



BEING TRANSFORMED

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” Romans 12:2

During our last trip to Liberia, 8th grade students were introduced to a simple essay format. Using our shared belief that the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center (GLTC) is a school like no other, students worked independently and as a group to develop their ideas into paragraphs. At right is the essay written by Moses Pewee on how he views his school.

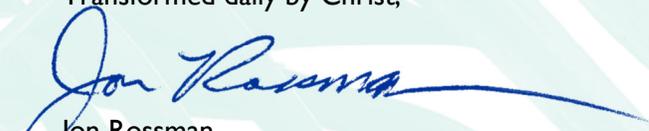
I met Moses many years ago when he was a skinny 10-year-old boy estranged from his biological parents, surviving day-to-day living with his elderly grandparents in a dark mud block home, drinking water from the swamp, and longing to attend school. This essay brings me such joy and hope because his description of GLTC as transformative is embodied in the changes I've witnessed in his own life.

Voted class president last year, Moses is a leader and role model among his peers. He is a trained acolyte at the local Lutheran preaching point and dreams of becoming a pastor. This school and the church are central to his daily life and he can often be found volunteering at both.

His story is personal. Our ministry is personal. We have hundreds of other students like Moses at GLTC who are not simply learning to formulate coherent paragraphs, they're developing confidence and faith as children who know God's life-changing love — and experience it every day on our campus.

Thank you for sharing yourself through financial gifts, material donations, prayers, and personal correspondences with sponsored students. You are integral partners with us in this transformative mission in Liberia.

Transformed daily by Christ,


Jon Rossman
President/CEO

“Christian education teaches me how to live my life“



10-year-old Moses

GLTC is a Transformative Institution

By Moses Pewee, Grade 8

GLTC is a transformative institution in Gbarnga, Liberia. GLTC provides a quality education. In addition, students and adults can receive vocational training on campus. Finally, it provides medical care for students, teachers and adults. GLTC is like no other school.

Of course, education is the most important function of any school and GLTC excels. One of the most important things is that we have qualified teachers who

encourage us to learn. We also have an organized library with many good research books. Our school gives meals to their students so we can be healthy and focus in class. This shows that education at GLTC is better than other

schools in Bong County, Liberia.

Apart from academic education, GLTC offers vocational training. One example is Home Economics where you learn how to cook different types of food and



8th Grade Moses

bake different types of bread. You also learn how to manage your kitchen and home. Another course is Soapmaking. In Soapmaking we learn to make different types of soap like rock soap and medical soap. The vocational school also has Tailoring where students learn how to sew different types of clothes for both males and

females. This training will help change people's lives.

The medical care at GLTC is awesome. Medical care provides students with first aid treatment. It also provides safe drinking water for students, adults and workers in the GLTC community. It keeps staff and students healthy and strong to focus on their lessons and work. The medical care provides a Health Club for the students to learn how to take care of themselves. What surprises me about this is how much medical care helps students.

In the Gbarnga area, there are many schools to choose from, but GLTC is the best. GLTC provides their students with Christian education. The Christian education teaches me how to live my life as a Christian. I want my sponsor to know that I'm grateful for their support. This shows that our sponsors are living by the command Jesus gave to us. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." ❖

EMPOWERING A NEW GENERATION OF TEACHERS

By Sharon Meyer, Education Chair

As morning mist hovers above the bush, the sound of children's voices rises down the rust-red dirt road. Another day school day begins at the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center, and the students are on their way. It is not



Mr. Galawulu, encouraging his English students

government salaries. It is also not a respected profession as teachers are known to require bribe money from students to make up for lack of salary. Finally, many teachers haven't had access to the kind of education that would lead to effective instruction.

At GLTC, we focus on lifting up our staff to be the respected professional educators they truly are. Our teachers are well-trained and fairly paid with additional support provided for medical costs and continued education. GLTC teachers feel pride working in clean classrooms with books and supplies they wouldn't have in other schools. Staff shares concerns, ideas, and requests openly with US board members.

Our Pre-K to Grade 5 teachers benefit from rigorous training at the Rafiki campus in Monrovia where the Rafiki curriculum is implemented. We have three teachers that are R.I.C.E. graduates (Rafiki Institute for Classical Education). Two of them are mentors to staff who are learning the program in real time. As the Education Chair for Gbarnga Mission, I use my 34 years of teaching experience in New York to introduce methods through co-teaching, provide training during

meetings and introduce appropriate educational materials across the grade levels. We are proud of the faculty we have assembled that choose to be committed to our mission.

We are constructing additional buildings to complete our campus facility. These include additional classrooms, a science lab and computer room, offering us space needed to move to a full day schedule. This is one more step in creating an environment that provides an example of the love, safety, care and support that God intends for all of His children.

Just weeks ago, I listened as Mr. Galawulu (our English teacher) led his students in a novel study for A Long Walk to Water about the author's experience during the 1980's civil war in Sudan. Mr. Galawulu shared with our students his own experience fleeing into the bush when soldiers arrived at his village during the Liberian Civil War. By supporting Gbarnga Mission, sponsors are lifting up Liberian students on a Christ-centered campus with a solid education. They are also empowering a new generation of teachers with skills, materials and well-deserved pride in their occupation. ❖

"what happens on this campus is miraculous"

hyperbole to say what happens on this campus is miraculous when compared with other schools and missions.

It may surprise you to know that most Liberians don't consider teaching a good career option as it is considered a "poor man's job." This is due to inconsistent or nonexistent

MALARIA IN LIBERIA — IMPACT ON GLTC STUDENTS AND STAFF

By Roxanne Oellrich, RN, MSN, Health Chair

One of my most frightening experiences at GLTC was when an 11-year-old presented, complaining he felt "hot", unusual given residents are acclimated to Liberia's extreme heat and humidity. His temperature was 102.4° F so I administered Ibuprofen, gave him water and had him lay down, suspecting malaria. A visiting Liberian nurse, who subsequently became our community health nurse, tested for malaria — not surprisingly it was positive. Over the next 2 hours his temperature rose, topping at 107° F — a body temperature all but incompatible with human life. Despite a second dose of Advil, I feared he would inevitably seize. Having seen similar cases, the local nurse knew to administer an IV antibiotic and an esoteric anti-inflammatory which immediately broke the fever. Later that day, the boy returned to the lunch area and resumed playing with classmates. One of several miracles I have witnessed as God works through us at GLTC.

I have seen many infants and children with high fever from malaria. Almost every day at least one student or member of our staff goes home or is absent due this disease.



Roxanne doing health assessments of our GLTC students

"we are very aware of malaria and its potentially devastating impact on our students"

We are fortunate to live in the US where malaria is virtually nonexistent. It's the leading cause of death and illness in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 33% of hospitalized deaths in Liberia. In 2021, an estimated 1.9 million cases were reported within Liberia's population of 5.6 million. Transmission is year-round throughout the country via mosquitos carrying Plasmodium falciparum, manifesting more often during the rainy season and in communities living close to swamps like our Deanville community. Statistics indicate children under five and

pregnant women are at highest risk for severe infection.

Malaria symptoms manifest 10-15 days after a bite, presenting with high fever, severe headaches, vomiting, diarrhea and fatigue. Severe cases often include anemia, jaundice, loss of consciousness and seizure. On our recent trip, a 28-year-old woman with severe neurologic deficits was brought to GLTC seeking a program for disabled people. She was a healthy girl until age 7 when she contracted malaria which developed into malaria encephalopathy. The parasite from the mosquito causes inflammation, small hemorrhages and brain swelling resulting in death in 50% of untreated cases and 20% death even if treated. Survivors, especially children, have long term disabilities including cognitive impairment and epilepsy.

At GLTC, we are very aware of malaria and its potentially devastating impact on our students, staff and the greater community. Consequently, several times a year assemblies are held for students and their families to discuss preventing malaria using insecticide treated nets which we distribute, removal of stagnant water, not bathing in swamp water, and avoiding the swamp from dusk until full daylight.

Jon Rossman and I recently met with the Minister of Health for Bong County who shared that Liberia has begun a National Malaria Control Program to immunize infants starting at 5 months of age against malaria. This program is also addressing pregnant woman by dispensing an anti-malaria medication (Fansidar). Our US team all take anti-malaria medication whenever we visit, but these medications are not indicated for long term prophylaxis for our students and staff.

My hope and prayer is that within the foreseeable future malaria can be eradicated, thus blunting its impacts on so many people not only in Liberia but throughout all of sub-Saharan Africa. Until then, GLTC will encourage vaccination of infants, medication prophylaxis for pregnant women, distribution and use of mosquito nets, all the while educating our students, families and the greater community, while testing for and treating this insidious disease as it occurs. ❖

LEGACY OF HOPE ENDOWMENT FUND | YOU CAN MAKE A LASTING IMPACT IN LIBERIA

March marks the five-year anniversary of the **Liberia Legacy of Hope Endowment Fund**, which was established to provide for the long-term financial needs of the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project. The cash flow from the Endowment Fund will enable more children to afford going to school, and provide funding for health and sanitation initiatives such as clean water wells so children are better able to stay in school. By maintaining a balance in the Fund that achieves a sufficient return on investment to meet the needs of the school, the Fund will provide much needed support in perpetuity. The Fund is managed by a group of professionals who donate their time to support this effort; as a result, there are no overhead costs and all donations go directly to the long-term support of the children in Liberia.

The **Endowment Fund** started in 2021 with an initial set of donations of \$48,000. Since that time, it has grown to over \$200,000. Our goal is to reach \$1 million by 2030, at which point approximately \$50,000 per year of the fund's investment returns can be directed to

help offset capital and operating costs for the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center (GLTC) and the Mission overall.

We still have a significant leap forward to reach our funding goal. To that end, please prayerfully consider helping us make that leap by donating to the **Endowment Fund**.

There are several ways to give, including cash contributions, stock donations, and legacy giving as part of your estate plan through your will, trust, or investment and insurance beneficiary designations. For more information about the Endowment Fund and donation options, please visit www.gbarngamission.org/legacygiving or scan the QR code above.

Further questions can be answered by contacting Doug Larson, the Fund Advisor on Gbarnga Mission's Board, at legacygiving@gbarngamission.org ❖



PRAYERS & THANKSGIVING

- For our new Vice Principal for Instruction, Paul Mitchell, and our new Grade 5 teacher hired for next year, Tony Krai.
- Peace for the family of Liberian missionary Rev. Brian Palmer who died in a motor vehicle accident in Liberia.
- To inspire a missionary willing to serve long-term at GLTC.

PROJECT SUPPORT NEEDED

- Child sponsorships: \$30/month
- Transportation expenses for mission team: \$1,800
- Monthly support for 5 additional agriculture workers: \$300
- Solar panel upgrades for computer lab under construction: \$1,500
- 23-seat mini school bus: \$35,000

CHARITY NAVIGATOR 4-STAR RATING

We're proud to announce Gbarnga Mission's strong financial health and ongoing effectiveness and reliability have helped us earn a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator. This indicates that our organization is using donations effectively based on Charity Navigator's comprehensive criteria that go beyond financials to reflect the work charities actually do. ❖



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



Join the Transformation at GLTC | Sponsor a Child

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

_____ Yes, I'd like to sponsor a second child for an additional \$30 per month.



Sign up Online

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



Mail sponsorships to:

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



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. .” Colossians 2:6-7

2025 Year End Review



We are humbled by the ongoing support from each of you and our many partners. The past year was another “overflowing with thankfulness” as Gbarnga Mission continued working to strengthen faith and live lives rooted in Him in Liberia. Our mission has grown not only in number, but in physical size after purchasing an

additional 12-acres of land adjacent to the former 18-acre campus. Gbarnga Mission maintained its Candid **Platinum Seal of Transparency** on Guidestar. Our strong financial health and ongoing effectiveness and reliability have helped us earn a **Four-Star Rating** from Charity Navigator. We give thanks for new volunteers and Board members to assist with graphics, social media, grant writing, and sponsorships.

We are grateful for God’s guidance as we endeavor to stay “rooted and built up in him.” The charts below summarize our year-end financials and illustrate our commitment to minimizing administrative and fundraising expenses. Again this year, **97% of your gifts** went directly toward changing lives, sharing God’s love in Liberia, equipping our team for the mission, and securing more land for a strong future. Contributions by individuals like you increased over 8% — we are so blessed by such a



strong and diverse group of supporters! Gifts to the **Liberia Legacy of Hope Endowment Fund** continued at a slower pace than the prior year, ending 2025 with a balance of over \$207,000.

We are thankful God continues to bless our

efforts and confidently seek His direction. The following are select 2025 highlights from each of our **Four Areas of Impact**:

EDUCATION

- ◆ Grade 8 class started, continuing our process of adding new grades each year to maintain high literacy levels.
- ◆ 230 students enrolled in eleven classes: Daycare, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1 through 8.
- ◆ One teacher and a Vice Principal for Instruction (VPI) were hired bringing total faculty and administration to 14.
- ◆ Rafiki Christian curriculum expanded through Grade 3.
- ◆ First cohort of 6 beneficiaries of the Michelle Gasbarro Memorial Scholarship were selected.
- ◆ 100 Solar lights donated by Lena Marshall Foundation in the UK help upper-grade students study at night.

- ◆ Nearly 60 adults enrolled in tailoring, soapmaking, and baking Vocational Training.
- ◆ Added solar electricity to Vocational Training building, powering a new embroidery machine in the tailoring class and lighting in all classrooms.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ 4 new handpump wells installed throughout Deanville Community for safe drinking water, bringing total installed to 16.
- ◆ New England branch of Orphan Grain Train continued its support with significant donations of meal packs, classroom chairs, treadle sewing machines, fabric and sewing supplies, backpacks, school supplies, and hygiene kits to benefit the school and village.
- ◆ Support of the local church provided for interior painting and a wooden altar cross at the Deanville Lutheran Preaching Point.



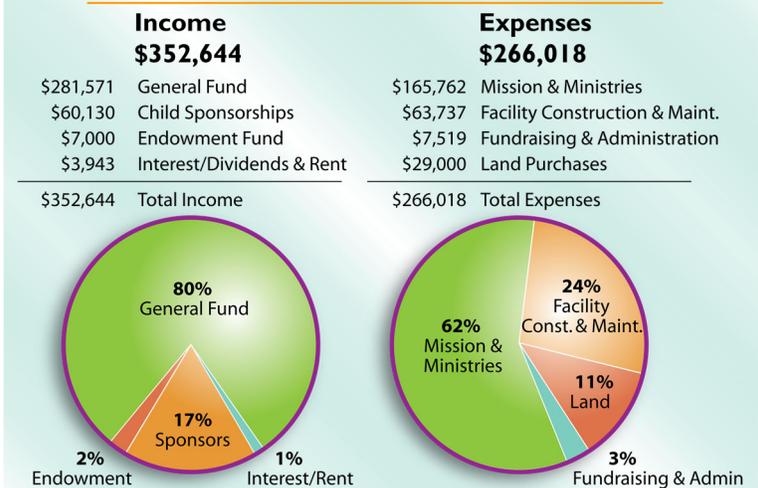
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- ◆ Microloan pilot program benefiting recent tailoring vocational graduates supports women’s income-generating opportunities.
- ◆ After struggling for several years to generate sufficient profit, the poultry farm was determined to be a poor use of donor funds and was shut down. Alternative livestock and income-generating options are being explored.
- ◆ Agriculture efforts expanded significantly on the new 12-acre property with planting of palm, cocoa, banana, plantain, and cashew trees along with pineapple and vegetable crops.

HEALTH INITIATIVES

- ◆ Adolescent Health Club started for our students in Grades 5-8, discussing topics ranging from goal-setting to malaria prevention.
- ◆ Nearly 300 students and staff received health assessments and medical attention, including vision testing and administration of deworming medication.
- ◆ Community Health Advocate and School Health Advocate continue treating health issues while providing referrals and educational programs.

2025 Financial Summary



CLASSROOMS, LABS & OFFICE CONSTRUCTION

The Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center continues to grow and with it, plans for more space. Construction is under way for additions to the first and second school buildings. **Annex 1** will provide a classroom needed to accommodate Grade 9 next academic year, along with six administration offices adjacent to a faculty planning and lunch room. **Annex 2** will incorporate a Science Lab, Computer Lab, and additional bathrooms accessible by the Vocational Training Center students.

The need for a Science Lab became evident as we learned that for many years one of

the weakest subjects for senior high students taking the WAEC national testing for graduation has consistently been science. High test failure rates are primarily due to lack of facilities and resources to effectively teach and demonstrate the important principles through hands-on learning.

Technology is expanding rapidly in Liberia and our students living in this rural area do not have the benefit of consistent WiFi network connections like those in the

capital city of Monrovia, let alone the money to access it. Nevertheless, their future opportunities will require digital literacy — in addition to basic literacy and numeracy — in order to enable them to attend college or gain employment beyond traditional subsistence farming, selling in the market or contract construction work. We began planning for this Computer Lab over the last several years by providing laptops and training to our faculty.

Reserve funds are being used to kickstart construction in order to complete work before the height of the rainy season and in time for the 2026-2027 academic year. Your gift will help us reach our goal of \$125,000 to complete both annexes in time. Give through tax day — April 15, 2026 — and **donations of \$250 or more will be doubled** for even greater impact until the \$10,000 matching funds run out.

Give at www.gbarngamission.org/annex or scan this QR code.



**\$10,000
MATCHING
CHALLENGE**

