

## Liberia Mission Trip Notes

The mission trip to Liberia was focused on making a documentary to share in churches around the world to raise one hundred million dollars to fund health care for women in Liberia. The average age of a woman in Liberia today is 39 years. They die from things for which we just take antibiotics. They have the highest infant/maternal death rate in the world. It looks just like Haiti with thousands of people living in tiny shacks constructed of cloth and cardboard with no services. They had a 15 year civil war instead of an earthquake. There is no national electric grid. Even in the capital, Monrovia, electricity is iffy, and cuts out regularly in those places that have it. Outside Monrovia and around most of that city, there is nothing except generators which run on gasoline. When I was there in January, gas cost \$8.00 a gallon.

Unemployment is 95 percent. I took 200,000 tablets of abendazole with me which is a highly effective worm medicine for children 1 year and up through adults. I gave it to the Methodist Bishop for distribution throughout all of the Methodist churches, clinics, and schools. The Methodist Bishop is fully supportive of this healthcare project and will offer assistance as needed if possible. The president, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was thrilled about this project and we have her on camera asking the women of America to help their sisters in Liberia. The Assistant Health Minister told us that there is no mammogram equipment working in the whole country. If people get cancer, they fly to another country for treatment, and you know what the 95 percent who are unemployed do, they die.

The airport terminal is still not reopened 5 years after the end of the civil war. The United Nations troops maintain a loose security, as the country has been disarmed, but crime is high. There is no sewage system, and septic tanks have been installed for those who can afford them. You can imagine the rest. The beautiful Atlantic sandy beaches have signs up saying "no shit here." People do anyway, as there are no public toilets.

Some of God's people have formed a non-profit foundation called: Restoring Women's Healthcare to Liberia. It's dba name is "Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia!" In January, 2012 a mission team of medical, dental, and eye glass people (12) will go to Liberia and conduct two weeks of healthcare in Kakata, a town of 30,000 people about 25 miles northwest of Monrovia. Cost will be \$1500.00 not including air fare. It will be a United Methodist Mission Trip. We will be working under the direction of Dr. Chris Heja, a GBGM medical missionary.

The documentary film is being edited now. It will be widely distributed after prayer. Yours for Healing the Sick in the Name of Jesus, Marcella

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