

HANDS OF HOPE FOUNDATION- LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA, 2013

Post Trip Report- March 2013

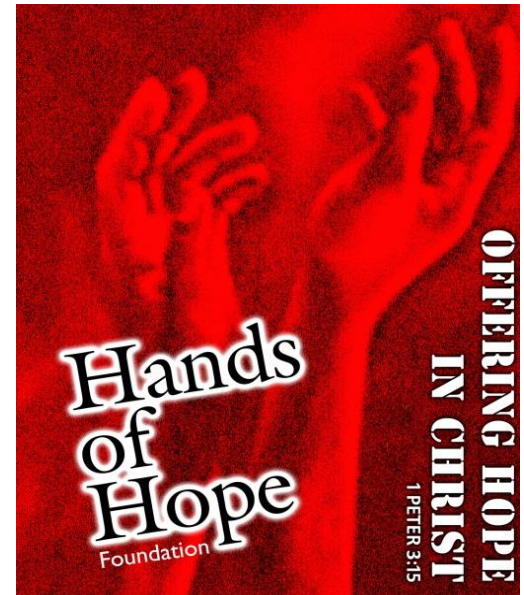
Hands of Hope Foundation has closed the chapter on its fifth Liberian Outreach. A team of 58 traveled to Liberia, West Africa, from March 2-25, in service to the Lord. *“The Hands of Hope Foundation is an organization designed to operate and develop faith based communities that will function on a local, national, and international level to provide financial and/or direct assistance to individuals, families, and other organizations in meeting a wide variety of needs to include: short-term housing, medical care, education assistance, drinkable water, food, and clothing; as well as a place of respite for Ministers and their families.”*

The **Hands of Hope Foundation** is all about **Offering Hope in Christ** according to 1 Peter 3:15. We strive to be ambassadors of Christ in both word and deed. The foundation is not just an organization coming from the outside to help. Partnering with our Liberian brothers and sisters, we are also **Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia**, a Liberia NGO. We (and our partners) assist the Liberian people in recovering from 15 years of devastating civil war, restoring hope to this nation. We boldly declare that God has been doing an amazing thing, and in the last four years our medical outreach has more than tripled in size. Hands of Hope Foundation has been partnering with Bishop Innis and the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (LAC-UMC). Through a close relationship with Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo, and the Superintendent of the Weala District, we have developed a strong ministry presence in creating the Weala Mission Station (WMS).

In 2008, there was only one church constructed in the Weala district. At that time, there was no district center, transportation, fresh water wells, medical services, schools, etc. in the area. Since then, we have seen a rubber tree plantation become a great source of hope, bringing healing and recovery for the people of Liberia in this rural region. In the last few years, we have participated in rebuilding several war-torn churches.



We have held crusades to launch new churches, and provided support for the birth of the John Wesley K-12 School. The school has already grown to nearly 1,000 students. We have partnered in establishing a new district office and parsonage, as well as equipping and launching the Weala UMC Medical Clinic. We now have held three medical outreaches. In 2011, we provided medical and ophthalmology treatment through our clinics. In the process, we connected with some 2,000 people in the region. In 2012, we again took a larger team, and with our partners from Pro Health International, held a medical-surgical-eye-dental clinic that reached another 2,000 patients at a much higher level of service. We also have been honored to partner with our Weala District friends and the LAC-



Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, Executive Director, Hands of Hope Foundation

5208 Meadowland Parkway, Marion, Illinois 62959 • Phone (618) 997-2940 • Fax (618) 997-9702

E-mail: Troy@hohfoundation.org • Web site: www.hohfoundation.org

UMC in constructing and starting churches in St. Thomas, Freeman Reserve, Grimes Farms, C. D. **Sherman**, 2nd Kieyea (*Gbanga District*), Bong Mines, Totota, and Salala, Village #7 Kpakoloyah. This year we added a new church community at Jennietta (Jennet Town). Through the incredible leadership of the LAC-UMC, the Weala District, and local church leaders, each of these churches serve as station churches that are establishing themselves at many other preaching points. Several of the churches like Salala, Totota, and Village #7 are some of the fastest growing churches in the Conference. In just the last five years, we have seen the Weala district grow from 11,000 to over 48,000 members. Praise be to GOD!

In the last three years, we have facilitated the sponsorship of over fifty students at the John Wesley UMC School, and we are planning to sponsor 65 students during the 2013-2014 academic year. Currently 39 of



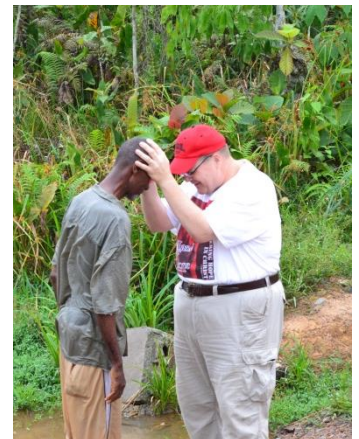
these students are under direct sponsorship by supporters of Hands of Hope Foundation's John Wesley Scholars program. The others are sponsored by the **Change for Christ Africa offering** given on the 1st Sunday of the month by Community of Faith Church in Marion, IL. In 2010, we proudly instituted our Hope Scholars program. This program was established in order to send some of the most distinguished graduates to universities and professional schools. These scholars are training to become nurses, physician assistants, medical techs, doctors, educators, pastors, and experts in other areas of need. The Hope Scholar program has been funded through numerous

and generous donors. Currently, we have some 12 scholars attending Liberian schools of higher education, and this accomplished in the first two years of the Hope Scholar program's operation. For every year that we fund the scholar, upon completion of the degree program, he or she will offer a matching year of service in a UMC school, clinic, or church within the district. You can go online at www.hohfoundation.org to learn more about both of our scholarship programs and even register and pay for your sponsorship. The sponsorship period runs from May 5 to September 15, 2013.

We have also been involved in providing for fresh water wells at the Weala Mission Station and at the new church that we have launched over the last 5 years. All this is just a sampling of how God is using the **Hands of Hope Foundation** along with so many great volunteers, donors, and partners to offer hope for Christ in Liberia! *You can see more about Hands of Hope Foundation and its work both here and in other places by going to our website at www.hohfoundation.org.*

Our 2013 trip to Weala focused on three aspects. This year, we brought (1) a Crusade & Church Development Team, (2) an Educational Support Team and (3) a Medical-Surgical Team. Bringing with us into Liberia a full team of 58 members, our outreach was expanded.

1. Our Church Development & Crusade Team was led by Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone, along with the local Weala District & LAC Superintendent, our Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia NGO, and National Director, Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo. During the church mission, we did an on-sight review and updated all of the Weala District churches that we have been partnering with since 2009. Our HOH Team #1, held a "Jesus Film Crusade" night on the Weala Mission Ground led by the resident church, St. Peter's UMC with our evangelism team along with Rev. Peter Harris and Rev. Jay Sackie. We saw over 200 people pray to



receive Christ during the invitation. During HOH Team #2's tenure, we held a three day new-church start crusade at Jennietta (Jennet Town). We had several hundred respond to the Friday and Saturday "Jesus Film" and Preaching Crusade nights. We saw nearly 40 brothers and sisters baptized at daybreak on Sunday, March 24, and these participated in the launch service, including first communion, with the new church at Jennietta. What a great day it was! We have made an agreement to purchase up to 5 acres on the site of the town market square and hope to soon build a new church facility. During this crusade we saw the district tribal chief come to Christ. We know God is going to do something incredible with this church beyond all that we have seen; and we have seen some amazing things.

2. Our Medical-Surgical team: Our medical team was led by our three year veteran HOH Medical Director, Dr. Jeffrey Parks, and Dr. Ukeme Umana, our HOH Chief of Surgery. Our partners in ministry were the Pro-Health International Medical Team, led by their team leader, Dr. Kayode Omishogbon. Once again, in 2013, The Hands of Hope Medical Team was joined by a Pro Health International surgical team from Nigeria along with another surgical team from St. Luke's Rochester Hospital in New York, NY, led by Dr. Grace Kim & Dr. Ray Wedderburn. Our clinic work included opportunities to assist Margibi area families



and the students at the new John Wesley School. This school has grown to almost 1,000 students in its first five years. We are also providing services to an area village, civic, government, and church leaders, along with their families. Our medical clinic again provided all forms of family and internal medicine care. We were also blessed this year to be able to offer OB-GYN services to save lives, and birth new babies. Dr. Mark Ballard from South Dakota led this effort and brought a whole new level of expertise to our team. We are so excited to see how his vision and heart for this ministry will impact our OB-GYN service in our 2014 outreach. We also had our own lab organized and led by Steve Howerton from SIH. There were specialized clinics for eye care and dental care services. In addition, we had advanced eye, ob-gyn, and general surgeries

offered. Our team saw over 2,000 patients throughout its various clinics. We performed over 300 eye, ob-gyn and general surgical cases. Our team also made clinic visits to remote areas in order to treat patients who were unable to make the journey. This was done through Dr. Barbara Patchett our HOH Field Clinic Director. She also did examinations and reviews of the nearly 1,000 students at John Wesley K-12.

Altogether, the lives of 3,000 people were touched by our medical team. In addition to the medical outreach, we also worked to form stronger bonds with area medical leaders at JFK Hospital in Monrovia, Firestone Hospital, CH Rennie, Ganta Hospital, and the School of Nursing. We held our first medical seminar and welcomed nearly 50 area medical providers to the Weala Conference for the Hands of Hope Medical Seminar. We can already see this expanding greatly in our 2014 outreach. We have shipped medical equipment and educational supplies to Liberia. Some items have already been distributed. The rest of the supplies have been stored, ready for use in our next outreach. In March 2014, we hope to complete the medical-surgical center along with the 165 KW generator station and dual 750 gallon water tower and closed well system. We will hold a dedication as part of the 2014 medical outreach. We want to celebrate a dream becoming a reality through the gift of



over \$30,000 given by our good friends at Springfield First UMC, to make this dream a reality. A special thank you to the great saints of God that provided financial resources and medical supplies for this year's outreach. Your gifts made our pharmacy, container shipment, and medical team, not only functional, but a life-saving tool during the mission. We were able to leave plenty of medicines to support the Medical Center's operations over the next year and provide some special medical gifts to the institutions that gave us such gracious support during the trip.

3. Our Education Team was led by Suzie Reis during HOH Team #1 and Education Director and Teacher Valerie Fry led HOH Team #2. Suzie worked on cultivating a new group of John Wesley students for the scholarship program. Praise God! We are expanding from 47 to 65 students in the 2013-2014 school year. I hope you will join us in believing for sponsors for these students. Suzie also began laying the foundation to expand our efforts in establishing the Hope Vo-Tech plan. We currently have our Hope Scholars program which had 12 students in our first 2 years, and we are offering 14 potential candidates for this 2013-2014 year. These students are attending higher education institutions in the area of pastoral, educational, medical and other much need areas. But what about the students who are unable to complete a higher educational or professional pursuit because of educational, family, financial, or other



issues? We are hoping to establish the Hope Vo-Tech program in the next year to offer trade-school type training. We have already begun the agricultural segment, and hope to add sewing and cloth dying, culinary training, wood carving, small engine repair, and more. We hope to provide funding for these programs, which will also provide a new revenue stream to support the educational development of John Wesley School and the Weala region for years to come. During week 2, Valerie Fry, did

reviews of all of our John Wesley Students and Hope Scholars and conducted interviews and assessments for the 2013-2014 candidates. She also made visits to the scholar's schools and worked on the continued development of our students, faculty and administration. In addition, she laid the ground work for a new agricultural project that has received generous funding by one of our Hands of Hope donors. Praise be to God for the work that is taking place in education, it is the key to re-building and re-forging the nation of Liberia today and tomorrow.

I want to thank our Advance Team, Team 1, and Team 2 for the incredible work they did during the March 3rd -25th Outreach. We are extremely thankful for all of the family, friends, churches, loved ones, organizations, businesses, and saints that helped us with the finances, resources, and equipment needed to make this trip an incredible success. We brought 46 team members from the United States and 12 joined us from our Pro Health International partnership in Nigeria. Our 58 person team was composed of 18 Medical Doctors (*Medical, Gen Surgery, OB-GYN, Eye, Eye Surgery, and Dental*), 2 Physicians Assistants, 13 Registered Nurses, 1 Pharmacist,



1 Lab Director, 13 other medically trained nurse assistants or technicians, 2 Physical Therapists, 3 Doctor & Nurse Anesthetists, 2 Ultra Sound Technicians, 1 Chief Engineer, and 4 Educators and Evangelism leaders. We also want to thank the numerous medical, educational, and ministry support partners from the local Weala Mission Station, LAC-UMC and Margibi County region that joined us on the ground. As an organization, we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last five years in facilitating this mission partnership with the people of Liberia. Hands of Hope Foundation receives no U.S. government support, and raises all of the money through generous organizations and individuals who have a heart for the things of God and the work we are doing with the people of Liberia. I am so grateful to all the people and medical institutions that have provided so many incredible gifts to make this outreach such a success. We continue to invite your prayers and partnership with us in making this outreach and future such outreaches a continued success. As we work together offering hope in Christ, may these efforts be a blessing to God, to His children that stand in such great need, and to nation that God loves so much---The Republic of Liberia.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE: There are many opportunities for you to partner with us in new church development, crusade, medical/surgical and educational relief projects. We have listed a few of those major initiatives below for your consideration. **MAJOR NEEDS AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES HANDS OF HOPE IS PUTTING BEFORE THE LORD:**

1. **New Church Facilities at Totota, Kpakoloyah and Jennietta-** The cost of building a church in these areas will be approximately \$18-20,000 each. We hope to raise this as the Lord provides donors and resources. Totota, started in 2010, has over 600 in worship today with 4 preaching points. Land is purchased, and a new station church needs to be built as soon as possible. Land has been selected at Kpakoloyah and Jennietta and, when funds are in place, both of these churches will explode with a new church facility. We expect these churches to rival and surpass the Salala church that already has over 1200 members in just 3 years.
2. **Complete the Church at Bong Mines-** Over the last few years we have built some 7 churches in the district. With excess concrete and resources from those sites, a new church has been started at Bong Mines, and is honestly the largest concrete structure built today. With a gift of \$7,500 we could complete this new station church and help it become a lighthouse in the redeveloping iron-ore mining area of the Weala District.
3. **Completion, Equipping and Dedication of the Weala Medical-Surgical Center along with a Medical Mission and Dedication Outreach in March 2014-** With the generator in country, the generator building near completion, and the infusion of the remaining money to finalize the surgical center, we hope to complete construction and hold a dedication of this new facility in March, 2014. We also hope to send another supply container in the fall with additional hospital beds for the wards, along with additional surgical, laboratory and medical equipment needed to take the facility to the next level. We expect to get all the materials donated, but transportation and shipping costs will be approximately \$15,000. To make this all happen, we need to believe for funding by November, 2013, so the 20-40 foot container can be onsite in time for the advance team in March, 2014.



4. **Strengthening our monthly clinic operations support-** We also provide monthly support to a staff team of five, which is required by the Liberia Medical and Dental Association to operate a clinic. This includes a doctor, head nurse, nurse assistant, midwife, midwife assistant, and custodian. We currently have funded the clinic through special donors at the level of \$1000 per month and are working to a goal of \$3,000, which will provide the staff and medicines needed to have the clinic working at peak level.
5. **2013-2014 Hope Scholar & John Wesley Students-** We are also looking to not only continue our support to the 12 current Hope Scholars, but hopefully add as many as 14 new ones in the areas of Education, Pastoral Care, and Medical Provider Services for the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, we are believing God for the provision and sponsors to grow our John Wesley K-12 Sponsorship from 47 to 65 students by fall 2014.
6. **Complete Guest Residence Facility able to house teams of 20-30:** We have also begun some preliminary work on establishing a future guest residence, able to house year-round ministry teams in the near future. We hope to have more details later this year. We believe we could make huge inroads into our work there by adding this facility, which would also allow teams to come year round and save thousands of dollars that are currently going to independent facilities. The cost of this facility would be \$80-\$100,000.
7. **Weala Water Project-** We are doing research and seeking financial grant partners to do a water well project that would see 196 water wells built at the 30 Station Churches of the Weala District and at the 166 preaching points connected to those station churches. We have already received support from the area governors to help us by providing land and resources for this project. Hands of Hope Foundation is currently making presentations to find partners to join us in this 2 phase project. We already have a ministry that is willing to provide matching funds to what we raise. God is Good!
8. **Weala District Wide Crusade in 2014 and National Crusade in 2015-** We believe God is leading us toward a District Wide Crusade in 2014 at one of the area soccer arenas and, by the grace of God, we believe doors are opening to hold a national crusade in the soccer stadiums across Liberia with our LAC-UMC partners in 2015.



The Hands of Hope Foundation is a non-for-profit 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt foundation in Illinois, and also Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia is a Liberian based and recognized NGO. You can learn more about our foundation from our website at www.hohfoundation.org. If you have further questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, HOH Foundation, Executive Director or Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo, Weala District Superintendent LAC-UMC and National Director of the Hands of Hope Foundation- Liberia. Dr. Benitone can be reached at email: Troy@hohfoundation.org and Rev. Mondolo can be reached at Paye@hohfoundation.org.

*In the Grip of the Carpenter- Mark 6:3
Pastor Troy*

PS- You can see video reports on the 2013 Liberia Outreach and find out more about what's happen next on our website at <http://www.hohfoundation.org/media.htm>.

Hands of Hope Liberia 2013 Team listing & Groupings

HOH ADVANCE TEAM (Sat, March 2 arrival)

1. Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone- HOH Executive Director (Both Teams)
2. Daniel Cook- HOH Chief Engineer (Both Teams)
3. Dr. Jeffrey D. Parks, MD, HOH Medical Director (Team 1)
4. Sue Harmon, RN, HOH Director of Clinical Nursing (Team 1)
5. Rev. Steve M. McKeown, HOH Logistics (Team 1)

HOH TEAM #1 (Thur, March 7- Mon, March 18)

6. Rev. Stephen J. Quinn- HOH Admin Director: Team 1
7. USAF Major Craig A. LeQuatte- HOH Chief Pharmacist
8. Dr. Mark C. Ballard, MD, OB/GYN
9. Elizabeth Parks, PA
10. Andrea Johnson, CNA & Pre-Med Student
11. Mary Chevalier, Evangelism- Team 1
12. Amber Trueblood, RN
13. Nancy Stewart, RN
14. Darla McKeown, Physical Therapist
15. Andrea Brewer, RN-BSN
16. Terry Shafer, HOH Ultra Sound Dept.
17. Jerry W. Johnson, HOH Clinic Director- Team 1 & Evangelism
18. Steven L. Howerton, HOH Lab Guy
19. Suzie Reis, HOH Education Coordinator- Team 1
20. Dr. Barb Patchett- RN MSN PHD, HOH Field Clinic Director
21. Ed Heath, RN, Director of Clinical Nursing - Team 2

HOH TEAM #1 NEW YORK- St. Luke's Team (Thur, March 7- Sat, March 16)

22. Dr. Grace Kim, MD, General Surgery & NY Team Leader
23. Dr. Ray Wedderburn, MD, General Surgery
24. Dr. Jamie Schwartz, MD, General Surgery
25. Dr. Eunice Chung, MD, General Surgery
26. Tony Lew, Surgical Logistics

HOH TEAM #2 (Sat, March 16- Mon, March 25)

27. Rev. Andy T. Johnson- HOH Admin Director: Team 2
28. Dr. Ukeme I.E. Umana, MD, HOH Chief of Surgery
29. Christina Umana, RN, LPC, NCC
30. Jean Webster, RN Director of Surgical Nursing
31. Scott A. Boss, CRNA- HOH Chief of Anesthesiology
32. Tracy Boss- HOH Logistics- Team 2 & Education Team 2
33. Valerie Fry- HOH Education Director
34. Sue Nelson- HOH Logistics Assistant & Education Team 2
35. Mika Nelson- RN
36. Chris Nelson- CNA
37. Brooke Bell- PA
38. Zachary Bell- Physical Therapist
39. Cathy Hardland- HOH Logistics Assistant
40. Sheila Stevens- Certified Ophthalmic Assistant
41. Ifeoluwaddlap "Ife" Ojewuyi, Student
42. Ashley Carriker, Education Team 2
43. Dr. Jay Riseman, MD, General Surgery
44. Mary McCormick, RN
45. Shelly Aly, RN
46. Amanda Bennett, RN

PHI- Both weeks (Thur, March 7- Sun, March 24)

47. Dr. Kayode Omishogbon, MD, Gen Surgery- PHI Medical Director/Team Leader
48. Dr. Imeh Ekpeyong MD, Gen Surgery
49. Dr. Aniefiok Umoiyoho, MD, OB/GYN Surgery
50. Dr. Emmanuel Etuk, MD, Consultant Gen Surgery
51. Dr. Clement Tenufa, MD, Eye Surgery
52. Mr. Bala Kudos, RN, Surgical Eye Nurse
53. Dr. Livinus Martin, OD, Optometrist
54. Dr. Ambrose Obhade-Dentist, DMD, PHI Logistics Coordinator
55. Dr. Mark Edubio, MD, Anesthesiologist
56. Mr Luka Gaji, CRNA, Nurse Anesthetist
57. Mrs Magdalene Omenyi, OR Logistics
58. Mrs Grace Solomon, RN, Post-Operative Nurse



We give thanks to the Lord God Almighty and for all His Saints around the world that made the 2013 Hands of Hope Foundation Liberian Outreach a success. We say thank you and pray God's richest blessings upon you. God is Good!

YOUR HANDS OF HOPE FOUNDATION 2013 LIBERIA MISSION TEAM
Offering Hope in Christ! - 1 Peter 3:1

Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, Executive Director, Hands of Hope Foundation

5208 Meadowland Parkway, Marion, Illinois 62959 • Phone (618) 997-2940 • Fax (618) 997-9702

E-mail: Troy@hohfoundation.org • Web site: www.hohfoundation.org