



INTENTIONAL GRATITUDE

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" Philippians 1:3-5



Occasionally I walk into a room searching for something, only to forget what it is once I arrive. Perhaps if it were really important, I'd remember – or maybe it's just an aspect of aging I can't avoid. Regardless of my excuse, the fact is that some things should not be forgotten.

Gratitude is one of them.

Most Liberians I know are largely thankful. When greeted and asked how someone is doing, the common reply is, "Thank God" – an all-encompassing phrase that reflects both gratitude for life and a

sense of hope amongst the daily challenges. In our last *Gbarnga Mission News*, I shared about a young woman suffering from sores all over her body. Just weeks ago, when I was in Liberia, she appeared on the GLTC campus looking like a new woman, grinning widely, and absent of any painful sores. Her sole purpose for visiting was to say "Thank you." This was intentional gratitude – going out of her way to express thankfulness. Her physical body was healed; passersby were no longer fearfully evading her; and her spirit was renewed as she became part of the community again. I was so appreciative of her visit.

I've been thinking a lot about each of you lately – our generous, faithful, prayerful partners in mission. I feel much the way St. Paul did when writing to the congregation in Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you." I need to be more intentional about the remembering part because God is using you and me to change lives through Gbarnga Mission – and

I'm so thankful for that. Through your gifts we say, "Yes, we can help with treatments for your sores... Yes, we will install a handpump well so there's safe drinking water... Yes, this Bible is for you to learn about God's love and redemption." Your gifts enable this list of "Yes" statements to be long.

And before I walk into another room and forget, I want to again say "Thank you!"

"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel" as I bring a message of gratitude from our brothers and sisters in Liberia. I pray that your generosity will continue as we share God's love through Christ-centered education, community development, economic opportunity, and health initiatives in Liberia.

Remembering to thank God for you,

Jon Rossman
President & CEO

MAKE AN ENDURING IMPACT IN LIBERIA

Make an enduring impact on our community in Liberia. Our **Liberia Legacy of Hope Endowment Fund**

offers the opportunity to share both your financial estate and your love for Jesus in one generous gift. Our goal over the next 10 years is to raise \$1 million then draw from investment earnings while leaving the principal to continue growing.

Make plans now to leave your **Liberia Legacy of Hope** through your will, trust, insurance, or retirement plan.



For detailed information, please contact Doug Larson at: legacygiving@gbarngamission.org

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SUPPORTS TAILORING CLASS

We thank the New England Branch of Orphan Grain Train (OGT) for their continued generosity in supporting our new tailoring vocational class. Six treadle sewing machines along with bolts of fabric and boxes of supplies have been shipped to our school. There are currently 18 adults from the surrounding villages working towards completion of this 2-year program. ❖



Jon Rossman (left) receiving treadle sewing machines and supplies from Paul and Linda Arbesman of Orphan Grain Train for shipment to Liberia.



Professional tailor and GLTC teacher, Alphonso Kerkulah (right), using donated supplies to demonstrate pattern making.



Adult vocational students using sewing machines and fabric donated by Orphan Grain Train.

HARVESTING BEGINS AT THE GLTC FARM

Under the leadership of our new farm manager, Andy Konah, the agriculture initiative is beginning to bear fruit — well, actually some fruit and some vegetables. Andy and his team of eight workers have been diligently digging, planting, weeding, composting, and irrigating peppers, cucumbers, cabbage and more. Dozens of orange, banana, plantain, apple, cashew, and almond trees are planted across the campus. In addition to the prospect of plentiful harvests, the farm is providing steady jobs for members of the Deanville community.

Please pray for fertile soil, no invasive pests, and successful harvests to bring food security and income to GLTC. ❖



Andy overlooking the new cabbage patch (above).

Workers (right) harvest massive "Irish potatoes". Some will be sold and others will become part of school lunch.

Our farmers nurture hundreds of seedlings (far right).





SMALL CHURCH — BIG IMPACT

Community Church of Sandwich (CCS) is a small-town congregation in central New Hampshire with a big heart for missions. After learning about Gbarnga Mission’s work in Liberia, a major drive began to enlist sponsors for GLTC students. Over the course of a few weeks, a total of 15 students are now sponsored. Thank you CCS for all you’re doing to serve these children and share God’s love! ❖



WE’RE TOP-RATED

Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project has been named a “2022 Top-Rated Nonprofit” by GreatNonprofits, a leading website for community recommendations of charities and nonprofits. The Top-Rated Nonprofit Award is based on the rating and number of reviews that Gbarnga Mission received from volunteers, donors and aid recipients. *“Gbarnga Mission is a great example of a nonprofit*



making a real difference in their community,” said Perla Ni, CEO of GreatNonprofits, *“Their award is well-deserved recognition not only of their work, but the tremendous support they receive, as shown by the many outstanding reviews they have received from people who have direct experience working with Gbarnga Mission.”*

We thank all of you who value our work, shared a review, and helped give our mission more beneficial exposure. ❖

STAFF PROFILE | NANCY BANDA, BAKING VOCATIONAL TEACHER

Nancy Banda is a strong, quiet, respectful woman who doesn’t like being alone. Nancy, or “Big Mama” as she likes to be called by our younger students, teaches baking at GLTC. Like many Liberians her age, she has lived a life of both hardship and resilience spanning civil wars and times of peace. Nancy and her husband had ten children together, three of whom died during the war. She and her family escaped to Ivory Coast during part of the war. She honed her baking skills there, even teaching other refugee women.

Shortly after the war, Nancy’s husband died in an accident, leaving her with 7 children to raise. This is when she pursued baking in earnest because she says, *“You can earn fast money this way.”* She began baking and decorating wedding and birthday cakes then expanded into catering and offering cooking workshops. She loves baking and teaching because *“everybody’s heart is in the kitchen.”*

In the morning session at GLTC, our 4th and 5th graders learn to make a variety of breads including banana bread, cornbread, and

shortbread. In the afternoon, about 35 adults learn from her extensive repertoire drawn from memory. A new recipe book is being created from her

vast knowledge. Beyond cooking, students are taught

catering skills such as table setting, food service techniques, and venue decorating.

Nancy asked that we share with all of you her favorite Bible verse (John 3:16) along with her heartfelt gratitude to the many supporters in America. She said, *“Thank you. Thank you especially for the support of women and children”* through this vocational training program.

GLTC is blessed to have such a talented, resilient, and caring Christian woman working with us. Thank you, “Big Mama!” ❖

“Thank you especially for the support of women and children”



PRAYERS & THANKSGIVING

- For Charles Yeebahn and Emmet Anderson as they give their time as Community Health Advocates in Deanville.
- Thanksgiving for Andy Konah and harvests from the GLTC agriculture initiative.
- For our new poultry farm manager, Tryphina Nyan, as she uses her expertise to help revitalize our lagging egg business.
- For women and girls to have equal educational opportunity.

PROJECT SUPPORT NEEDED

- Stipend and supplies for Community Health Advocates: \$200
- Missionary flight and travel expenses: \$2,200
- Agricultural support (seeds, tools): \$500
- Child sponsorships: \$30/month or \$360/year

RISING FOOD PRICES

International uncertainty and local capacity issues have caused volatility in the price of rice and other staple Liberian foods. The cost for a 25kg bag of rice more than doubled recently and local markets were completely out of stock causing anxiety among many families — and our school — over how to afford this increasing financial burden.

With a one-time contribution you can help offset the rising cost of feeding nearly 200 students and staff each day at GLTC. Give the gift of nutritious meals to our school. Thank you! ❖

Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit (EIN # 46-5637972).

Gbarnga Mission is constructing and staffing the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center (GLTC). Our mission is to share God's love as we facilitate Christ-centered education, community development, economic opportunity, and health initiatives in rural Liberia.



Gbarnga Mission

Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project, Inc.
445 Elmwood Avenue
Providence RI 02907

Sharing God's love through Christ-centered education in Liberia

Our school is growing — Sponsor A Child today !

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Yes, I'd like to sponsor a child for \$30 per month (\$360 per year).

I prefer to give a one-time gift of:

\$30 \$360 Other \$ _____

Contribute by check or **sign up online** at www.gbarngamission.org and click "**Sponsor A Child**".



Mail to:

Thanks!

Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project, Inc.
445 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907