



LIVING is GIVING

Tim Burchill, Editor

LIG Farm has Come a Long Way



When we visited Liberia in 2023, the Living is Giving farm near Careysburg was just two acres and had only seen one harvest season. Two years later, the farm has tripled in size and has seen multiple harvests. The acreage is tended by fifteen local volunteer women, who work in three teams of five members each. The women are aided by seasonal laborers on an occasional basis. All people working on the farm are required to use Farming God's Way methods. It was obvious they were doing this as the farm had no litter and "God's blanket" of mulch was already covering a large area. Also, a new way of planting cassava has been implemented that is much less labor intensive. Plantain was planted since our last visit and we were surprised to see that some was ready to be harvested. Pineapple, corn, red palm and coconut round out the rest of the plantings.

Each team of five women is responsible for their own plot of land, and they are allowed to use whatever produce is grown on the plot to feed their families. LIG provides the "inputs," including seed, fertilizer, supplies, and equipment. These are hardworking and dedicated women of faith, who give their all to growing as much food as possible to feed as many people as they can. This past season they grew cucumber, okra, corn and cassava. They are now looking into growing peanuts during the rainy season. Dry season begins in the fall and lasts until March, and rainy season, from March until October/November. Since the temperature never goes below freezing multiple plantings can occur each year.

Looking ahead, we contemplate diversifying into livestock, with goats, pigs, and chickens among the possible animals to be raised. Goat meat is a Liberian favorite. We are always hearing about "goat soup," an unofficial national dish. Goats are prolific and mature quickly, allowing the accumulation of a large herd in a shorter time than other types of livestock.

Cassava is still a mainstay on a good portion of the land. Both the leaves and the "roots" are edible and the remaining branches, "sticks" are cut up and used to plant the next crop with enough leftover to distribute to others who wish to plant their own. LIG is now researching affordable equipment to process cassava root into garri which is very shelf stable.

Bible Talk Organization Thriving

Generators are now available at all four sites.



A meal is prepared for over 100 children at each site



Bean gravy, sweet potato leaf "soup" with boni fish, over rice are common offerings

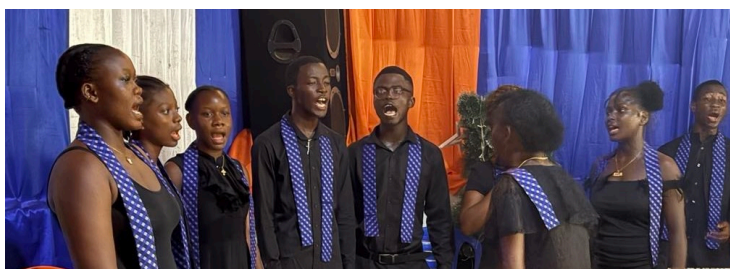


On our recent visit to Liberia, Ryan Kingsriter, and Tim and Christine Burchill, LIG Board of Directors members, paid a visit to all four Bible Talk Organization (BTO) youth groups. What they found in each location was a strong, and enthusiastic group, each of which is alive and growing. The four groups are located in Paynesville, Careysburg/Frank Town, Soul Clinic, and Buchanan. All are within a short distance from Monrovia except Buchanan, which is a two-hour drive down the coast. Each BTO chapter is led by a coordinator who oversees their group and is directly responsible to Bill M. Woyah, LIG's executive director.

Christine had brought treats from the U.S. for the BTO kids in two large suitcases. She had enough for four hundred kids, but the supply only lasted through the first three of our four visits, so Bill, Tim, and Christine had to go shopping for more treats! At each location, the kids put on a program which included welcoming talks, worship music, group singing and choir performances, drama skits based on Christian principles and values, and Scripture memorization.

It was gratifying to see the equipment paid for by LIG donors being well-cared for and put to such good use. This included chairs, microphones, amplifiers, and gas-powered electric generators. In evidence were many of the Bibles which had been purchased for distribution to the kids. At Frank Town, the group leaders have constructed an open-sided shelter with a canvas roof as a regular meeting location.

BTO is non-denominational and welcomes kids from all faiths, in addition to those who have no faith background. Each chapter meets on a different schedule but all meet two to four times per month, in addition to Bible studies, drama, and choir rehearsals in between. Thanks to our donors, all children receive a full meal which is served at the end of each general meeting so the kids go home with full stomachs.



LIG Inc. Board of Directors

Christine Burchill: President
Tim Burchill: Secretary/Treasurer
Debora Denny: Recording Secretary
Ryan Kingsriter
Emmanuel Adams
Wanitta Parsons
Bill Woyah: Executive Director





Leaders Academy Visit Inspires LIG Visitors

While in Liberia, we paid a visit to Leaders Academy (LA) in the town of Marshall. This is the school founded in 2018 by Jerome Zamgba from Jamestown, a Liberian national and dear friend to us and to Living is Giving. We had visited the school on our last trip to Liberia in 2023. Deb Reimers from Jamestown, the financial coordinator for LA, was also in Liberia with her son Isaac. Deb is a registered nurse who works at Jamestown Regional Medical Center clinics. It was her first time in the country.

The day we visited LA, Jerome, the school staff, and the kids held a special program to dedicate their new library and new community well, as well as to honor Deb for all her efforts on behalf of the school. We were pleased to see that an addition to the school had been built, and enrollment was around 350 kids in grades Pre-K through 8. We felt a bit like “party crashers”, as to our surprise the school presented Christine and I each with a beautiful item of Liberian clothing and a blank journal book.

Our interest in Leaders Academy is due to its great philosophy and educational model. The mission of LA is to educate the leaders of tomorrow, who in coming years will hopefully move Liberia and its people forward into a better and brighter future. Leaders Academy is a shining example of what can be done to provide a solid education in a Christian environment to the future leaders of Liberia.



Living is Giving Academy Contemplated

Living is Giving is prayerfully considering the establishment of a private elementary school, which would be located on LIG land near the village of Frank Town, within the boundaries of Careysburg city. While in Liberia, working with our director, Bill, and other LIG board members, we looked more closely at the LIG property and chose a tentative location for a school building and a future health clinic. Both would be located in close proximity to the other on the “front” side of the farm property, next to the paved road. Bill is working with an architect on preliminary drawings and to obtain rough cost estimates.

Our current thinking is that the school would begin with grades Pre-K through three, and then expand by a grade each year, up to either sixth or eighth grade. The school would have a Christian orientation, but would be open to all children, regardless of religious background or affiliation. The goal would be to emulate

Leadership Academy’s philosophy and educational model, which focuses on giving the children a sound, solid, practical foundation, while teaching life skills, leadership, and critical thinking. The ultimate goal is to train the children to be future leaders in Liberia, who will in turn bring positive change to their country. Jerome Zamgba and the staff at LA have offered to help in any way they can as we proceed. In the near future we will update you on the plans. Pray for God’s guidance as we contemplate this big step in advancing LIG’s mission and ministry.

Ways to Donate

By Check (no fees):

Payable to Living is Giving Inc.

Send to: Tim Burchill

1422 9th Avenue NE

Jamestown, ND 58401

VENMO: @Livingisgivinginc

Zelle: Living is Giving Inc.

Website: livingisgivingliberia.org

ACH Debit

Giving made Easier: ACH Debit

After months of working on the logistics, Living is Giving is now set up to receive donations through ACH debit. This means that for those who would like to donate on a recurring basis, their gift can automatically be given from their bank account each month or at whatever interval the donor chooses. ACH debit makes giving easier than ever because once the donor sets up the recurring gift, there is no more that needs to be done, unless and until the donor wishes to change or discontinue it. As an organization, we happily accept non-recurring gifts. However, the recurring donations are even better because they provide an ongoing source of income that LIG can count on from month to month.

For more information, or to sign up for the ACH debit service please contact Tim Burchill at:

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Bill Woyah LIG Executive Director: The Real Deal

We would be neglectful if we did not say a few words about Bill M. Woyah, our LIG director and “boots on the ground” in Liberia. You may recall that Bill, age 32, graduated from Carver Christian University in Monrovia, Liberia in 2024, with a bachelor’s degree in education administration. He grew up in Nimba County, Liberia near the country’s northern border. By God’s grace and through his timely intervention, Bill narrowly escaped being forced into servitude as a child soldier during Liberia’s second civil war about 20 years ago.

Bill is a man of many talents. He is a born leader. To witness the Bible Talk Organization groups which he founded, and see his organization and leadership skills, was truly inspiring. Those who know him and with whom he works obviously respect and love him, which was truly inspiring. He is a talented singer and has created a number of videos featuring his music. He is a gifted public speaker and a dynamic preacher. Most of all Bill has a heart for God and a burden for his nation and fellow countrymen, both in regard to their spiritual and their physical needs.

Bill lives in a large household in Paynesville, Liberia with his extended family, including his disabled grandmother, Mary, an aunt, uncle, foster daughter, and several other family members. All are dependent on him in various ways, and he makes sure that their day to day needs are met, as much as he is able.

We are so grateful that God brought Bill and us together. Without him and his desire to help the people of Liberia, Living is Giving would not exist today.

Liberia the State of the Nation

This was our second trip to Liberia, and the nation as a whole did not seem to have changed much since we were last there in 2023. Eighty-five percent of the people are still living on less than \$2.50 per day. Fewer than 25% have electricity in their homes, and even fewer have indoor plumbing. Cooking is done mostly on charcoal fires, usually outdoors. Poverty is evident everywhere you look. There are thousands of young people who are available to work, but there are few jobs available. According to one statistic I recently saw, Liberia is the fourth poorest of the 195 nations on earth.

Liberians elected a new president, Joseph Boakai, in late 2023. This brought some hope for improvement. However, the Liberian government is saturated with longstanding corruption and corrupt practices. This will require years of intense reform to address. Most of the humanitarian work in the country is being done by a host of nonprofit NGOs, many of them based in the United States, Living is Giving being one of them.

Liberia has a public school system, but the schools are fraught with problems resulting mainly from underfunding. Today, over half of Liberian schoolchildren attend private educational institutions, sponsored by various churches, NGOs, and individuals. Many children do not have access to a school, or they must sell things on the streets or find other means to earn money to help their families make ends meet.