principles for these women and release them to teach a thousand more in places Village Ministries may never get to. They caught the vision and individuals have already been teaching groups of women from other villages. This is so exciting!!

See the video summary at: <http://youtu.be/ht0BSzkdNBw>

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FOUR WELLS IN FOUR MONTHS

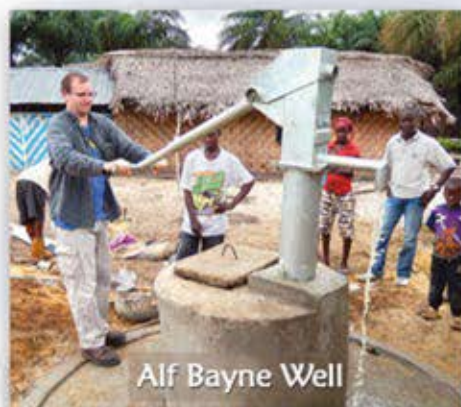
In October 2013, Alf Bayne, the founder of Pacific Coast Children's Mission (Camp Homewood) on Quadra Island BC, donated funds for a well in Liberia. He and his wife were responsible for my (Helen) hearing about Jesus Christ and becoming a Christian. They became like parents to me and grandparents to my children. So it was as my son Brendan was to fly to Liberia to work with Pastor Eric that we decided Brendan would assist with the sinking of this well (#9), pump the first water and take part in the dedication on behalf of Alf Bayne.

In this village near the town of Buchanan, five hours from Monrovia, Liberia, every week children were dying of diarrhea, cholera and other water borne diseases and for years the people in this village had been asking Non-Government Organizations and the Government



Typical contaminated village water source

for a well for safe drinking water. They had heard about Village Ministries but did not know how to contact us and finally put a letter in the newspaper addressed to us, which Pastor Eric noticed. The Imam thought Christians would not put a well down for free but did not know the love of God and afterwards concluded, "their God is the real God, He showed love". Before the well dedication Pastor Eric explained how Jesus came and died for all of us. As he shared the gospel 35 villagers gave their lives to Christ



Alf Bayne Well

and the Imam said Eric could come back and preach and he will give Eric all the support he needs. What a legacy for the donor, Alf Bayne, whose life was dedicated to leading children to the Lord.

Further funds came in December from Ontario, Canada for well #10 which was put down in January 2014 and two more wells #11 & 12 were put down in February 2014 with a representative from the donating church in Portland, Oregon present to see the two wells and receive the thank you gift of two live chickens from the villagers. When Pastor Eric offered a free well



in this place, the Pelle Muslim village, the Imam was certain Eric was lying and watched carefully as all culverts and equipment arrived and the well took shape. At the dedication of the finished well the Imam was amazed and said, "Their God is different" and Village Ministries was given permission to show the Jesus Film. After the film 125 people wanted to accept Jesus Christ and the Imam said, "You can come back and tell us more about Jesus Christ."



In this Muslim village a free well gleans an invitation to build a church and teach the Gospel



Pastor Johnson, one of our Village Ministries pastors who is also attending the Bible School, has a brother and sister-in law in this Muslim village, which since it was established never allowed Christians into it. They 'didn't want the Christians to mislead them and their children.'

For eight years they had been asking for someone to put down a well but were always told they had to pay money. Pastor Johnson offered for Village Ministries to put down a well free of charge.

Our actions spoke louder than words and at the well dedication, Pastor Eric was allowed to explain that this is just physical water that will save a life on earth but Jesus also freely gives spiritual water from a loving God that will save you for eternity.

"This is the first we have heard of this water" and "who is this God?" Eric explained about salvation, heaven and hell, and 86 villagers were asking, "how can we accept Christ?" The Imam said 'you can build a church here before your guests come.' The villagers cleared a place for this church to be built. Pastor Johnson will be their pastor.

BRENDAN'S VISIT

Inter-village Soccer competition is a relationship building evangelistic tool that easily unites and delights the youth of neighbouring Muslim villages as the guys compete and the young ladies cheer and celebrate the winners. Another of Brendan's projects was to give out the uniforms, soccer balls and a pre-game word of encouragement to all the young competitors on behalf of Village Ministries which many are learning is a Christian ministry demonstrating God's love giving free practical help and sharing the Word of God.



PARTNERS

Village Ministries has two partners complimenting our goals to bring Liberians to Christ.

Newman Academy from Tacoma, Washington is sponsoring the Bible School with three small campuses totalling 300 students. Our village pastors are the beneficiary students and Pastor Eric Sumo, Bth. BSoc., Director of Village Ministries, teaches all day Saturday at the Monrovia campus.



Our other partner is **Jim and Terri Cannon**, missionaries from Seattle, Washington applying Community Health Evangelism, with Jim also teaching in villages and at the Bible School and Terri teaching four sessions at the Women's Training Seminar on HIV/AIDS.



OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE

To **Tim Sauerwein of Portland, Oregon** who supplied Village Ministries with 5 CDs of the Jesus Film in English and one of each of the 16 dialects in Liberia. This will save time—no more rental of the reel film—and increase the opportunity to minister to any tribal group in the country. What a blessing, thanks Tim!

To **Dr. Marie Meaney of Seattle, Washington** who donated our first PROCLAIMER, (9"x 4") with a battery that will last for 15 years and can be recharged by solar or electrical source. The Proclaimer will play the whole New Testament in any language needed and costs \$100USD. Our unit is in English.

The Proclaimer and CDs are the best way to share the gospel in a country with a high non-literate level such as Liberia has.



www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/proclaimer

VILLAGE MINISTRIES' MOST URGENT NEEDS

- ▶ Helen needs a new laptop – the workhorse of the ministry is now 7 years old.
- ▶ A pastor with his own church is now riding his bicycle to a new Muslim village church to also take a Sunday service there, a distance of 30 minutes by car. The Ministry needs to purchase a motorcycle to loan to this man. The cost of a motorcycle is \$1,250.
- ▶ Village Ministries Director, Pastor Eric, is in need of \$2,200 for his annual accommodation rental with half due March 31st and half due April 30th.
- ▶ Pastor Eric receives no salary, therefore we are seeking monthly financial support to cover his water, food, electricity and internet service to enable him to keep working.
- ▶ We cannot show the Jesus Film (on CD) until both of our projectors are repaired; this will cost \$600. The newer or cheaper projectors on the market cannot stand up to the Liberian jungle heat/humidity and generators.

YOU CAN HELP THE MINISTRY

God has given us so many opportunities and freedom to share the Gospel with the Muslim people but what we are able to do is limited by low support. Please pray with us that this will change—we are working hard without salary or our personal expenses being covered and we do need YOU to join our team. You can help through:

- Prayer
- Financial giving for outreach to Muslim Villages
- Professional and church promotion

If you believe God is truly using Village Ministries share it with someone.

Our goal is to "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples." Psalm 96:3

FAITH TO LIVE BY | A WORD FROM PASTOR ERIC

The strength of faith is exhibited most often in fighting the battles of life and faith is able and ready to confront all levels of hardships no matter how difficult the conflict is.

Faith is at its best when things are not working well in the natural. In the Book of Hebrews we read that if we believe God but do not enter in to those promises, we do not demonstrate our confidence in Him.

If we don't act on our beliefs, then we remain in the desert like the people of Israel who never received God's promises. If God has plans to use you in the lives of many you can expect that He is going to allow certain faith experiences to come into your life in order to build a foundation that will be solid.

That foundation is what you will be able to look back on to keep you faithful to Him during times of testing. Each of us must have personal faith experiences in which we increase our understanding of God so that we can move in faith to whatever He may call us.

So we see faith working at its best against circumstances in difficult situations. Don't forget that "without faith it is impossible to please God."



WOMEN'S TEACHING CONFERENCE

One Christian woman who attended the women's conference went to a Muslim village near the Omega Orphanage and women asked her what she learned at the conference. She explained all the health teaching and used this as her means to share the gospel that was also taught at the Conference. When the women asked her "Who is this God?" she was able to share the gospel and right there the ten Muslim women gave their lives to Christ.



Another woman, even before the end of the conference, applied what she had learned about treating dehydration to another woman in her village who was ill. For two days she gave the sick woman water with the proper salt-sugar ratio and the sick woman recovered.



The conference was very popular and it was difficult to restrict attendance to 500 but it subtly increased to 625 over the four days. Somehow the food was sufficient for all. Most of them walked from 1 - 3 hours to the main road to board the buses we had rented for them. Some of the conference topics were: Our value to God; Principles from the Life of Jesus; Women in Scripture; Lessons from Job; Salvation, Discipleship and Abiding plus Women's Health including HIV/AIDS.

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



Due to the generosity of people like you bags of donated clothes are distributed at the Omega Orphanage in Bomi County; Pastor Eric has found a dress for a little princess.

Daily life in a Muslim village



By the grace of God...

...and the leading of the Holy Spirit, Village Ministries has been able to impact thousands of lives in Liberia including planting 31 churches. In 2006 Village Ministries Inc. (Liberia) was co-founded by Pastor Eric Sumo, a Liberian and Helen Fletcher, a Canadian.

In 2007 the ministry became a Society in Canada under the name of Liberia Christian Outreach Society for the purpose of writing Canadian and American donation receipts and the accountability to Revenue Canada.

In our ministry history we have raised up vocational schools for women affected by the civil war and the ex-child soldiers who are rejected by all Liberians. To date we have graduated 655 from tailoring, cosmetology, carpentry, agriculture, cooking and auto body mechanics. All these students viewed the Jesus Film in their morning chapel time.

We have begun to get children sponsored for elementary school, and assisted with an orphanage for children left alone when their parents were killed.

We have also put down 12 wells with clean, safe water serving 40,000 villagers. But our main focus is to the Muslim people of isolated villages of the Interior of Liberia where we have shown the Jesus Film to over 12,000 and helped with their physical needs. We are in the third year of teaching pastors in a Bible School at two campuses and holding Women`s Training Seminars commissioning Liberians to soul winning and discipleship.

Our labour – to the glory of His name.

Liberia Christian Outreach Society

Donation Form

To receive a tax receipt please mail completed form to:

International Christian Mission Services
Box 24 Stn.A
Abbotsford, BC
Canada V2T 6Z4

For donations using a Credit Card:

Amount of gift \$.....

Visa or Master Card number:

.....

Credit Card Expiry Date:.....

Name on Card:

Signature:

Tax receipts to be mailed to:

.....
Street City

.....
Prov./State Country Postal/Zip code

For donations using cheque or money order:

Please make cheque/m.o. payable to:
International Christian Mission Services
and in the memo line designate to **LCOS**
(Liberia Christian Outreach Society)



Does your group take joy in hearing how God uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary plans? Hearing the outcome of prayer, planning and people`s giving and the amazing events only God can make happen can stir and rejoice the heart. Helen is available to come and speak to your group, share these exciting details and show videos of the work. See contacts.

The winning of Liberians to Christ is accomplished, through the Holy Spirit, by a TEAM of many people with various gifts and abilities--led by God and accountable to God. Won`t you join us?

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



We put on Garden Teas, Dinners, and Garage Sales and seek creative people to help with these and other fundraisers.

VICTORIA BOARD MEMBERS



We welcome Christians, professional or retired who have a heart for missions, to join the Board of Directors for LIBERIA CHRISTIAN OUTREACH SOCIETY. We meet in Victoria, BC

Please contact us at:

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Liberia Christian Outreach Society (Canada)
250-480-6848 or 250-595-2881
E-MAIL: info@villageministries.net
BLOG: www.villageministries.wordpress.com
WEB: www.villageministries.net



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

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