



# Julie Alexander—Missionary to Liberia, West Africa

## July 2020 Prayer Letter

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Dear Ministry Prayer and Support Partners,

Greetings to you all! I pray that during these trying times, you are finding strength and peace in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. No one would ever wish for these times, but I am thankful for the renewed desire to stay very close to the Lord in study, prayer and worship. I am thankful for the opportunity to worship collectively. I am sure there are many things we will no longer take for granted. My mind goes often to Liberia and all they must endure every single day. It seems we in America are getting a small taste of what many millions in this world endure. Many of the inconveniences and injustices that we are now faced with are life to them. This is an exciting time to be a Christian. We now have the opportunity to prove the faith that we proclaim. For me personally, it has not been easy! It is uncomfortable and sometimes confusing, but I am thankful for the anchor onto which I can hold in these stormy times!

I have kept myself busy with several different on-line discipleship classes. I have been able to participate in an on-line educational workshop. I received exciting news that a Liberian-based school curriculum developed by an educational ministry there is now available for purchase and use by other schools. I am also completing another round of Trauma Competent Caregivers training. It is my hope and prayer to become a trainer of trainers. This will be very useful as we disciple our teaching staff, helping them to understand the impact of trauma on children and hopefully, recognize the affects of trauma in their own lives. God opened the door for me to lead a Trauma Healing Circle right here in the US. I have had around 20 women participate live and via Zoom. It has been a wonderful reminder of how effective this tool is and how it can change peoples lives and draw them closer to the Lord.

I have also been selling baskets. Lord willing, when I return, we will add a room to Ma Bessie's house that we built last year. She still has 6 of the children from the orphanage with her (they are pictured above). With a little extra funds, she has been able to hire a tutor (for around \$20 a month) that has been coming to her home to continue the children's schooling and to keep them busy and hopefully out of trouble! Those boys can give Ma Bessie a hard time-o! I have raised right at \$3,000 through selling the baskets. I have a little ways to go and I am hoping to reach close to \$5,000.

I am excited to let you know that the barrels arrived safely and that my friends in Liberia were able to pick them up and deliver them with no problems. It is still my plan to leave for Liberia August 31. So far, my flights have not been cancelled! Every time I get an email from the airlines I cringe a little inside, but each time it has just been time and equipment changes. Liberia has opened up. I will be required to take several COVID tests once I land, but will then be able to quarantine at home for 2 weeks. I plan on getting a rapid test before flying out to be on the safe side.

Martha and Titus are managing. Martha has returned to her apartment and is attending review classes for her upcoming graduation test. Titus was able to finish some take-home work to finish his school year. Titus has had some health issues with malaria and then hurt his leg in a football game but he seems to be doing better. I am so blessed to have friends and partners on the ground that have been able to get him needed medical treatment and to check up with him and Martha. Please pray for them both. I will have decisions to make about this relationship and how it will look going forward. I am contemplating some different school options for Titus and I need lots of wisdom for all of us.

I am also asking that you pray with me as it will be time to enroll the children for school when I return. Thanks to your prayers and generosity, I was able to sponsor 19 children in school last year. The average cost for the children to attend school, including their tuition, fees, uniforms, shoes, belts, socks, school supplies, transportation and small allowances for lunches on campus was \$160 per child. Some were a little more, some a little less, but that was the average. I spent about \$3,100. You generously provided \$2,800 of that. I am asking that you prayerfully consider sponsoring a child, or 2 or 3. For \$160 a year, you make it possible for these children to live in a home environment and attend school with their

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January 2020 Prayer Letter, ctd.

friends. I am attaching pictures of the children impacted by your generosity. Will you please consider joining me in this ministry again. As far as I know, the same 19 children will be sponsored, and to the extent that more comes in, I will identify additional worthy children to add to the list. Thank you for your participation in this. I am including below some of the notes written by the children. While they were addressed to me, it was your prayers and giving that made it possible.

"This is Emmanuel Cole (13 years old. Promoted from 2nd grade to 4th grade)

Ma Julie are Give you thank for your high (hard) work are pray for you for God to Give you long life are pray that you may come back for America. Ma Julie if not you are was not coming to go to school. This is why are pray for you for God to bless your. are pray for ma Bessy all so are pray for Blessing to follow your. are Thank"

"I am William N. Flomo. (12 years old. 4th grade) letter for Ma Julie

Ma Julie Thank you For your work. May God bless you for ever in your life Aman. Ma Julie I love you so much in my life. Ma Julie thank you for making me to go to school. I pray that you may come back from America save and sound in Jesus name are pray. Aman."

"This is Grace Singbeh (8 years old. 1st grade)

Dear Ma Julie Im happy for you make me to go to school to be like someone for this Day. Good-by good-by"

This is just a sample of the letters the children wrote to me before I left. First, please insert your name where you see Ma Julie. It is only because of you and your graciousness in allowing me to represent you in Liberia that these children are writing these letters. As you can tell, the education they receive is far from where we would like it to be. Although I wish the outcome were better, the ability to go to school in a new uniform with all the necessary supplies brings a great deal of dignity and hope to the lives of these children. It gives them a chance to "be a child" in a very trying environment. These are the children from the orphanage, who are now living in a home setting. We will continue to identify the best options for them in their respective neighborhood for them to attend school. Thank you again for your part in this important ministry.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, I will be working with Missionaries Rick & Brenda Osborn and Pastor Emmanuel & Grace Saywah at Faith Baptist Church in Thinker Village. We will be recruiting, discipling and training teachers in preparation for a new school to open in September 2021. (Please watch the attached video). Please pray for me, especially as Rick & Brenda will be on furlough until January of 2021. Also pray for the building project. Funds need to be raised to complete the church building which will initially also serve as the school. There are many, many decisions that will need to be made in order for this to be completed.

Thank you as always for taking the time to read this letter and for praying. I am very sorry that the current situation has prevented me from visiting all the churches I would have like to, but I would be happy to visit your church "virtually". This prayer letter contains a link to my video. I hope you will take a few minutes to watch it, even share it with your church family so you can see all the Lord accomplished in my first 2 years in Liberia thanks to your generous partnership.

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

