

# HANDS OF HOPE FOUNDATION- LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA, 2014

## Post Trip Report- March 2014

Mission complete: The **Hands of Hope Foundation** March 2014 Outreach. From March 6-24, 2014, forty-five team members traveled to Liberia, West Africa 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.”*

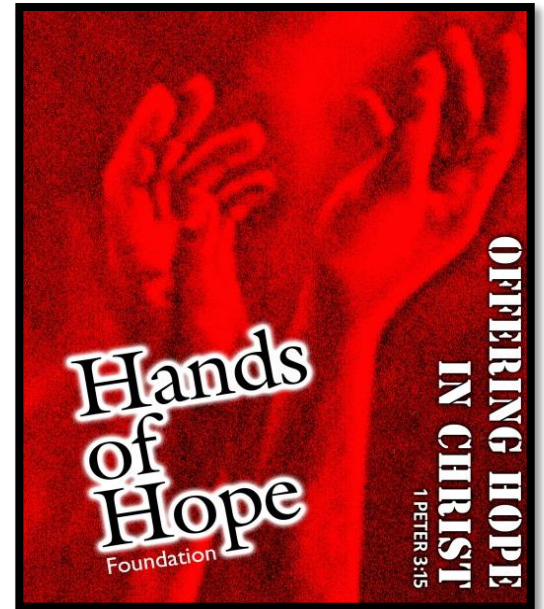
The **Hands of Hope Foundation** is about **Offering Hope in Christ** according to 1 Peter 3:15 by striving to be ambassadors of Christ in both word and deed. The foundation is not just an organization coming from the outside to help, but we are also **Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia**, a Liberian NGO “Non-Governmental

Organization”, partnering to help our brothers and sisters from inside Liberia. Since 2008, we have been assisting the Liberian people in restoring hope and recovering from 15 years of devastating civil war. Hands of Hope has been collaborating with Bishop Innis and the brothers and sisters of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (LAC-UMC). Through a close relationship with Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo,

(District Superintendent of the Weala District and the National Director for HOH Liberia) we continue to develop a strong ministry presence through the creation of the Weala Mission Station (WMS). We boldly declare that God has been doing an amazing thing, and we believe He is calling us to an even higher level in 2015.

**From where have we come?** In 2008, there was only one traditional hard-structure church building left standing after the war in the Weala district. At that time, there was no district center,

no transportation for the Superintendent, no fresh water wells, no medical services, and no schools in the area. Since then, we have seen a rubber tree farm become a great source of hope, bringing healing and recovery for the people of Liberia in this region of Margibi County. 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 and the Hope Scholar Program. We have also been involved in providing for fresh water wells at the Weala Mission Station and also at new churches we have launched over the last 7 years. The school already boasts nearly 1,000 students. We along with our partners established a new district office and parsonage, as well as equipping and launching the Weala UMC Medical-Surgical Center, and we are



celebrating our fourth free medical outreach to the region this year. In 2011, we provided medical and ophthalmologic treatment through our clinics, connecting with over 1,000 people in the region. In 2012 and 2013, our team grew, and with our partners from Pro Health International, held a medical-surgical-eye-dental clinic that reached more than 1,200 patients each year at a much higher level of service.

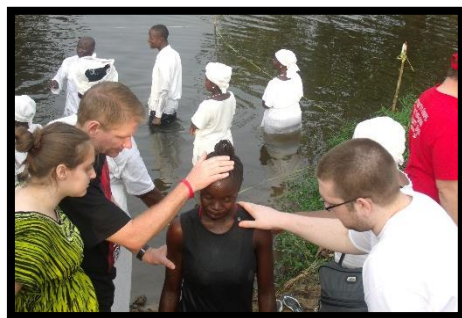


We have also been honored to partner with our Weala District friends and the LAC-UMC in constructing and/or starting churches in St. Thomas, Freeman Reserve, Grimes Farms, C. D. Sherman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kieyea (*Gbanga District*), Bong Mines, Totota, Salala, Village #7, Kpakoloyah and Jennietta. Through the incredible leadership of the LAC-UMC, the Weala District, and local church leaders, each of these churches serve as station churches that also establish additional communities of faith around them called preaching points. 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! 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 in Christ* for 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](http://www.hohfoundation.org).

The 2014 trip to Weala focused on four aspects: (1) Church Development & Crusades, (2) Educational Support, (3) Medical-Surgical Outreach and (4) Hope for Liberia 2015 Evangelism Campaign Advance Planning & Training.



**(1) The Church Development & Crusade Team** was led by Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone along with Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo (local Weala District & LAC Superintendent and Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia NGO, National Director. 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. During our time in Liberia, Hands of Hope team members preached in several locations including Salala, St. Peter and, Back Camp. Over the last 2 years, we have been working to strengthen the church started in 2013 at Jennietta (Jennet Town) to foster the growth and expansion of the district flagship church, St. Peter's, on the WMS grounds. This was our main church development focus this year as we held Jesus Film Crusade nights at both Jennet Town and St. Peter during our 2014 outreach. We were blessed to be a part of the baptisms of many new believers that have become a part of these two communities of faith. Our HOH Team held follow-up *"Jesus Film Crusade Nights"* on the Weala Mission Ground led by the resident church, St. Peter's UMC, and at Jennietta where we launched a new church during the 2013 outreach. Rev. Dr. Roger Ross, Senior Pastor of Springfield First UMC, part of the original crusade team led by Hands of Hope in 2009, joined us for this year's outreach. The crusade team also included Rev. Steve McKeown, Senior Pastor of Christian Life Center in Herrin, IL, who was part of the team in 2013. Our Evangelism Prayer Teams were led by Craig LeQuatte and Jerry Johnson. We were also blessed with the onsite leadership given by our local pastors, Rev. Peter Harris and Rev. Jay Sackie, who Hands of Hope has been a part of putting through seminary. We saw over 200 people pray to receive Christ during the invitations at these events, and witnessed some 40 brothers and sisters baptized into the faith at a joint baptismal service for the two churches at daybreak on Sunday, March 23, our final day in country. It was an

honor to see these brothers and sisters become a part of the local churches and receive their first communion. On that Sunday, we also enjoyed the dedication of Mika, a baby girl born at the Weala Health Center during our outreach who was named after Mika Nelson, attending HOH registered Nurse. We also celebrated the dedication of Tomoko Yamauchi, HOH team member and nurse. Tomoko, from Japan, had previously lived in the U.S., where she met Elizabeth Parks, PA and HOH Clinical Logistics Coordinator. The two had met in a small group fellowship at The Vine Church in Carbondale. During the two-nights of the Jesus Film, Tomoko made the decision to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior- *"Paul planted, Apollos watered and God gave the increase!"* We celebrated her dedication as a new believer. Just a week later, we received word that she had been baptized and joined a community of faith in Japan. What a great day it was!



**(2) The Educational Support Team** was led by HOH Education Director and Teacher Valerie Fry. She worked closely with veteran team member Sue Nelson and rookie team member Jane Ross, the sixteen year old daughter of Rev. Dr. Roger Ross. They had a great time interacting and connecting with our John Wesley



Students, the faculty, and Hope Scholars. During the outreach, we had a special presentation service where our Hope Scholars received computers donated by John A. Logan College (Carterville, Illinois). We were blessed by the gift of these computers and are thankful to the college for assisting our Hope Scholars with this life changing technology. We are also grateful to the individuals at Community of Faith Church who donated their time and

talents to set up these computers and get them ready for use. During our trip, Valerie was able to complete visits with all of our Hope Scholars. She visited their campuses of learning, connected with their teachers and deans, and even had many of them onsite during our outreach working in mentoring relationships with our team in their respective fields of study.

Valerie's team reviewed all of our John Wesley Students and Hope Scholars, and included interviews and assessments for current students and prospective new scholars. She even updated our photos for many of them- check them out in our new 2014-15 John Wesley and Hope Scholar Guides. Our students are growing up! Our new HOH agricultural project that was begun in 2013, through the gift of a couple of generous Hands of Hope Foundation donors, continues to develop. Our team even enjoyed the bounty, the fruit of their work in some of our team meals. Praise be to God for the work that is taking place in education! We believe education is the key to re-building and re-forging the nation of Liberia today and tomorrow. As Bishop John G. Innis, says so well, *"Through education, people are redeemed from darkness."*



In the last four years, we have facilitated hundreds of John Wesley UMC K-12 Student Sponsorships. Last year Hands of Hope Foundation facilitated 65 students' education during the 2013-14 academic year. We are proud to announce that we will exceed 75 students for 2014-15. 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. We began with just 5 students in 2011. Today, we are proud to have 26 Hope Scholars set to go to Liberian Schools of Higher Education in 2014-15. Two of which are Hope Master Teacher Scholars who are faculty members of John Wesley School and are working on their Master's in Education. Each Hope Scholar provides proof of full-time registration at a Liberian University. We receive copies of grades and require that they be at a level to maintain their career track. Further, the students have contractually agreed to return and provide service in their fields by teaching at the Weala Mission Station District Center at the John Wesley School; pastoring in a Weala District Area Church; providing medical services on the staff of the Weala Mission Station Clinic; or serving in other similar capacities. The scholars are responsible to provide one year of service for every year of scholarship funding they receive. Currently, we have several John Wesley Students and Hope Scholars that need sponsors. You can go online at [www.hohfoundation.org](http://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, 2014. Over the past four years, Community of Faith Church in Marion, Illinois has conducted a *Change for Christ Africa Offering* on the first Sunday of each month. We are extremely grateful for this generosity, as it has raised over \$20,000 for Hands of Hope's life changing educational projects.



**(3) The Medical-Surgical team:** The medical team was led by our four year veterans: Dr. Jeffrey Parks HOH Medical Director and Dr. Ukeme Umana, HOH Chief of Surgery. Once again, we were joined by a Pro-Health International Medical Team, led by Dr. Ojo Emmanuel Olorundare. The medical-surgical outreach included opportunities to assist Margibi area families, pastoral families, and the faculty and students of John Wesley. We also provided clinical services to village, civic, government, and church leaders and their families from across Liberia. The medical-surgical team provided all forms of family and internal medical care. Under the direction of Jerry Johnson and Elizabeth Parks (Clinical Logistics Coordinator), clinic operations were smooth and efficient. We were blessed this year to be able to offer OB-GYN services through PHI Surgeon Dr. Kayode Omishogbon. We even saw the births of new babies assisted by our local midwife and medical team members. Our improved and expanded lab was organized and led this year by Steve Howerton, of Southern Illinois Healthcare. Steve spent time mentoring and training our clinic lab tech and was very pleased with the progress of the lab since 2013. Steve is working to bring two of the Liberian lab techs to the U.S. in the next year to attend special training programs for third world lab techs. As in the past, we held specialized clinics for eye care, led by Dr. Livinus Martins, and dental care, led by Dr. Ambrose Obhade, both from PHI. Our medical staff this year included top-notch surgical teams (both general and eye), which were, composed of U.S. and Nigerian members. It was great to see the body of Christ working together. And in the two new surgical theatres and "MASH-like" eye surgery center at St. Peters Church, they performed around 250 surgical cases. Darla McKeown, Physical Therapist, was a great asset, helping with clinic and post-operative PT recovery cases. Our team also provided medical supplies and pharmaceuticals used in treating all of the various clinical-surgical patients through the work of Craig LeQuatte, HOH Chief Pharmacist, and his team.

Caleb Benitone, a second year St. Louis College of Pharmacy student and son of HOH Executive Director joined Craig this year. During his first Liberian outreach, he not only had great experiences in the pharmacy, but was also mentored by medical, eye surgical, and general surgical team members. Three nursing students from John A. Logan College nursing program joined us on the outreach this year. They were under the leadership, Dr.



Barbara Patchett, HOH veteran nurse and Post-op Nursing Director. These young nurses ran the post-op and were used in all of our medical operations. Dr. Patchett, one of their teaching professors at John A. Logan, was very proud of her crack

team, who made a real impact in their time in Liberia. Our team saw over 1,300 patients throughout its various medical-surgical clinics. We also did wellness reviews for the nearly 1,000 students at John Wesley K-12. Included in the outreach were work-ups on pastoral caregivers for the Weala District. Christina Umana, RN and Licensed Christian Counselor, and Mother Deborah Mondolo, District Mother, held their second Pastor’s Wives retreat. This year they included the spouses in the retreat. In addition to some great, spiritually enriching sessions with these pastoral care leaders, the Weala District pastors and their wives, along with all the LAC-UMC Leaders gathered for the Hope for Liberia Training retreat led by Dr. Benitone, received medical evaluations and care by our medical team. Hundreds of lives were touched in these sessions, and through them many more will receive ministry, care and leadership for years to come because of our team’s work.

We were blessed by the partnership we received again from the medical staff leaders that joined our outreach team: Dr. Magnus Asinya from C.H. Rennie, Dr. Lawrence Sherman from Firestone Hospital and Cataract Surgeon, Beh Maweah-Gehi, from Ganta UM Hospital as well as other area medical leaders, nurses and residents that joined our team. We were extremely blessed to have Dr. Chris Hena join us for the outreach. Pastor Troy made a connection with Dr. Hena, while visiting Liberia for some meetings back in January, and was introduced to her through connections from his home town, Memphis, TN. She has her own clinic and foundation in Kakata called Healthy Women Liberia. [www.healthywomenliberia.org](http://www.healthywomenliberia.org) She not only gave the team great medical support, she has a wealth of local knowledge and a heart for the Lord. Dr. Hena spent a majority of her time being trained by Terry Shafer, HOH ultrasound tech. We believing God for an ultrasound machine that can be donated to her clinic in the near future, and Hands of Hope Foundation is looking forward to working with her much more. We also welcomed medical providers from around the country to the Weala Mission Station for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Hands of Hope Foundation Liberian Medical Seminar. A special thanks to our great presenters: Dr. Sherman, Dr. Umana, Dr. Ojo, Dr. Sudhakaran, Dr. Nkanga, Dr. Liyanage, Dr. Patchett , Dr. Eta , and Craig LeQuatte, RpH.

One of the top highlights of this year's trip was the dedication and ribbon-cutting for the new surgical center that has been built over the last two years. The advance team went in and received our second 40 foot medical container in 12 months and, with help from our engineering team, brought the 165 KW generator plant online, completed wiring and construction, and then built and created the medical supply storage system for the entire medical facility. On Sunday, March 16, we held a grand dedication service with Bishop John G. Innis, LAC-UMC, officiating alongside Margibi Area Governor John Buway, who officially declared the Medical-Surgical Center and our 2014 Outreach officially open.

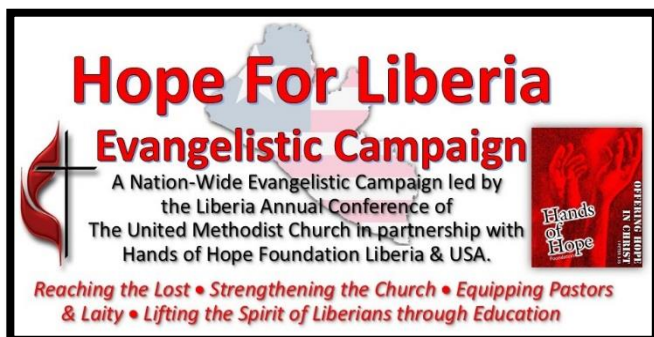
Mother Irene Innis cut the ribbon on the new facility, and Dr. Ukeme Umana hosted tours to our special guests while the worship team and deaconesses sang and danced before the Lord in praise. The day was completed with a special West African BBQ Heroes feast, featuring a whole hog and whole goat roast on our new Weala BBQ Heroes grill with all of the traditional fixings and a few other special West African treats. "It was a feast, the



likes of which have never been experienced in Weala," remarked ceremony leaders Bishop Innis and Governor Buway. The HOH Team enjoyed seeing the joy on the faces of children, the smiles on the faces of adults, and the feelings of hope that sprang forth from every person that shared in the service. A special thanks to Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, Memphis Crosslink, Southern Illinois Healthcare, Marion Eye Center, and all the various medical supply donors that blessed Hands of Hope with gifts of medical supplies and resources to make this day possible. We also could not have enjoyed such an outreach without the many saints of God that helped us raise the financial resources for this year's outreach. Your gifts made our pharmacy, container shipment, medical team, and educational support, engineering and evangelism teams effective. These gifts provided life-saving tools that were used during the mission. We were able to leave plenty of medicines to support the Medical Center's operations in the months to come. And we were even able to provide some special medical supplies and gifts to the various institutions that gave us such gracious support and were represented during the outreach. We celebrate that at the end of our outreach medical supplies and equipment were shared with all of our partnering hospitals and medical clinics. A place that was once devastated with war is now experiencing a harvest, the result of years of seeding the heavens with prayers of hope.

**(4) Hope for Liberia 2015 Evangelism Campaign Advance Planning & Training.** The Hands of Hope Foundation will partner with the United Methodist Church of Liberia to hold a national evangelism

campaign in 2015. The macro-crusades will be held during the month of March in the four largest cities in Liberia - Monrovia, Buchanan, Kakatah, and Gbarnga. The micro-crusades will take place in November and December impacting local communities all across the nation. Hands of Hope is honored to be a part of such a large project, and is grateful to Bishop Innis and the entire Liberian Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for inviting us to be a part of this most important outreach event.



By the grace of God and in the spirit of 1 Peter 3:15 and Jeremiah 29:11, the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, LAC/UMC, in partnership with Hands of Hope, Illinois, USA has envisioned plans for a nation-wide evangelistic campaign to the nation and people of Liberia. In 2016, Bishop John G. Innis retires as the Bishop of the Liberia Area. His heart has been for the growth and development of the Liberian people and the Church of Jesus Christ. The Hands of Hope Foundation believes his leadership and legacy could be honored in 2015 by partnering with the LAC-UMC in leading the largest National Evangelistic Campaign across all of Liberia. Hands of Hope Foundation, under the leadership of Dr. Benitone will partner in providing logistics, training and support for *The Hope for Liberia Evangelistic Campaign* with Bishop John G. Innis and the Liberian Annual Conference of the UMC in 2015 and beyond.

**Phase 1 (Macro-Crusades):** Will take place in March, 2015, and feature four macro-crusades in the soccer stadiums of the four largest cities in Liberia - Monrovia, Buchanan, Kakata, and Gbarnga.

**Phase 2 (Micro-Crusades):** Will take place in November-December, 2015 in over 770 communities that represent communities of faith connected to the Liberian United Methodist Church across all of its 21 Districts that make up the entire Republic of Liberia. Through the micro-crusades the Gospel will impact the entire nation of Liberia for Jesus Christ.

This initiative is part of the Church’s commitment to contributing to the holistic growth and development of post-civil war Liberia through its proclamation of the life transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Liberia. This campaign will focus on 4 goals:

1. **Reaching the Lost-** Preaching evangelistic messages, *“Offering Hope in Christ”* giving every person an opportunity to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.
2. **Strengthening the Church-** Facilitating the growth of every local church and preaching point to expand its outreach in each respective community across Liberia for Jesus Christ.
3. **Equipping Pastors and Laity-** Equipping and empowering pastors & church leaders to be facilitators of Evangelism and Discipleship in their parishes by giving them a method and model for doing evangelism that impacts their local communities, establishes new churches and strengthens their witness for Jesus Christ
4. **Lifting the Spirit of Liberians through Education-** Lifting the Spirit of Liberians toward a deeper commitment to educate the mind. Education brings us out of darkness and into the light. We believe the LAC-UMC’s extremely strong lower, secondary, and higher institutions of learning will help bring the light of education across Liberia.

Hands of Hope Foundation is honored and blessed to be a part of such a large project and is grateful to Bishop John G. Innis and the entire Liberian Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for inviting us to partner with them in this unique nation-wide evangelistic campaign, which will undoubtedly be the largest in modern times in all of West Africa.



During the Advance team's time, Dr. Benitone, HOH Executive Director, held a series of meetings, along with a special Hope for Liberia Training Retreat, with the Cabinet of the LAC-UMC, including the 21 District Superintendents and their district chairs of evangelism and other key conference leaders. Bishop Innis came in to cast the vision for the *Hope for Liberia Evangelistic Campaign*. Then Pastor Troy, along with team member, Rev. Andy Johnson, and *Hope for Liberia* task force leaders, Rev. Paye C. Mondolo and Dr. Jerry Kulah, held a 3 day retreat where the *Hope for Liberia* plans and leaders training material were covered. It was a spiritually rich time.



The event covered all the basics that each pastor throughout the Liberia Annual Conference will be trained in between now and March, 2015. The retreat covered the campaign basics, pre-baptismal training, spiritual warfare, the plan of salvation, and new believers' training. These 21 District Superintendents, accompanied by their corresponding district chairs of evangelism, will be responsible for training their district leaders and preaching point pastors by the end of 2014. At the *Hope for Liberia* events the conference pastors serve as the ministry leaders for the Macro Crusades and will then train their respective local church leaders in the summer of 2015, where they will function as the ministry leaders for the local micro-crusades that will take place in November and December 2015 throughout the over 770 preaching stations that span the nation of Liberia. This retreat was the first wave of training events. Over the next year, the entire conference leadership will be trained by these leaders with the same campaign resources. There is a complete campaign overview, and even copies of the resources being used, available for download at our website ([www.hohfoundation.org](http://www.hohfoundation.org)) on the Hope for Liberia page.

Some special highlights during the trip were a closing BBQ at Liberian Senator Oscar P. Cooper's home, along with Margibi Governor, John Buway. The entire team was so honored to celebrate a great week of partnership and ministry in the home of the senator. Senator Cooper and Governor Buway shared in a pre-meal speech their thanks to the Hands of Hope Foundation for their work, and also pledged to continue their support for future outreaches in the area of transportation, which was such a blessing this year. They also told us to look forward to the completion of their new guest house before our 2015 trip. They also made two commitments: First, they shared their commitment to helping gain Liberian Government funds to support a Surgical Institute and Teaching Theatre at Weala, along with the addition of a Recovery and Treatment Ward. Second, the gift of 1500 acres of tribal land was pledged, so that Hands of Hope Foundation can do an agricultural training project. The project would allow us to train our students in the agricultural work of raising rubber trees, palm oil and





pineapples. The farm plot would provide jobs for those connected and would also potentially generate enough capital in 3-5 years to provide on-going funding for Hands of Hope National team, future church development, and educational and medical operations projects. Please join us in believing that these pledges will become a reality. Our Executive Director, who also serves as a Margibi Paramount Chief of Hope, received a delegation including the Paramount, Clan, and Village Chiefs from the Margibi area to the grounds. We hosted them for a grounds tour. They received medical examinations and treatment from our medical team, received a briefing on the work of Hands of Hope in their chiefdoms and were treated to a special meal in their honor. During our stay, Bishop and Mother Innis took Dr. Benitone, HOH Executive Director and Rev.



Mondolo, DS and National Director, to meet the President of the Republic of Liberia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. She shared her appreciation for the great work Hands of Hope is doing with the people of the Margibi region, and we had the opportunity to invite her to join us as a keynote speaker on the topic of *Lifting the Spirit of Liberia through Educating the Mind*, in the upcoming March, 2015, *Hope for Liberia Evangelism Campaign*.

Finally, the team normally departs and the outreach is done, but this year was different. During the team's work-- the Guinea originating Ebola virus crossed the border in the Lofa region and headed toward the Margibi area of Liberia. Even as we were leaving, the virus was touching our area, and Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia was included in the national response effort, sending Rev. Mondolo into meetings on our behalf, providing medical supplies to the highly infected regions, and working with another NGO in setting up our own special Ebola response isolation clinic between Weala and Kakata. During this time the Liberian Health and Welfare Ministry visited the newly dedicated Medical-Surgical Center and upgraded our status to being a Regional Health Center, moving all of the vaccination equipment and supplies for the upper Margibi County area to the Weala Health Center. You can learn more about Hands of Hope Foundation's Ebola Response initiative and how you can support us at [www.hohfoundation.org](http://www.hohfoundation.org). We are working to raise an additional \$10-15,000 to fund this special clinic and provide additional medical support and supplies during this crisis.

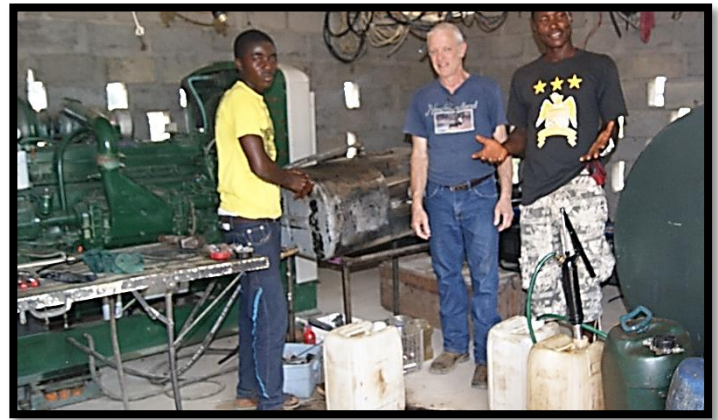


**WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?:** Every year we list here the major projects for our future, and in the last 6 years almost all have been replaced with new ones as the Lord has provided for previous dreams and visions. The Bible says, *"Where there is no vision the people perish."* We are simply providing vision and inviting you to partner with us in expanding our work in the areas of 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. **2015 Hope for Liberia Evangelistic Campaign-** *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.*
2. **New Church Facilities at Kpakoloyah and Jennietta-** *The cost of purchasing land and 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. We praise God that last year we reported Totota in this list and, since then, we received support from a Hands of Hope Foundation donor and hope to begin construction after the rainy season late this year. 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 its first 4 years.*

3. **Complete the Church at Bong Mines-** *Over the last few years we have built 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 that has been built in the district to this day, but it remains unfinished. 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.*
4. **Addition of a Surgical Institute and Teaching Theatre at Weala with additional surgical storage and sterilization space, along with the addition of a Recovery and Treatment Ward designed to house male, female, and pediatric patients-** *We are currently working with our 2014 team members, under the direction of Dr. Sudhakaran, to design these additions. We hope to get cost estimates and designs completed very soon. We have received a commitment by Liberian Senator from Margibi Country, Oscar P. Cooper, to seek appropriations support to aid us in completing this work. The center would become a teaching point for training general and eye surgical institute for training doctors in minimal invasive and resource techniques, along with eye surgical procedures. Early estimates place this project near \$100,000, and would bring the Weala Medical-Surgical Center to a full regional-teaching hospital status. It would also allow it to be a great tool in facilitating a new rural resident training program, being funded by the World Bank and Liberian Health and Welfare Ministry.*
5. **Strengthening our monthly clinic operations support-** *We also provide monthly support to a staff team of five, which is required by the Liberian Medical and Dental Association to operate a health center. This includes a doctor, head nurse, nurse assistant, midwife, midwife assistant, and custodian. We are working to raise funding to a goal of \$2,500-\$3,000 per month, which will allow us to stabilize the medical-surgical center staff and provide medicines needed to have the health center working at peak level.*
6. **2014-2015 Hope Scholar & John Wesley Students-** *We are also looking to not only continue our support to the current 22 direct sponsored Hope Scholars, but obtain direct funding for 4 more students: two current students (Hymiah Taylor- Pastor 2012-13 & Priscilla Mondolo- Law 2013-14) and two new candidates for the upcoming 2014-15 year (Amah Jonah & Othello Johnson, both in the area of Agriculture). We are also believing God for the provision and sponsors to grow our John Wesley K-12 Sponsorship to over 75 students by fall, 2014.*
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. **National Hope Scholars for the March, 2015, Hope for Liberia Evangelism Crusades.** *Hands of Hope plans on awarding one boy and one girl a National Hope Scholarships at each of the 4 Crusade sites- for a total of 8. The boys' National Hope Scholarships will be given, in honor of Bishop John G. Innis, and the girls' National Hope Scholarship will be given honor of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, for a four year education as an educator, at each site. We are looking for education minded donors to fund these 8 Hope Scholarships, which will run approximately \$1600 each for 4 years.*
9. **Development of the Hands of Hope Foundation Agricultural Training Center.** *Upon receipt of the 1,500 acres of land pledged by Senator Cooper and Governor Buway, we will need to raise \$100,000 to facilitate the planting, which will allow us to generate some \$2 million dollars in gross revenue and around \$750,000 annually to fund the work of Hands of Hope by year 3-4. We believe this gift of land and this project will help make the Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia project both a sustainable and reproducible model for years to come. We are also in discussion with the political leaders of Bong County for a similar land grant. As you can see, God is opening some incredible doors for Hands of Hope Foundation.*
10. **Equip & Set-up New Clinic in Boway , Bong County, Rev. Mondolo's home town.** *We hope to work toward equipping and resourcing a new clinic here. We have a person designated to go to nursing school and afterward, work at this clinic. While this person completes the necessary schooling, we hope to provide a temporary placement for a Hope Scholar who has finished the nursing program. The Boway community is the hometown to not only Rev. Mondolo, but also Dr. Jerry Kulah (Hope for Liberia National Taskforce Leader) and the previous Bishop, who is their uncle Bishop Kulah. This is a small village many, many miles from any major road or village. There are 15 other neighboring villages in this area, all without medical care. This clinic would provide desperately needed medical care to nearly 15,000 people.*

I want to thank our Advance Teams for the incredible work and sacrifice they and their families made for them to join us. These teams landed on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to get things ready before our main team arrived on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The engineering team, led by Daniel Cook, Steve McKeown, and Bruce Rohrer, made the mechanical and electrical systems operational. The medical advance team, led by Elizabeth Parks (Clinical Logistics Coordinator) got all of the medical-surgical-clinic facilities, along with their corresponding supply, sterilization and operating rooms, ready for service. This team worked tirelessly to make sure that when our main team arrived the facility was ready to touch the hundreds we would serve and the thousands that will be served in the years to come.



The entire Hands of Hope Outreach Team is 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 35 team members from the United States and 10 from our friends with the Nigerian based Pro Health International. Our 45-person team was augmented by at least another 40-50 locals that helped as doctors, nurses, security, coordinators, interpreters, cooks,

caregivers, drivers, and more. 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 a nation that God loves so much---The Republic of Liberia.

The Hands of Hope Foundation is a non-for-profit 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt foundation in Illinois, and Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia is registered as an NGO "Non-Governmental Organization" in the Republic of Liberia. You can learn more about our foundation from our website at [www.hohfoundation.org](http://www.hohfoundation.org). If you have further questions or would like additional information about joining us for an outreach or supporting one of our future projects listed above, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone. Dr. Benitone can be reached at email: [Troy@hohfoundation.org](mailto:Troy@hohfoundation.org)

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

*Pastor Troy*

**PS- You can learn more about HOH, download various PDFs and VIDEO reports about this trip and more on our website at [www.hohfoundation.org](http://www.hohfoundation.org).**

## Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia 2014 Team listing & Groupings (\*advance team members)

1. Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone\*, *Exec. Director*
2. Dr. Jeffrey D. Parks\*, *HOH Medical Director*
3. Dr. Ukeme I.E. Umana, *HOH Chief of Surgery*
4. Rev. Andrew T. Johnson\*, *HOH Team Leader*
5. Valerie K. Fry, *HOH Education Director*
6. Dr. Deepu Sudhakaran, *General Surgery*
7. Dr. Udaya K. Liyanage, *General Surgery*
8. Dr. Barbara J. Patchett, *RN, HOH Post-Op Director*
9. Jerry W. Johnson, *HOH Clinic Director*
10. Craig A. LeQuatte, *RPh, HOH Chief Pharmacist*
11. Steven L. Howerton\*, *HOH Lab Guy*
12. Elizabeth Parks\*, *PA-C, HOH Medical Logistics*
13. Christina Umana\*, *RN/LPC & Christian Counselor*
14. Mika Nelson, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
15. Kristin Atchinson, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
16. Lindsay Wietting, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
17. Tomoko Yamauchi, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
18. Erica Whitley, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
19. Johnna Barter, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
20. Kathryn Wyant, *RN, Clinic Nurse*
21. Terry Shafer, *Ultra Sound Tech*
22. Darla McKeown\*, *Physical Therapist*
23. Chris Thele, *OR Tech*
24. Donna Conover, *OR Tech*
25. Caleb W. Benitone, *Pharm Tech*
26. Cindy Hardin, *Certified Ophthalmology Tech*
27. Daniel A. Cook\*, *HOH Chief Engineer*
28. Rev. Steve M. McKeown\*, *Engineer & Security*
29. Bruce W. Rohrer\*, *HOH Engineering Team*
30. Catherine Hardland, *HOH Team Member*
31. H. Gene Apel, *HOH Team Member*
32. Rev. Dr. Roger S. Ross, *HOH Team Member*
33. Jane M. Ross, *HOH Team Member*
34. Mary L. Chevalier, *HOH Team Evangelist*
35. Susan Nelson, *HOH Logistics/Ed. Team*

### PRO-HEALTH INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL TEAM CREDENTIAL (NIGERIAN TEAM)

1. Dr. Ojo Emmanuel Olorundare, *PHI Team Leader/General Surgeon*
2. Dr. Kayode Omishogbon, *Gen. Surgery*
3. Dr. Dennis Nkanga, *Ophthalmologist*
4. Dr. Elizabeth Nkanga, *Ophthalmologist*
5. Dr. Ambrose Obhade\*, *Dentistry*
6. Dr. Livinus Martins, *Optometrist*
7. Dr. Otu Etta, *Anesthesiologist*
8. Dr. Adeola Adeleye, *Medical Doctor*
9. Luke Gaji, *Nurse Anesthetist*
10. Isa Musa, *Post-Op Nurse*



**We give thanks to the Lord God Almighty and for all His Saints around the world that made the 2014 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 2014 LIBERIA MISSION TEAM**

*Offering Hope in Christ! - 1 Peter 3:1*