

March 2010



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Greetings from the Board President Dr. Shadrach Gonquch

Dear Friends,

Despite the recent financial meltdown, ULICAF had a very successful 2009. We completed our first full year of school at the Liberia International Christian College (LICC) in Ganta, Liberia, and set up both a nurse's station and a computer lab at the school. Yet, despite these successes, much work remains to be done. ULICAF's primary goal for 2010 is the completion of the construction work on the second floor of the main building at LICC.

A very important reason why completing this project is so critical is that our license to operate the school depends on it. A little over a year ago when we got official approval from the Liberian Ministry of Education to operate the school, we were given a two-year time frame to double the size of our facility or face the revocation of our license to operate. A team of experts from Monrovia, Liberia's capital is scheduled to visit LICC at year's end to evaluate our progress in this regard and report their findings to the Ministry of Education. It is then that the ministry will make a final decision on either extending or revoking our license. As I said from the beginning, we have a lot of work to do and very little time in which to do it, so we've been praying for nothing short of a miracle.

Some Exciting News for Dr. Sei and Mrs. Yah Buor

After a 5 year processing period, the Lord granted the desire of Sei & Yah Buor's hearts! Their "green cards" from Homeland Security arrived the day after Christmas 2009. The "green cards" give them permanent residence in the US but more importantly gives them the privilege to travel in and out of the United States freely. So after 21 years of wandering and waiting, they have the opportunity to travel back to Liberia. They left the US on February 18 for a 3 month stay in Liberia. Bob Henninger a computer systems expert from Indianapolis also accompanied them for a yearlong stay. He will be teaching computer classes, setting up an internet connection and networking the campus computers at LICC. Dr. Buor will be teaching 2 courses, Biblical Leadership and Biblical Ethics at LICC. He will also be supervising the Bricks of Hope project by leading the local Liberian building team to construct the 2nd floor of the college building which will create more, much needed, classroom space.



LICC second floor construction has begun

Dr. Buor will be having meetings with local church leaders to discuss their struggles, successes as well as determining

how ULICAF can partner with them to improve and further the kingdom of God in Liberia. He will also be meeting with education officials: Dr. Korto, Minister of Education, Dr. Slewon, Director of Higher Education accreditation in Liberia and law makers from the county LICC is located in. Yah will be meeting with women in the Ganta area to encourage them to create small businesses. She is hopeful that several of these businesses will grow to provide for the needs of LICC students.

Dr. Shadrach Gonquch's October 2009 Visit with LICC Students

Last October I had the privilege of visiting the Liberia International Christian College in Ganta, Liberia. The first thing that struck me as I went from one classroom to another was the diversity of the student body and how desperately eager they all were to attain higher education. Many of the students were people in their mid to late 40s who had long ago given up all hope of going to college prior to the arrival of the LICC. I was struck by their deep appreciation for ULICAF, and the fact that, for most, the LICC was more than just a college: it was a second chance at life itself. *(cont.)*



Dr. Buor (far left) with LICC students

eager for redemption & renewal

Nothing moved me more than when I heard several of the students recount how they had left their families, farms, homes, etc in the villages to make the journey to Ganta for school. As a founding member of ULICAF and a current member of the board of directors, I had grown accustomed to thinking of myself and of the other ULICAF supporters in America as the ones making sacrifices to help the Liberians back home. While I fully understand and appreciate the great sacrifices we all make stateside in support of ULICAF, it has become clear to me that the true sacrifices are being made by the students at LICC who have given up everything in their quest for education. So great is their faith in us that they've given up all they had, believing that we will not let them down by allowing the school or ULICAF to fail. It is therefore my hope that as you read this, you will join me in saying, resolutely, that we will do all we can in support of ULICAF to keep this dream alive and flourishing for years to come.

How did Ruth Schwartz get involved with ULICAF?

In 2002, God blessed my husband and me with Dr. Sei and Yah Buor living close by as our neighbors. God began to unfold the bigger plans He had for us. He was opening doors and I was walking through – almost without even noticing. I've been doing the accounting and record keeping for ULICAF now for over 5 years – using the talents God gave me and being a missionary right where God called me.

I began reflecting on some of the many lessons God has taught me through my involvement with ULICAF. First, when God gives you a vision He will supply the people, resources and anything else you may need – in His time and in His way. I

have watched how God has brought the right people at the right time to Dr. Buor, Yah and ULICAF. I have been amazed and how He figures it all out - without us having to strive, grunt and groan under the burden to make something happen.

Secondly, my faith has grown as I have watched God provide time after time – specifically for Sei and Yah. Many times over the years that Yah and I have worked together, she has come in to my office asking if I have any ideas about how to accomplish something, sometimes small, but many times BIG. Sometimes I have had some ideas or input but just as many times I have had to shake my head and say “Yah, I don't have a clue.” Every time she would lay her hand quietly on my desk and say with firm conviction – “God will provide” then she would get up from her chair and go on about her day. Guess what? God has provided every single time! Simple faith in action and I have been brought to my knees in thankfulness and asking God for that kind of faith.

ULICAF 2010 Conference

Please mark your calendars for the weekend of **July 22 – 25, 2010 for the ULICAF Conference.** This year the conference will be hosted by Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The theme of this year's conference will be “Pressing Toward The Finish Line”. Additional information will be forthcoming and we look forward to your participation in this year's conference.

Matching Grant Opportunity

An answer to our prayers came in the form of a \$50,000.00 (fifty thousand dollar) matching grant ULICAF received towards the end of 2009 from a UK

based organization. As is true of all matching grants, all we have to do to receive this money is to come up with the corresponding amount, bringing the total to \$100,000.00. Incredibly, \$100,000.00 is the exact estimate we have received from the engineers and designers in Liberia for completing the pending work. So our current challenge, and one that when met will help us meet our 2010 goal of expanding the college in Liberia, is to raise \$50,000.00 over the next couple of months. I know these are tough economic times, but I also know that God is bigger than the toughest of times. He did not give us this opportunity only to see it slip away. Please pray with us that the necessary funds will be forthcoming in order for us to secure the grant and avoid the revocation of our license. Thank you for your continued support of ULICAF and our ministry.

We Need Your Prayer In These Areas

1. **LICC** - current instructors, staff members, continuing students and the 60 plus freshmen students beginning the semester in March 2010.
2. **Generous financial gifts** toward the construction of the 2nd floor of the college and support for the daily operations of LICC
3. **Sei and Yah Buor**- safety and good health for the three month period.

Please use the enclosed form when making a donation toward the matching grant opportunity or to support the other ULICAF ministries. If you have questions or need additional information regarding contributions, please contact Ruth Schwartz at 317-566-8390.