

Liberia Education Update

September 2019



9th grade class at Eric Scott Memorial United Methodist School (UMS) in Bopolu City, September 26, 2019.

Start of the New School Year

According to the Ministry of Education's 2019/2020 Academic Calendar, the first day of school for this Academic Year is September 2, 2019. With the current economic situation- high inflation in the market and delayed salary payments, we postponed the start of classes in United Methodist Schools to September 9th to give parents additional time to register their children.

When I read the 2019/2020 school year reports from our United Methodist schools, I always note the number of students who register at the beginning of the school year and the number of students who drop from school because they are not able to pay the tuition.

I am very thankful for all the scholarship support we have received for students through The Advance #15125B and Operation Classroom. This support allows students to remain in school.

Jasper Grant United Methodist School

Jasper Grant United Methodist School in Pleebo, Maryland County completed the slab to have a second floor for its annex. The cement should be solid by November and we hope that the construction work will continue. Currently 2 classes are in the church building. The plan is to have 2 classrooms on the bottom floor so the students will no longer be in the church. The Ministry of Education no longer allows classes in church buildings.

Jasper Grant UMS started this school year with about 730 students, however some of the old students are still registering; and the registrar estimates that about 850 students will enroll. Funds for the Annex are urgently needed for this high school to have the necessary classroom space, a library, and a science lab. Gifts may be sent to The Advance #3020670.

Construction of slab for second story of Jasper Grant UMS annex, Pleebo, Maryland County.



Completed annex slab, Jasper Grant UMS buildings, and Jasper Grant United Methodist Church.



Give to Advance projects
#15125B Scholarships
#3020670 Construction of New
School Buildings
#3021654 Sheltering the
Children of Gretta Moffat United
Methodist School

Department of General Education & Ministry Director, Rev. Christopher G. Marshall installs Bro. S. Emmanuel Kempeh as principal of Evelyn S. Chapman UMS, October 24, 2018.



Death of Principal, S. Emmanuel Kempeh

Bro. S. Emmanuel Kempeh was an educator at heart with a bachelor's degree in education and many years of service in the United Methodist School System. He served as principal of Tubman-Gray UMS on the Gbarnga United Methodist Mission Station in Bong County and the following schools in Montserrado County: Bishop Arthur F. Kulah UMS in Virginia, C. W. Duncan UMS in Clara Town, and Evelyn S. Chapman UMS in New Georgia.

I first met Bro. Kempeh in 2009 and over the years, we had many conversations. We agreed that our schools should be places of academic excellence and discipline. I am thankful for his leadership in our schools.

Bro. Kempeh passed on September 19th at the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia and was buried in his hometown in Nimba County.

Trip to Bopolu

Eric Scott Memorial United Methodist School in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County began in 2014 as an elementary school and under the leadership of its principal, Pastor Shaffa Seward, the school has grown to include junior high and high school sections. In the 2018/2019 school year, Eric Scott UMS had its first class of 12th graders. This means 2019 was the first time Eric Scott UMS students took the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

In order to prepare for the 2020 WASSCE, Pastor Seward invited staff from the West African Examination Council (WAEC) to train high school teachers in Bopolu. A team of 7 content area specialists from WAEC went to Eric Scott UMS to facilitate a capacity building workshop. The high school teachers at Eric Scott UMS, Bopolu Central High School, and Bible Mission High School attended the training on September 26 and 27, 2019 in the school's library.

I am so glad that I went with the WAEC team and learned about the WASSCE along with the teachers. It was great to spend time in the classrooms, church and clinic on the Bopolu mission station, to meet the peace corps volunteer who is teaching phonics, to have solar powered electricity and to sleep in one of the four staff houses. I'm looking forward to my next trip to Bopolu when I hope to see the science lab in use.

Pastor Shaffa Seward (far left) with teachers at Eric Scott Memorial UMS.



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I wish you the love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ.

Helen Roberts-Evans
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Children going to their classes after morning devotion at Eric Scott Memorial UMS, September 26, 2019.

