

Liberia Champions Report 31
September 2020

As this report is written, both our families have been participating in a renewal retreat and a seminar designed to help us communicate effectively this year with our churches and individual supporters. This process of learning how to most effectively communicate in the midst of the COVID crisis has presented a challenge to me. So far, the one thing that has really stood out to me in the process is the challenge to clearly communicate with people why we do what we do.

Why do we do what we do in Liberia? Why do we do what we do as Evangelical Church Missions? For me, the answer to why we do what we do is because we are called by Jesus to make disciples committed to him in all nations.

The great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) calls us, demands of us, that we make disciples for Jesus by calling them to a public, exclusive relationship of obedience to him. We do that through baptism. Then we are called to teach them to obey everything that Jesus has taught. That is a big order. The “everything” is contained in the Bible, a big book, and is not always easily understood or fleshed out in daily living. For example, what does it mean to love my neighbor as myself in the context of COVID America or Liberia? What attitudes and values do I need to possess in order to love my neighbor as myself in a time of Black Lives Matter and its accompanying social unrest and violence?

The process of exploring, learning, and applying the all things that Jesus has taught us, is the process of making disciples. That is what Jesus calls us to do. Out of our love for Jesus, we gladly embrace this call and seek to make disciples for Jesus in Liberia.

We make disciples in Liberia through our personal example. I can't teach others what I don't practice myself. We make disciples by teaching Biblical truth. Our study group and preaching opportunities are ways that both give content for students and learners to hear and opportunities to challenge them to bring their own values, ways of thinking, and conduct into alignment with those of Jesus.

We believe that making disciples does not apply only to older teens and adults, but that children, too, can become disciples of Jesus. And so we invest in the LEM schools, that children can be taught from and influenced by a Christian world view. We encourage children's ministries so that the youngest members of the church can also understand who Jesus is and what he calls them to do.

You, as champions, help with this process of making disciples in Liberia as you continue to invest your prayers and interest in the ministry there. For that we thank you and value your participation.

Please share the following prayer requests with your local church in the appropriate way:

Pray for safety for both the Gordon Elliott and Daniel Elliott families driving many miles. Praise the Lord with us for Grace Corporation which has supplied vehicles for both families use during deputation at a very affordable rate.

Pray for open hearts and minds as people hear of the progress and challenges of the ministry in Liberia. Pray for us to effectively communicate with churches and individuals concerning the challenge and opportunities for ministry that Liberia presents. Ask God to call at least one more missionary family, couple, or single, to come and join in the work in Liberia.

Pray for Naomi as she homeschools Sammy and Maerah this year. Being “on the road” complicates schooling.

Pray for the LEM schools in Liberia. They have reopened in a reduced way following the COVID crisis. Pray for wisdom as they prepare for full opening in December.

Pray for the LEM national board as it continues to lead the denomination. Pray for wisdom as they consider new open doors for ministry. Praise the Lord for the LEM pastors. Thank the Lord for their commitment. Praise God for the pastoral training seminar that was held in September. Pray that the pastors will be able to apply what they are learning as they minister in their churches and villages.

Thank you for being a Liberia Champion and supporting the work through your faithful prayers and sharing with others.

Gordon