

# WORLD

t h e G L S c o n n e c t i o n

## reviews



A ministry of  
the GARBC

# Influence

Influence is defined as the capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on the actions, behaviors, or opinions of others. The domino effect is a visual of influence at work.

**GLS TEAM 300** carries your influence around the world. God is using individuals and churches to have a powerful influence for Christ through the printed page.

God is at work in phenomenal ways to bring solutions to the dilemma of inadequate support for rising shipping costs. Gospel Literature Services ships Regular Baptist Press Sunday School curriculum to about fifty countries every quarter. The cost this quarter would have been about \$20,000.

**BUT GOD.** The shipping department discovered a shipper in Minneapolis who has already saved GLS several thousand dollars. It would appear that the postal system does not deem the shipment of the foreign parcels as lucrative as desired and has contracted the business to outside vendors. The consequent savings to GLS will contribute significantly to solving the shipping costs dilemma.

Secondly, GLS continues its efforts to distribute materials in a digital format. Although many of our users are in developing nations and do not have current computer hardware or software, it

is advantageous to develop digital venues for the ever-expanding computer-literate world. Whether shipping CDs or providing downloads from the Web, digital-based communication promises to be helpful in communicating the eternal Word of God.

God is answering prayer through additional supporters. **GLS Team 300** was officially launched at the annual conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches in June at Lancaster, PA. The team consists of individuals, families, Sunday School classes, small groups and churches. We are asking God to raise up 300 donor units to commit \$30.00 a month toward the shipment of Biblical resources around the world. We are also grateful for the one-time gifts.

The team is growing, but pieces are still missing. The full impact of its influence has not yet been felt. **GLS Team 300** provides a tremendous example of the wisdom that "Together we can accomplish more." To date we have 42 individuals and 15 churches that have confirmed their monthly

commitment. Prayerfully consider joining the team who underwrite the dispensing of Biblical resources to developing Baptist ministries, enabling them to more effectively fulfill the Great Commission. Make your check payable to Gospel Literature Services and designate it **GLS Team 300** or donate online. What a blessing to know that you are having a significant influence through this worldwide ministry!

# Liberia Report

In May 2007, Chris Hindal, the Director of International Ministries for the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, and his wife, Deb, visited Liberia, West Africa.

Liberia's topography of rolling hills and distant mountains is blanketed with the lush green flora typical of equatorial West Africa. Monrovia, the capital city, is one of the country's three major ports. The port is large and capable of receiving many oceangoing vessels, but only a few ships per week enter its harbor because of the republic's economically depressed nature.

## History and culture

Liberia was birthed as an American colony in the early 1800s when America deported its freed slaves to Africa, the place of their roots. In spite of the



moral questions surrounding that action, Liberians feel a kinship with America. At times in its history, Liberia has been known as the African America, with similarities in its flag and official language, English. Liberian English, however, is a cacophony of slurred sounds and incomplete sentences and is generally difficult for other English speakers to understand.

The entire country of Liberia shows devastating signs of suffering from more than ten years of civil strife. Political coups and powerful warlords plundered the countryside of anything and everything of value. They committed atrocities of murder and torture on thousands of Liberian citizens. Thousands upon thousands temporarily fled the



country or hid in the bush for months, surviving only on the vegetation they could scavenge. Almost every Liberian can recount stories of personal and family horrors.

A typical Liberian family has at least five children and lives in a home of mud blocks with a roof of either palm fronds or zinc-coated corrugated metal. The family has no regular income but plants a garden and tries to sell fruits or vegetables alongside the road or at the market. In the cities people are colorfully clothed with many indications of American donated T-shirts. In the countryside, the smaller children are less apt to be fully clothed, with some playing naked.

## Christianity

Verses painted on the sides of taxis and Christian slogans written on business signs indicate that Liberia is a Christian nation. Churches of various Christian persuasions and Christian schools and orphanages have been built virtually in every village of substantial size. Of course, the word "Christian" is used in the broadest sense,



including many Pentecostal and charismatic groups, as well as Roman Catholic. Most of the 90-100 Baptist churches akin to the GARBC can trace their roots to decades of faithful missionaries serving with Baptist Mid-Missions. Dr. Joseph Stowell, the national representative of the GARBC at one time, visited Liberia and inaugurated the formation of the GARBC of Liberia. Today the churches in that association fellowship in several smaller associations with various names.

The impetus for our visit was an invitation from the African Fundamental Baptist Mission (AFBM) to speak at its annual conference of churches. The AFBM is one of the Liberian partners in the International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries.

On Friday evening, May 18, 2007, Deb and I arrived



at Roberts International Airport in Monrovia, Liberia. Monrovia is located just north of the equator and is a port city on the Atlantic Ocean and May is the beginning of the rainy season. Stepping off the plane onto the tarmac, we were immediately hit with the heat and high humidity. Airports in developing nations have become known to Deb and me for their lack of air conditioning, absence of technology, and general confusion. We are always on alert, not exactly sure what the local questions and requirements might be. Once we stepped out of the airport, we were greeted warmly by a dozen Liberian pastors and church leaders. They had come just to extend their words of welcome to their country, driving an hour and a half to the airport located about 35 miles outside the city.

For the first 10 of the 13 days, we stayed at the guesthouse of Pastor James and Lydia Togba, pastor of the Maranatha Bap-

tist Church, the host church for the conference. These accommodations were quite comfortable even though we had to deal with typical developing nation challenges. We did have running water a few hours each day, even though it was not suitable for drinking. And the generator-powered fan helped with the oppressive heat although sleeping was still a bit uncomfortable. Lydia and her family cooked us some great meals of typical African cuisine.

On our first morning, Pastor Togba decided that we needed time to rest from our long journey and to prepare for our first day of ministry. He dropped us off for several hours on an Atlantic beach, which proved to be a great idea.

## Conference

Ten churches and ten Bible fellowships were represented at the second annual, post-war conference of the AFBM; 179 registered, with 391 attending. The leaders had chosen the conference theme "Planning with God," taken from James 4:13 and 14. The program included a workshop session for each of the three days. I led the men's sessions, Deb led the women's, and two ABWE missionaries led the youth.

I dealt with issues of the nature and attributes of God. Deb ministered to about 50 ladies each day. They asked many questions that were both Biblically and culturally sensitive. I developed the conference theme through six preaching sessions, expounding on the epistle of James. Both the teaching and preaching were translated into the Kpelle language. Three choirs wonderfully accented the program, two in Liberian English and one in Kpelle, using traditional African chants.

We praise the Lord that with the exception of the first service, many responded to the invitations. From our perspective, the most significant decisions were



made by 12 young people who committed themselves to enroll in Bible school to prepare for ministry.

### Work with children and orphans

During the course of our 13-day visit, we had the opportunity to visit six facilities for children. Maranatha Baptist Church, the host church for the conference, conducts a Christian day school, K-12. Pastor Peter

Flomo serves as the country director of the Abandoned Children Care Foundation (ACCF), a ministry of AFBM, and also partners with Baptist Children's Home, Valparaiso, Indiana. Peter houses 15 orphans and facilitates the care of many others in private Christian homes. With the help of our donors, GLS will send Peter \$500 to purchase a pump for a well for the ACCF.

After driving down many muddy lanes, we arrived at the school directed by Pastor James Burnette. The school administrators honored us by renaming it the Chris and Deb Hindal Foundation Academy. They also presented each of us with some traditional African apparel. One hundred twenty-one children are being trained in a facility with mud floors, an inadequate roof, and primitive conditions.

Also partnering with Baptist Children's Home, Jefferson Zeon directs the Jahzjet Children Outreach Mission. This ministry cares for 67 children on a nice piece of property on the main road from Monrovia to the airport. These children are housed and educated right there by the Zeons and their staff.

On the Wednesday after the conference, we left at 6:00 a.m. and toured the Jahzjet home and school, and then Brother Zeon drove us to a new work in Buchanan. The road to Buchanan was the worst road I have ever traveled. It took us five and one-half hours to drive 88 miles! We were welcomed by a group of approx-

imately 140 people, half adults and half children, meeting in a makeshift shelter with plastic over the top and palm branches to cover the sides. They had prepared a special program for us that included singing and a presentation of two live roosters.

### Bible schools

The AFBM presently has three Bible training schools. Berean Baptist School meets in two classrooms in a day school in Monrovia. Brother David Quina is the president. We were unable to visit the two other schools, Doro Thea and Centra.

### LABWE missionaries

The Liberian ABWE missionary team (LABWE) consists of two couples and two singles stationed in Gbarnga, about four hours east of Monrovia. We were able to spend two days with the team, seeing their homes and discussing with them their mission for Liberia.

Carolyn Sharp, a single missionary nurse, the veteran on the team, assists the nationals in many ways. Along with training ladies for Sunday School teaching in a local church, she ministers at the AFBM medical clinic. This clinic, directed by Brother Aaron, treats 100-125 patients



per week. I had the opportunity to lead the Tuesday morning evangelistic outreach for the patients. The other single missionary, Steve Trexler, a physician's assistant, also serves at the clinic, though he was in the States for a brief visit.

Keith and Michelle Lippy, along with their six children, have enlarged a home on AFBM property. Keith serves as the team leader. He and his family travel one hour to a church plant where Keith preaches and the whole family is involved in ministry.

Stephan and Regula Elser, a Swiss couple, and their three children have a heart for the unreached people in the bush.



Every Sunday they travel to village churches where Stephan preaches. Regula and Michelle Lippy share the burden for reaching the ladies who almost exclusively speak the Kpelle language. They see the great need for adult literacy, and Regula is disciplining herself to learn that language. Stephan, a helicopter pilot, envisions using the helicopter to fly church planters into the vast unreached areas of northwest Liberia. What a joy to meet with these dedicated servants of the Lord who make daily sacrifices to reach people who desperately need to hear of Christ.

### GARBC of Liberia

Upon our arrival on the first Sunday, I preached to a full auditorium of about 350 people, plus their radio audience, at the Calvary Baptist Church of Monrovia. Pastor G. Larque Vaye shepherds the first church organized by Baptist Mid-Missions in Monrovia. He is a key leader in the local fellowship and facilitated a meeting for me with several pastors and church leaders.

At that meeting I learned that most of the known fundamental Baptist churches were started by Baptist Mid-Missions missionaries. The pastors also reported that prior to the war, 46 churches affiliated with their association. During the war years and up to the present, the GARBC of Liberia, though organizationally intact, has been inactive.

Currently 18 churches identify themselves with this association.

The pastors and leaders talked of reigniting their fellowship by convening a conference, perhaps in January 2008.

On Friday I was invited to speak in chapel at the Jake Memorial Baptist College, which has 36 students, with 15 enrolled in this semester's classes. The school has sent in its documentation in anticipation of receiving accreditation of its associate of arts degree. The staff are also working on expanding their program to offer a full four-year bachelor's degree.

Some of the leadership of the GARBC of Liberia also serve on the board of the Fundamental Baptist National Mission Agency (FBNMA). I had the privilege of meeting with its board, which is chaired by Brother William M. Kolaglaye. Among other ministries the FBNMA sponsors crusades to help jump-start church plants. Not too far

from Gbarnga, we visited the property that prior to the war was the hub of Baptist Mid-Missions missionary activity. The now-grown-over airstrip and the roofless walls of buildings are reminders of more productive days past. Presently Pastor Gballe directs a small day school of 18 students in a war-ravaged shell of a building, and on Sundays he conducts worship services.

### Summary

We left Liberia with an overwhelming sense of a nation in economic, social, moral, and spiritual crisis. Although there is much superficial evidence of Christian influence, there are only a few well-trained pastors. Most of the congregations are filled with professing believers, a majority of whom are illiterate. The tasks of discipleship and leadership training present a formidable challenge. Some of the pastors would greatly benefit from additional schooling, but they would need an American sponsor. I explored with both associations the potential for Gospel Literature Services to supply Sunday School materials to some of their churches. Though the literacy challenge is great, GLS may still be able to help with some children's teacher manuals and visual packets. Deb and I greatly appreciate your continued prayers as we visit our international partners and GLS recipients. God is doing a great work around the world, and we stand amazed as He sovereignly builds His church.



# World News

## From South Africa

Holiday Bible Club mission accomplished.

We were able to reach 258 children, and 102 new families were reached in spite of one of the neighboring schools being in session. Even though we fell short of our enrollment goal, we were blessed with consistent attendance. The great news is that I spoke to a family on Sunday that is keen on visiting us again next week.

Please pray with us as we follow up over ninety families. This year we are changing our follow-up program a bit. We normally have Puppets in the Park before and after HBC. This year we would like to target the area that surrounds our church, so we will have the puppets in our church venue. Pray that we will reach our community at large.

Note: GLS provided VBS material for this club, but this year we had to cut back drastically the amount of student materials sent due to the lack of funds for shipping. We are praying that by next year the funds from GLS Team 300 will enable us to help these ministries more extensively.

## From New Orleans

To all the great folks of GLS and the GARBC:

Thanks so much for your kind generosity to Berean Bible Church, in the not so "Big Easy." We continue to reach out to many hurting families as a result of Katrina, the biggest natural disaster to ever hit the U.S. The Lord has opened many doors, and we count it a privilege to partner together for the furtherance of the kingdom. Much has been accomplished during the 23 months since Katrina, but the devastation was so widespread it will be years before New Orleans recovers. Only eternity will reveal the massive outreach that has been done by God's people all over the States. Please continue to pray for us, that we will have the strength and resources to stay faithful to the task. Our love to all.

In sincere appreciation,

Pastor Brad and members of BBC

Note: GLS recently distributed \$200 gift boxes of children's materials to 75 churches in the Katrina-affected area. We also stepped up and helped

the general fund of the Berean Bible Church as they continue to host work teams from the north to help rebuild homes in the area. This church has lost about 150 of their own people who have moved from the area. GLS gave \$10,000 that came through the generosity of the GARBC churches. Praise the Lord!

## From Haiti

I would like to write to greet because GARBC/IPFBM are really a blessing for our association in Haiti. Pastor Chris Hindal sent to me a medical team who do a wonderful ministry in Haiti. And in the same month I had a wonderful seminar with Dr Bearss. In the clinics, the doctors see about 1600 people. And in the seminars we had 160 pastors attend each day. And in the last day we gave certificates to the pastors. The team of the clinics starts to build a church for us. I thank the Lord for you and your organization. I continue to ask the Lord to give you every day more blessings. Your brother, Pastor Predestin Pierre Herard

## Internet Ministry

Earlier in the decade many business commentators predicted that the technology boom would level off, due to the fact that many .com businesses had failed and pulled off the information superhighway. Actually the exact opposite has happened. As of the end of 2006 there were over 65 million .com and .net Web sites, not including the .org or .edu or all the other domain name extensions.

In the USA we have around 233 million users on the Internet. As we research the world demographics when it comes to technology and Internet use, the United States accounts for only 20 percent of worldwide usage. Asia has almost doubled us, with over 420 million users. (Obviously there are more people in Asia than in the United States.) There are 6.5 billion people in the world and 1.1 billion of them are online, with a growth of 225 percent since 2000.

Statistics make it clear that the Internet is an avenue to share the Gospel that is not going to go away. Thus GLS has chosen to expand in the digital world and help our missionaries and international churches and pastors use technology to reach the lost for Christ. Please pray as we continue to help equip and train our brothers and sisters in Christ to use technology as a tool for the Gospel.

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