

The Providence Pilgrim.

VOLUME 2, NO. 2 A journal concerning Liberians in the United States and abroad SUMMER 2006

www.providencepilgrim.org



Captain's Corner Nathaniel Koliyah

In the past, I imagined little of the richness of the initiatives of RUF's Love in Action to tutor and mentor Liberian children at Trinity. As time advances, the importance and value of the undertakings of these Christian students is unfolding. Perhaps, due to my limitation at the time, my imagination could not quite grasp the impact of what these students were doing. Nevertheless, I remained fascinated.

Being a seminarian, I am currently being introduced to new theological materials that are shaping my understanding of ideal Christian actions. A current textbook which has helped me to capture the essence of this tutorial program is *One-Anothering* by Simon Schrock. In *One-Anothering*, Schrock labors to teach the classic Christian community that "Believers are the team for God. Urge them on." Based on Schrock's teachings here, I have come to learn that we Christians must labor to demonstrate our love for one another. We 'one-another' by "comforting one another in a hurting world," "bringing healing by kindness to one another," "helping carry the one another's load," "urging one another upward," etc. It appears to me that Love in Action exemplifies the spirit of Simon Schrock's *One-Anothering*. Pastor Robert Cox accurately captured the essence of Love in Action's activities when he once remarked, "Seeing college students from China, Korea, Singapore, and the US tutoring and mentoring children from far away Liberia is truly reflective of a real Christian community."

In his lectures on "Developing Christian Character," Dr. R.C. Sproul quotes John Hooper: "Love of man necessarily arises out of the love of God. The love of the creature is but the corollary to the love of the Creator. This is what the Christian finds, as a matter of fact. His

heart is overcharged with love to God. It finds its way out in love to man. His direct service of God cannot, in the nature of things, go very far. He worships God publicly in His house. He glorifies Him secretly in the constant outpourings of his heart. He gives of his substance to the maintenance of every cause, which is God's cause. But here it ends. God is so mighty, so self-contained, that with all our puny efforts, much cannot be done to serve Him. So the Christian looks about to see how he is to show his love for God. He soon finds the way. Clearly, it must be by love for his fellow-men."



In May, Love in Action and the Liberian Outreach Ministry successfully concluded three years of tutoring and mentoring. Their yearly program began in September, 2005, with a picnic at the Colt State Park in Bristol. At the picnic, parents and leaders of the Liberian Outreach Ministry welcomed Love in Action. The parents used the picnic to thank Love in Action for its previous year of helping students as well as to wish Love in Action well for its upcoming mentoring and tutoring season. Tutorials began immediately thereafter. This year was particularly blessed. The number of mentors and students comfortably increased. Most importantly, Love in Action worked in our new church building instead of in public libraries. With several classrooms, Trinity affords one-on-one mentor-pupil interactions with no distraction. Also, the educational

tools in classrooms enabled Love in Action tutors to teach more effectively. This year's program ended on May 21, with the mentors hosting a party for their students at our church. On May 27, the parents and the Liberian Outreach Ministry hosted a dinner to honor Love in Action graduates and their colleagues. The theme at the dinner was "Graduate's Remorse." During remarks, graduates positively reflected on their years of helping to mold children, our future. Nevertheless, the reality of leaving the children they have bonded with for years was particularly difficult. For academic 2006-2007, Love in Action and the Liberian Outreach Ministry will welcome mentors from Jamaica, Ghana, Liberia, China, Korea, and the U. S.

May our Lord bless them.



Backyard Bible Club

The Liberian Outreach Ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church and about a dozen volunteers, broke new ground this year introducing the "Backyard Bible Club" to minister mainly to the children of the Liberian community. The Backyard Bible Club is similar to vacation Bible school. It was held at the joint backyard of the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Koliyah and Miss Edith Paye in South Providence. The weeklong event ran from June 30th through August 4, 9am to 12 noon daily.

The Backyard Bible Club exceeded every expectation. It initially targeted 25-30 children, K-5th grades. Surprisingly, the daily attendance averaged between 45-50 children ranging between K-9th grades.

The theme this summer was "Lamb of God". The children learned about Jesus, who is the only shepherd who was also a lamb.



Pastor Rob & Lamb, left
Below- Singing

Each day began with Pastor Cox teaching large group assembly about one of the shepherds that God sent to lead his people. The students also memorized the 23rd Psalm as a central text. The students were then divided in four classes and the classes rotated between stations: Bible story, Gospel Music, Arts and Crafts, Refreshments & Recreation/Sports. At the end of the day the children assembled with Pastor Cox for the day's review and dismissal.



As the events were progressing, parents were consistently contacted for their assessments of the events. The feedback was very encouraging. Parents were particularly impressed about their children receiving brand new Bibles. Parents also expressed satisfaction about the Bible verses their children carried home daily along with arts and crafts.

For the children, they were excited about the new songs they were being taught, their hands-on arts and crafts, refreshments provided by Edith and Trinity Presbyterian Church, and the new games they learned. Overall, the introduction of the Backyard Bible Study Club was a smashing success.

The event was such a success that a week of Bible Clubs wasn't enough for some of the children who continued to come back the next week to the Koliyah's and Paye's duplex to see if we were doing more.

Nathaniel Koliyah

Photos: *Shawn Hare*



Presbyterian Church in America Reaches out to Africa



The Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) foreign missions agency, Mission to the World (MTW) is busy developing a comprehensive outreach to the continent of Africa.

One of the main figures in this outreach is Jeff Marlowe, head of the PCA's Enterprise program. Enterprise is the PCA's mission program to reach out to Islamic populations in the United States, Europe, and in Islamic countries. Rev. Marlowe, pioneer of MTW's church development work in Dakar, Senegal, has had much experience and success in this field of missions. In this position Marlowe oversees the work in several regions of Africa.

In North Africa a regional director has been working with a network of indigenous pastors from a large closed Islamic country. He reports that there appears to be a revival among one people group with thousands of new believers. Enterprise has been asked to help think through theological training to help train new pastors.

Marlowe reports that a year ago he met with a dynamic pastor from Togo in West Africa. He had done his seminary training at Reformed Seminary in Orlando, Florida. This pastor directs a local mission that is at work in three West African countries that helps to train 24 indigenous pastors, most of whom are reaching Muslims. Enterprise has since begun working on a process to start partnering with this mission and helping to train national pastors in theological

studies and church planting, their greatest needs.

In one capital city, which has become a hub for French speaking West Africa, a theological training center has been created to meet the needs of training new workers. Eventually this will be a training center for all of French speaking West Africa. Jeff reports that his plans include going there to teach during this next year.

Although much of the PCA's work in Africa is being done through Enterprise in Islamic areas, other countries are being touched by MTW's work. In Zambia and South Africa, in the southern part of the continent, personnel are teaching in the theological seminaries of existing denominations. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia there are missionaries on site working as church planters and setting up a HIV/Aids clinic.

Many efforts are being done through cooperative agreements with existing churches, denominations and indigenous missions groups. The greatest impact is made when MTW can come along side an indigenous agency and help provide training and administrative assistance. As has been shown in so many instances, evangelism happens faster when workers from the local area carry it out.

The Presbyterian Church in America is a relatively young denomination. As it grows in numbers and resources its impact in Africa will increase. In the future its presences will most likely be seen in a growing number of countries world wide, especially in leadership training, church planting, and in the areas of medical and educational development. *Harry Wilson*



www.providencepilgrim.org and Providence Pilgrim are publications of the Liberian Outreach Team of Trinity Presbyterian Church, PCA.

**Captain Nathaniel Koliyah
Outreach Team- Sam Clark, Rob Cox,
Christic Marblow, Gabriel Wehjala**