



OPERATION LIBERIA – MARCH 2022 PRAYER LETTER JULIE ALEXANDER

Serving the Forgotten Peoples of Liberia, West Africa

Dear Operation Liberia Prayer & Ministry Partners,

Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and support as I serve here in Liberia. Every year, I like to spend time in study and prayer, asking the Lord for a word or phrase for the upcoming season. In 2021, that word was "Anchored". Hebrews 6:19 says "which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast". In times like these, I am so thankful that my soul is anchored to the unchanging One that will never be moved. We may rise and fall on the waves of circumstances, but we are held fast by the lover and Savior of our soul! In 2022, the Lord has given me "Enter". Luke 13:24 says "Strive to *enter* in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to *enter* in, and shall not be able." I am praying that this year, that the Father will allow me to help those who have been deceived into thinking they are on the path to the strait gate when they are heading towards the wrong destination!

I am very excited and happy to inform you that not only has Titus' domestic adoption been completed, I have obtained his Birth Certificate and his Liberian Passport. This has been a drawn-out and frustrating process to be sure. It can be difficult as it seems that no two people have similar journeys and experiences. What is "required" sometimes feels like an ever-moving target, but praise God we are over this first hurdle. I now enter a 2 year waiting period of legal custody. At the end of those 2 years, I will be able to file for Titus' US citizenship. I recently received encouraging news on that front as I was made aware of a process that should expedite the process by several years. I thank God for that! Please keep praying to that end.

Thanks to your prayers and generosity, the school sponsorship needs were met and then some. The children are all sponsored in school and all received funds towards their Christmas. Ma Bessie allowed the children to shop for themselves and they were all looking fine-o, in their new "suit" of clothes and shoes. Ma Bessie was able to purchase some much needed plastics (buckets, plates, cups) and other household needs. We had a Christmas party there with them and a very good time was had by all. Ma Bessie's strength is returning and progress is being made on the house addition. Her sons continue to contribute, doing the all the labor and providing the iron doors needed. The roof is on. The beds were fixed and mattresses and new mosquito nets purchased so the boys have moved in. Ma Bessie added a small provision shop onto the end of the addition and we are talking about what it will take to get her started there. She very much wants to be self-sufficient. Pray as we seek for a few of the older boys to potentially return to Nimba county this summer so they can spend some time closer to their families, and to allow the boys to work on the farms and on some construction projects.

Construction is continuing on the church plant. We have not started the study class as initially planned. I have faced some discouraging obstacles in participation in the Children's Ministry. It has resulted in me stepping back somewhat. I am here to teach and equip, not to "do". Pray that the members of the church will see the importance of the Children's Ministry and become more engaged. The church is holding a revival at the end of April and we are planning a Children's Revival at the same time. Pray as we prepare for that, for those that will be working and for the hearts and minds of the children.

I do have a faithful helper in Bro. Nap(oleon). We are looking forward to his marriage at the end of April. Co-habitation outside of marriage is very, very common. There are many financial obstacles to getting married. In the traditional marriage, a dowry of money must be paid, along with lapa (cloth for matching clothing) for all the family members, household goods, transportation and food. Then there is often a "western" style wedding with all the trimming. People can borrow, beg and credit amounts that are well above their annual salaries and find themselves in so much debt, their children no longer go to school. Nap and his bride's family have agreed to a "breakfast wedding" with a small reasonable budget of \$450. Instead of a meal to feed 400 people, they

will have tea, sandwiches and a wedding cake for a small number of guests. The service will be held early in the morning. The families have also agreed that the couple will forego the traditional certificate and ceremony as this gives the husband permission to take additional wives. We are sponsoring Nap and Lovety in this as they want their relationship to be right before God. If you would like to help meet this need, that would be a blessing. This will also allow them to become baptized church members and for Nap to attend the RICE (teacher) training college at Rafiki (where Titus attends school).

We are entering into our final unit in the Accounting class. I am down from 22 students to 12 but as we all know, accounting is not for everyone! I have had a few ministries approach me about helping them with their accounting and bookkeeping. I am praying about this opportunity to serve and help other ministries, but my desire would be to involve some of my star students in this endeavor. There are 5 who are grasping Accounting and the concepts very well. This would be a great blessing to them and to other ministries in Liberia.

In January I was able to facilitate another Trauma Healing Workshop with the YWAM (Youth With A Mission) discipleship trainees. It is a 6-month live-in program where young people commit to grow spiritually and then conduct various service activities throughout Liberia. I always enjoy being with this group! They are devoted to the teaching and participate well! I am also facilitating with a women's prayer group week by week. This is a little more challenging as people come and go but pray that the women will be blessed and find healing. There have already been wonderful testimonies of what God is doing in their hearts through the teaching. Pray as I am always trying to identify participants whom I can sponsor to attend the training to become facilitators themselves. There are a few good candidates for that. Above all, pray as I always incorporate the gospel, that if any are not truly saved, they will come to an understanding of the gospel.

Just this week I was to be facilitating a Healing Circle and to my frustration, it was postponed. But man's postponement can be God's assignment. I received a call that a friend from Temple Baptist, Sis Annex, who worked with me in the children's ministry was in Ganta with her mother who was dying and neither she, nor any of her family knows Christ. She asked me to come. We prayed the Oma would make it through the night and that her heart would be prepared for the message she would hear. The Oma and her family have absolutely no church background. They grew up in Liberian traditional ways. As I shared the gospel, I had to start with "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth....." The Holy Spirit gave me the words that needed to be said and after some time, the Oma, her other 3 daughters, her son-in-law and a teenage grandson all prayed to receive Christ! Another blessing in the matter is through another missionary I am acquainted with a Pastor and his wife who will follow up and ensure they had a good understanding. Annex said the Oma is very happy now that she is "in Christ" and has been talking about it to her and others. Annex is praying God will give her strength to recover and live in the gospel before he calls her home.



I have been facing some health challenges as well as some heart challenges as friends and family on and off the field face their own health and ministry challenges. Your prayers are what sustain us here. My daughter recently shared some beautiful teaching on darkness. We can see dark times as "bad", but it is in the darkness that we meet God. The angel came to Joseph in the darkness, Jacob wrestled with the Lord in the darkness.....there are many other examples. When God created the light and the dark he declared them both good. God will meet you in the darkness. You may have to wrestle with him before you receive your blessing but joy will come in the morning. I pray God meets with us all, in the darkness.

Your Servants for Liberia,

Julie & Titus Alexander Psalm 68:5-6