

**PRESENTATION OF THE LIBERIA EPISCOPAL AREA
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TO THE PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION
HELD IN GERMANY
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**MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE
WORLD**

**UNITED METHODISTS WORKING TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN UNEXPECTED
WAYS**

Historical Overview of the Church in Liberia:

- * All began with Rev. Melville B. Cox – Missionary assigned to Liberia by the then Methodist Episcopal Church.
- * March 17, 1824 all is set for Rev. Melville B. Cox to begin his missionary journey to Liberia to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and Christianize the natives.
- * With great zeal and enthusiasm, he is in Liberia by March 1833.
- * Camp meeting held on the banks of the St. Paul River to ignite the flame of Methodism on the Liberian soil. A Church named in his memory currently erected on the spot of the camp meeting.
- * His dream to spread scriptural holiness was short-lived as he died from what was then known as African fever (now malaria) on July 21, 1833.
- * His famous remark prior to his death sums up his commitment to the African Mission: “Though a thousand fall, let not Africa be given up.”

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TRANSFORMING OUR MISSION AND VISION INTO REALITY

- * The United Methodist Church in Liberia has a **total membership** of two hundred forty six thousand four hundred seventy two (**246, 472**) that is spread across twenty (**20**) **districts** and one circuit.
- * The presence of the United Methodist church is felt in almost every major city or town in Liberia.
- * The Church is a major partner with the government of Liberia in the areas of **education, health, agriculture** which is aiding in the government's poverty reduction strategy launched few years ago.

SCHOOLS:

- * **17** Elementary schools
- * **21** Junior high schools
- * **18** Senior high schools
- * **1** University - The United Methodist University (UMU)
- * **15** Doctoral level trained clergy
- * **45** Masters level trained clergy
- * **200+** Bachelor level trained clergy
- * **UMU** Begins offering Master of Divinity September 2015

PROGRAM AGENCIES:

- * **Senior Citizen Ministry**
- * **Evangelism and Missions**
- * **United Methodist Church Agriculture Program (UMCAP)**
- * **Human Rights/Peace with Justice Program**
- * **Skill Training and Empowerment Program**
- * **General Education and Ministry**

PROGRAM AGENCIES CONT:

- * **Pensions/Retirement Benefits**
- * **Christian Education**
- * **Communications**
- * **Hope for the Deaf Ministry**
- * **Community Development Program (Liberia-Norway Partnership)**
- * **S. Edward Peal Center for Peace Building, Reconciliation and Renewal**
- * **Liberia United Methodist Empowerment Foundation (LUMEF)**
- * **Health and Social Welfare**
- * **Youth and young Adult Ministry**

MISSION STATIONS:

- * **Gbarnga Mission Station**
- * **Ganta Mission Station**
- * **Camphor Mission Station**
- * **Guinea Mission Station**
- * **Bishop Judith Craig Mission Station**

SENIOR CITIZEN MINISTRY:

- * **UMC PROVIDES THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY IN LIBERIA TO CARE FOR THE ELDERLY**
- * **THE NEEDS ARE HUGE BUT FACED WITH HUGE RESOURCE CHALLENGE**
- * **IT COSTS 200USD TO CATER FOR AN ELDERLY/MONTH**
- * **THE AMOUNT COVERS FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICARE ETC**
- * **REV. ANNA S. KPAAN IS THE HEAD OF THE PROGRAM HERE IN LIBERIA**
- * **A HOME HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY**

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS:

- * DEM IS THE HEARTBEAT OF UMC HERE IN LIBERIA**
- * IT IS HEADED BY REV. MATTHEW WILLIAMS**
- * THE DEM HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH PLANTING NEW CHURCHES ALL ACROSS LIBERIA MAKING DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD**
- * ONE MAJOR CHALLENGE IS A FOUR WHEEL DRIVE DOUBLE CABIN PICKUP WHICH IS BADLY NEEDED FOR MINISTRY IN RURAL AREAS**
- * COST FOR VEHICLE IS PUT AT 45,000 USD**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (UMCAP):

- * THE UMC HAS ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP TO HUGE LAND RESOURCE FOR FARMING AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROCESSES
- * SOME OF THE LAND ARE ALREADY CULTIVATED TO INCLUDE THE DECOURSEY, GANTA, GBASON TOWN FARMS
- * A NEW **FARM DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION PROGRAM** HAS BEEN LUNCHED TO HARNESS POTENTIAL RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURE
- * THE COST FOR THE THREE YEAR PLAN IS PUT AT **170,000 USD**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE WITH JUSTICE PROGRAM:

- * UMC human rights program remains the voice for the voiceless in this ever changing and basic rights -deficient environment
- * Human rights department also provides affordable drinking water for many communities across Liberia through her **“water for life”** program
- * The cost for a piece of hand pump is **1,500 USD**

SKILL TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:

- * Since 2006, this program has helped to rehabilitate thousands of ex-combatants with specialized skills to become productive citizens**
- * Critical support for this success comes from friends in Germany**
- * The program runs several skill training programs in two regions of the country that are still catering to disadvantaged youth**
- * The program seeks funding to continue this very vital ministry**

GENERAL EDUCATION AND MINISTRY:

- * This ministry area supervises, monitors, and evaluates the educational program of the Liberia Annual Conference, the United Methodist Church
- * The DGEM also runs a vocational program for young people who cannot afford formal education
- * With huge demand due to free compulsory education the DGEM hopes to construct more schools and rehabilitate old ones to cater for the need
- * One major challenge is a need for a four wheel drive vehicle for monitoring and supervision

Pensions and Health Benefits

- * **The Pensions and Health Benefits Office work in collaboration with the Central Conference Pensions Initiative (CCPI).**
- * **There are nine hundred ninety-nine (999) pastors serving six hundred thirty three (633) churches and preaching points.**
- * **More than 70% of these pastors serve in rural areas where they receive little or no salary or health benefits.**

Christian Education

- * **The Department of Christian Education produce Christian resource materials for use in local United Methodist churches and schools.**
- * **We invite partners to support this vital ministry area so that our churches and schools have a synchronized curriculum that is biblical and theologically based and rooted in our Wesleyan heritage.**

Department of Communications

- * Our communications program area serves as a tool in propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- * One vital component of its ministry is the United Methodist Radio Station (ELUM 98.7FM).
- * The department has three sections: Radio, Print and Audio Visual.
- * Challenges: Lack of transportation, communication equipment and reliable power supply
- * Needs: A 20KVA generator and a vehicle

Hope for the Deaf Ministry

- * This ministry area operates a school for hearing and speech impaired Youth and Young Adults.
- * The German UMC is a major partner
- * Plans are underway to operate similar school in other parts of Liberia
- * Need: Larger school facility

Department of Community Services (DCS)

- * Started in 2008, the Department of Community Services (DCS) is a community development program initiative in partnership with the United Methodist Church and Mission Alliance in Norway.
- * It operates two program initiatives: the Community Development Program (CODEVPRO) and the Community Integrated Education Program (CIEP).

S. Edward Peal Center for Peace Building, Healing and Reconciliation

- * This program area is actively involved in peace building, drug abuse and its related violence, healing and reconciliation.
- * It has plans to establish drug abuse clubs in all United Methodist Schools.
- * It is currently collaborating with the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence at the General Board of Global Ministries in training lay and clergy about the adverse effects of drug use and abuse.

Liberia United Methodist Empowerment Foundation (LUMEF)

- * LUMEF is the vision of Bishop John G. Innis to empower the Liberia Annual Conference financially so as to effectively implement its mission and vision.
- * Lay and Clergy are contributing annually to this foundation.
- * Partnership is invited.

Department of Health and Social Welfare

- * Oversees all health related programs
- * LAC currently operates one (1) hospital and four (4) clinics namely:
 - Ganta UM Hospital
 - Dieka Clinic –Guinea
 - Weala Clinic
 - Camphor Clinic
 - John Dean Town Clinic
- * Needs: Medical equipment & supplies, scholarships and training of local staff

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

- * This area trains future leaders
- * Needs: Support for capacity building for youth and young adults, transportation and funding for ministry work.

Mission Stations

- * **Gbarnga Mission Station** is located in the Gbarnga District. This mission station plays host to the St. John United Methodist Church, Tubman-Gray United Methodist High School (grades kindergarten to 12), Bong County Community College, and the Gbarnga School of Theology (GST) of the United Methodist University. The mission station also has an agricultural program.
- * **Ganta Mission Station** is in the Gompa District, The mission station has the Ganta Hospital, Ganta UM High School, Winifred Harley School of Nursing of the United Methodist University, an agricultural program, a Dental School and Eye Clinic, a leper colony, the Miller McAllister United Methodist Church, a traditional birth attendant training program and carpentry training program.

Mission Stations cont.

- * **Camphor Mission Station** is located in Camphor, St. John River District Conference. It operates the only boarding school in the county from elementary to ninth grade level. It also has a clinic and a local United Methodist church.
- * **Bishop Judith Craig Orphanage Home** is in Dwazon, lower Margibi County, Kakata-Farmington River District Conference. It was built to host children who were orphaned during the Liberian civil war. It has a mini clinic, elementary through high school, and a church. The home currently has sixty six (66) children with ages ranging from five (5) to eighteen (18).
- * **Guinea Mission Station** is located in the Republic of Guinea. It has a high school, several local churches and a major medical center.

What Is Partnership?

- * Doing things together
- * No one person can do it alone
- * One finger cannot pick lice (Liberian adage)
- * Biblical foundation of partnership: Jesus calling of first disciples (Matt. 4:18-22)
- * Paul takes this further (Corinthian 12:1-28)
- * There can be equal partnership when God's people work together to accomplish God's mission in a hurting world.
- * Hence, partnership is not a relationship of donor-recipient
- * Let the goal of Partnership be to enhance the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

THE END!!!!!!

GOD RICHLY BLESS
YOU!!!!!!