



Julie Alexander—Missionary to Liberia, West Africa

August 2019—Prayer Letter

Phone: +231-077-816-6963 e-mail: jax1965@hotmail.com



Dear Ministry Prayer and Support Partners,

I am surviving my first rainy season in Liberia. As we go into August, it is no longer raining every day! While the rain is problematic for me and devastating for a lot of Liberians, the temperatures are more agreeable, although it is still very humid. I never thought I would be wearing sleeves and socks in Liberia, but yes, it has happened!. I begin too many letters apologizing for it being late, and I have no excuse this time other than time truly got away from me. It truly flies as never before and is coupled with an urgency to meet the overwhelming physical, emotional and spiritual needs that are Liberia. Below is an overview by month of some of the major happenings!

April:

- Construction of **Ma Bessie's house** was ongoing. God moved in the heart of a dear saint who helped pay to have a **new pump** installed!
- I helped to sponsor and coordinate an **Empowered to Connect Simulcast** for a local orphanage care-givers union. This Bible-based program teaches how trauma affects us and the children we care for.
- I participated with Temple Baptist Church's **distribution of 15,000 John Romans**, tracts and maps! Included were invitations to local Independent Baptist Churches represented by the students from the Bible College. A number of responses were received and it was exciting to be a part of it.

May:

- I conducted my first **Bookkeeping and Biblical Stewardship Training** class! I never considered how God could put my accounting experience to work in Liberia!
- I made a short trip to the states to attend **Trauma Competent Caregivers** training in Texas. It has been developed by an organization that specializes in global orphan care.

June:

- The beginning of June was difficult as I had to say **good-bye to my dear friends, the Kittredges**. They are on a much deserved year-long furlough to the states.
- Another difficulty was the start of a situation at the **ELWUO orphanage** that has closed that chapter of ministry for me in Liberia. There is still much I have to learn about the culture and the disposition of its people.
- This was also the start of a season of ongoing vehicle issues that, as of the writing of this letter, are just coming to a resolution.
- The month ended on a high note as construction on **Ma Bessie's house was finalized**. Six of the displaced children are now living there with Ma Bessie and doing very well.

July:

- I traveled to Buchanan and conducted a **three-day Healing Circle (trauma training)** workshop for a soon-to-be

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July, ctd:

- We celebrated the **ELWUO School Closing and Graduation**. Eight children graduated K2 (kindergarten) and one girl, Marcy, graduated from the 6th grade. Despite the underlying troubles, it was a blessing to celebrate the accomplishment of these children and their teachers. -
- On a more personal note, the **bore hole and water reservoir tower** were completed which means, hopefully, prayerfully, I will have running water in my apartment soon.
- I celebrated July 26, **Liberian Independence Day**, with the children at Ma Bessie's and other friends and family who joined up. It was good to see the children there and settled. -
- The last two weeks of July, I participated in the **Liberia Reads Phonics training program**. As I had already paid for the program, I invited the teachers of Joy Academy under Pastor Guanue Gbendah, to join me.

I continue to teach children's church at Temple Baptist Church. We had to knock out a wall between classes accommodate all the children. We still run between 50 - 75 about every week. Just this last week a little six year old girl prayed to receive Jesus as her Savior. I was thrilled at how well she understood her need for a Savior. The Holy Spirit had obviously been at work as she had been "behind her friend" (one of the other children) all week to know Jesus!

Titus is doing well and I am gearing him up to attend some preschool classes in the fall. This will help as I get involved at the Joy Academy School, helping with the phonics program. Pastor Gbendah has also asked me to spend some time with the older girls in the school. The school runs through the 9th grade, and I am going to start a 2-day a week Bible club for these girls called Joyful Girls. I am going to use some Bible lessons to enhance their reading and grammar skills, but more importantly, their relationship with the Lord. Pray for guidance in developing this program. I am also planning on teaching the bookkeeping class at Brookhaven, one day a week, for 3 hours a day. I pray it will be a blessing to those that attend. We are discussing doing an after-school Vacation Bible School in October (it is too wet in the summer) and I have been asked to speak at a Ladies Conference that same month.

I want to say a little more about the situation at the orphanage. In the end, when no consensus could be met and as family conflicts arose, Eleanor decided that ALL the children must leave the orphanage. She has decided that going forward, she is going to run a Daycare and other family members that I am less familiar with will be running things there. There is a lot that I am not at liberty to say. There was no wrong-doing on my part, but a spirit of negativity and jealousy broke out that caused such a level of discord and disunity, I could not stay. It resulted in the displacement of the children, and I stepped in to help at that point. I am in contact with the majority of the children from ELWUO and am trying to minister to them and help to provide for their physical and school needs now that they are with friends and family. As I mentioned, 6 of them are staying with Bessie. God in his providence knew this was coming and even as we built Bessie's strong house and a well was installed, he was already planning for the children to stay there. Please continue to pray for this transition, as it is very difficult for these children, even to be with family members that they have never known. If you want to know more, feel free to ask any questions via e-mail and I will do my best to answer.

I don't know exactly what this next chapter, this next season is going to look like. I am looking forward to the teaching and training opportunities that the Lord has opened up for me. I continue to beg for your prayers for wisdom and protection. The economy continues to plunge, recent elections experienced some problems and there have been a number of protests and clashes with police. It is a very different "world" than the one I am from, on so many levels. I am at complete peace with the Lord placing and retaining me here. I thank you for your invaluable part in #myLiberianlife.

Your Servant for Liberia, **Julie Alexander Psalm 68:5-6**

