



**HANDS OF
HOPE**
FOUNDATION

**Offering Hope
in Christ**

1 Peter 3:15

Hands of Hope Foundation

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Hands of Hope Foundation

Dear Hands of Hope Friends,

Offering Hope in Christ

We are so glad to present to you a snapshot of the mission and work of the Hands of Hope Foundation in "Offering Hope in Christ" around the world.

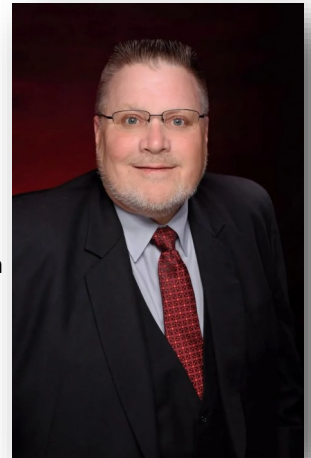
Since our very beginning in 2005, we have developed a plethora of friends and partners along the way. So many individuals, organizations, businesses and churches have shared resources, financial support and gifts of time in supporting our mission and building our team today.

Who would have imagined that a one-day response event for the victims of Hurricane Katrina-Rita would have ignited a passion and vision that has today become the Hands of Hope Foundation. When life throws you lemons, who says you can't enjoy some lemonade!

On behalf of the Hands of Hope Foundation and our Family of Ministries, our Board of Directors, Staff and Partners in the USA, Liberia, Thailand and around the globe, we thank you for taking a look at our ministry and invite you to partner with us. If you have any questions, our team would be glad to connect with you.

In the Grip of the Carpenter- Mark 6:3

Troy D. Benitone



Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone

Executive Director

&

Founder

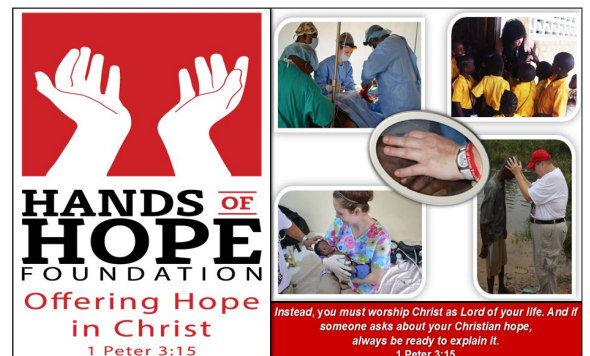
OVERVIEW

1. **2005 Hands of Hope: Katrina-Rita Relief Aid Event**, Oct 9, 2005
2. **2008 Hands of Hope: Sangamon River Dist. Initiative for Weala District Center/Parsonage**: May 17, 2008
3. **2009 Hands of Hope: Weala District Center Dedication Trip**, Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone & Rev. Dr. Roger Ross 2009 in the Village of Weala, Liberia, West Africa.
4. **2010 Hands of Hope First Crusade & New Church Start trip**: Church starts in Totota, Salala & Village #7 in Liberia, West Africa.
5. **2010 John Wesley School Building and High School Edition Project in Weala, Liberia, West Africa**: Funded by Springfield First UMC
6. **2011 Hands of Hope's Crusade & New Church Start trip to Liberia including both Medical & Educational Outreach components**: March 2011
7. **2012 Hands of Hope Foundation Crusade-Medical-Surgical-Educational Trip, March 2012**
8. **2012 Hands of Hope Foundation- Bulgaria Project Initiated**: In April 2012 Hands of Hope entered into a partnership with Hope for the Little Ones, Petko Slaveykov Private School and the Bulgarian Church of God with Rev. Ventsislav Stoykov, General Overseer of the Bulgarian Church of God and Senior Pastor of Crossroads Church in Bulgaria. Our Hands of Hope Bulgarian Project Director and inspiration has been led by Nina Shull.
9. **2013 Hands of Hope Foundation Peru Outreach**, In May 2012 Hands of Hope helped sponsor RN, Edward Heath and the Amazon Promise Outreach team on a back packing medical mission to his native Peru. It was a powerful and life-touching mission.

10. **2013 Hands of Hope Foundation Bulgaria Outreach Trip**, We traveled there in June 2013. We have completed a project with Petko Slaveykov in the funding of the second "Little House" with Hope for the Little Ones Foundation. We look forward to partnering on more projects in the future with our partners from the Bulgarian Church of God in the Gypsy and Refugee camp areas.
11. **2013 Hands of Hope Foundation Thailand Outreach**, HOH Medical Director, Dr. Jeffrey & Sherrie Parks visit and create begin our relationship with Tamar Center and Hand to Hand Foundation in Pattaya, Thailand.
12. **Hands of Hope Foundation Med-Surgical-Education Outreaches: 2011-2014, 2016, 2018, 2019 & 2022.**
 - a. **Weala Medical Clinic Building**- Was built by the Norwegian UMC and left unfurnished and unequipped in 2010. This would inspire the 2010 HOH Team to come back with a Medical Mission focus in 2011.
 - b. **Weala Medical Clinic Launched during the HOH 2011 Trip**. We have continued Med-Surgical Mission outreaches in 2012-2014, 2016, 2018, 2019 & 2022. The 2015 trip was cancelled due to the Ebola Crisis.
 - c. **Weala Medical-Surgical Center broke ground in 2012**. During the 2012 trip a vision was cast to add a surgical center to the Weala Clinic and with a generous gift from Springfield First UMC, the Weala Mission Station project was launched and with several other generous gifts the \$70,000 plus project was funded. The Weala Medical Center was formally dedicated on March 15, 2014.
 - d. **Medical Supplies and Clinic Support**: From 2011-2024 and thanks to the gifts of generous donors and friends, we have provided operating funds, sufficient medicines and supplies to support day-to-day operations at the Weala Medical Center and recently begin supporting the clinic in the village of Boway.
 - e. **Medical-Supply Containers**: From 2010-2019, we have sent 12-40 foot ocean medical and educational supply container to Liberia to supply our operations. During the Ebola Crisis, we stepped up our efforts with our **Operation Hope: Liberia Ebola Response Campaign**. During this effort and through some great partnerships, and with the funds raised from **Hopefest 2014 & our Tour of Duty 2014 Concert Series**, we sent 5 relief containers in one year. *Each of these ocean containers held hundreds of thousands of dollars of relief supplies for the Liberia work.*
13. **Hope Scholar Program**: For the last 15 years Hands of Hope has had over a 150 students in our John Wesley PreK-12th Scholarship program and another nearly 50 students in our Hope Scholar Vocational, Collegiate & University program. In 2016-17 year, we unified our program to one Hope Scholar Program Elementary through University. As of 2024, Valerie Fry, HOH Education Director, celebrates that all of our students have completed the program and she has created the Hope Scholars Directors Fund to help those graduates transition to the next phase of their life as they move into their career tracks and begin shaping Liberia for decades to come. We are now exploring the launch of a new Hope Scholars Program 2.0 in 2025.
14. **Crusade & Church planting work in 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014** Village #7 (2011), Weala (2012-14), Village of Kpakoloyah (2012) and Jennet Town (2013 & 2014). In 2024, HOH with its COF Global Division is looking to begin a new level of church planting in partnership with our new COF Global Associate and Affiliate Churches.
15. **Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia NGO (non-governmental organization)**: Was formed in 2013.
16. **Community House Launched**: In 2012, we launched Community House, on the campus of Community of Faith Church. Community House is run today by our Executive Director and his wife, Rev. Dr. Troy & Beth Benitone. They serve as hosts to many of Hands of Hope's interns, partners and friends from around the globe, by providing respite and housing support for special ministry needs identified the Hands of Hope's team.
17. **Rebuilt Churches**: We have partnered in rebuilding numerous war-torn and ravaged churches in the Weala Region at Freeman Reserve, Grimes Farms, C.D. Sherman, St. Thomas, Bong Mines and 2nd Kieyea-located in the adjacent Gbanga Region.
18. **Weala Mission Station Power Plant**: In 2013 we sent a refurbished Detroit 160 KW Power Plant and power grid designed to power the School, Church, Medical-Surgical Center and District Center all at once. The generation was Christened at our March 15, 2014 Weala Medical Center dedication service thanks to generous donors and the great work of our March 2012-2014 HOH Engineer, Daniel Cook and his team. It was overhauled by our 2018-2019 team led by Rev. Steve McKeown and his team.
19. **Safe Drinking Water Wells**: We have worked to add Safe Drinking Water Wells at St. Thomas, Salala, Totota, Village #7 and multiple wells at the Weala Mission Station– District Center, School and Medical Center.
20. **Pastors' Motorcycles**: In 2012, 2014 & 2022, we have provided 4 Motorcycles for the pastors of some of our upstart churches in Salala, Village #7 and St. Thomas, along with the dean of students at John Wesley School.
21. **Computers**: Since 2012 & Thanks to many generous donors, especially John A. Logan, we have taken numerous computer systems for our churches, John Wesley School, Weala Medical Center & our Hope Scholars.
22. **Operation Hope: Thailand 2014-2019**: In July 2014, we took a small advance team to lay the grounds for a new partnership with 2 Thailand based ministries: Hand to Hand Foundation and The Tamar Center. In June-July 2015, we launched 4 new Community of Faith Churches in Thailand utilizing a new group of pastors we trained & equipped at 3rd Road, Soi 6, Tepparsit #7 and Gohpai #1. We have continued with outreaches in 2016-2019. Our Thailand churches are working under the support and covering of Community of Faith Church in Marion, IL in partnership with Hand to Hand Foundation and Tamar Center in Pattaya, Thailand.

23. **For His Glory served as a special partner with Hands of Hope Foundation from 2014-2019:** In 2014, FHG, joined the ranks of the Hands of Hope Foundation family. *For His Glory*, is a Christian Worship Ministry team led by Hands of Hope Foundation, National Director & FHG Director Joshua Benitone. FHG teams have served as our worship team for our Operation Hope Outreaches in Thailand and in leading our Tour of Duty and Tour of Hope Events in the USA. We look forward to a FHG reunion as we head back to Thailand in 2025.
24. **Hopefest 2014, Operation Hope-Tour of Duty 2015 & Tour of Hope 2016:** September 27, 2014 Hands of Hope launched a full-day relief concert event on the grounds of Community of Faith Church to provide support for the Ebola Crisis. Hands of Hope was back to its founding relief-event roots. In November, 2015, we held a 5 city-stop concert-relief event across the state of Illinois, called Tour of Duty. The tour was a part of our Operation Hope initiative with a goal of raising support to ship 5-6 containers of Ebola Relief supplies to Liberia. In 2016, *For His Glory* led a series of National-USA based concert events with other guest and nationally renowned Christian Artist to bring awareness and support to our Human Trafficking efforts with our partners in Thailand. This was led by our National Director, Joshua Benitone.
25. **Thailand Pastors & Church Leaders School:** In June 2017, we launched a 4 semester pastors & church leaders training program designed to equip a new group of nearly 26 pastors, using our indigenous Thai pastors with Dr. Benitone serving as the dean and organizer of the school. Session #2 & 3 was held in January 2018 & July 2018. With the final Session #4 completed in January 2019. We are leading new churches through indigenously trained & equipped pastors.
26. **Maria-Irma-Harvey Relief Aid Campaign:** In September 2017, HOH went back to its beginning roots and led a campaign to support hurricane victims in Texas, Florida & Puerto Rico with 7 incredible partners across the Southern Illinois region.
27. **Williamson County Excellence in Long-Term Care Recognition Program 2015-2019:** These events recognizes outstanding leadership and provide a day of family encourage for those working in Long-term care.
28. **Hands of Hope Foundation Winter Gala:** On December 1, 2012, Hands of Hope Foundation held its first Winter Gala offering a celebration of its ministry year and held its final 8th Gala prior to COVID in December 7, 2019. The Gala has been on a break since. We hope to see it return in 2024-2025.
29. **Project Hope:** After a couple of years of dreaming & planning we launched our Project Hope– Hands of Hope Foundation's Sustainable Agricultural Plan during our Vision of Hope ask during our 2017 Winter Gala, we are working to raise funds for Phase I currently and continue our efforts and study into launching this project. One of our partner ministries Christian Life Church has a very successful project as of 2024 in year 4 in the Boway.
30. **JFK Memorial Medical Center, Monrovia, Liberia Surgical Equipment Project:** Dr. Jerry Brown, CEO of JFK & 2014 Time Magazine Man of the Year “The Ebola Fighter”, requested our assistance in providing surgical equipment, furnishings and supplies to their newly renovated surgical floor to include equipping 8 OR’s, Post-Op areas, ICU and other surgical prep areas. We sent 2-40 foot containers with equipment with help from our friends at Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) and others many friends and partners valued at nearly \$500,000.
31. **HOH Family of Ministries is Born:** In 2024, Hands of Hope Foundation becomes the Parent 501(c)3 non-for-profit corporation to two subsidiaries, with 3 more on the horizon in 2025 & 2026. *The Herrin House of Hope (HHOH)*, a subsidiary 501(c)3 was handed over to us by the Herrin Ministerial Alliance in October 2024. HHOH serves the underprivileged of our region with feeding, education, job training and more. In May 2023, the Marion based, Community of Faith Church also reorganized from being a local church to the mother of a “*Denominational Body & Network*”. By becoming a subsidiary to HOH, the two are building and forming a networking of Community of Faith Associate, Affiliate & Partner Churches to Grow Faithful Follower of Christ both in the USA, Africa, Asia and Beyond in the years to come. The new ministry covering this Global church effort is now called Community of Faith Global. In 2025, Hands of Hope is already at work to add some new regional ministries to the HOH Family, while in their pre-launch stage now, will certainly take center stage in Southern Illinois in the years to come. Working with the support of the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency (WCEMA) and Bi-County Health Depart with MOU’s for Emergency Feeding, Shelter and Wellness Care– we have purchased the adjacent building to the Herrin House of Hope at 116 N. 14th St., Herrin, Illinois and are currently renovating and are preparing to launch the Hope Community Wellness “GAP” Clinic & “Mobile GAP” Clinic for a 2025 target, along with plans to stand up the Hope Emergency Shelter later in 2026.
32. **Hope University & Theological Seminary, Liberia, West Africa:** In December 2024, we began partnering with a group of amazing spiritual & educational leaders in Liberia to launch a new university & seminary, starting with 4 undergraduate & 4 graduate schools. We are leading the effort in raising the capital funds, securing and preparing the campuses as trustees of this new work. (More info @ www.hopeuts.org)

WRAP ON THE FOUNDATION’S WORK: This is just a major initiative time-line. There are so many other things Hands of Hope Foundation has been doing around the world to full its vision of “*Offering Hope in Christ!*” To all that has been said and unsaid, we give God the Glory for the amazing great and many things He has done and will do– God is good!



Hands of Hope Foundation: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, *President of the Board & Executive Director (HOH Founder)*

Email: troy@hohfoundation.org

Troy is the Executive Director (Founder) of Hands of Hope Foundation, Directing Pastor of Community of Faith Church & Lead General Overseer of Community of Faith Global. He and his family returned to Southern Illinois, in April, 2010, after serving the Lord as a pastor and church planter in several cities over the previous 30 years. He has led numerous mission trips and crusades to plant churches in Honduras, Africa & Asia. Troy shares, "My heart's desire is to be involved in leading the church in the area of new church development and in expanding the reach of the church through growing new faith communities and launching new church starts. My life credo is to- Dream dreams and plan plans so grand that if God is not in them, they are doomed to fail." Troy and his wife, Beth, have four beautiful children: Heather, Joshua (wife Sarah), Caleb (wife Jessica) and Megan. They also have 4 grand-daughters, Addison Rogers, Ezra, Alexandra & Hazel Benitone. Troy also serves as the third Pastor in the 45 year history of Community of Faith Church in Marion, IL.



Joshua T. Benitone, *Vice-President of the Board, National Division*

Email: josh@hohfoundation.org

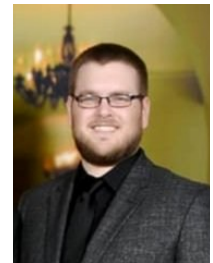
Josh is owner of the Crown Brew Coffee, Co, Josh became the Director of Operations for Hands of Hope in 2015. He also served as the Executive Director of For His Glory, a 2015-2019 partner ministry to the Hands of Hope Foundation that he started. Josh joined the Hands of Hope Foundation team in 2014 as our Hopefest and National Events Director. Josh, also serves as the Executive Pastor for Community of Faith Church in Marion from 2015-2018. He has served at two other large churches prior to coming to Community of Faith. He has now planted a new church in Marion, IL., called Kingdom Collective and serves as one of its Senior Leaders. Josh has traveled inside and outside the United States with his worship ministry, impacting people of all ages. He has also spent years working with musicians as an engineer, producer, and writer. Josh has spent time in many missions settings in the U.S. as well as Honduras, Mexico, Japan, Thailand and Guatemala. Josh currently is involved in starting several other entrepreneurial businesses. In July of 2011, Josh married his high school sweetheart, Sarah. They have 2 daughters Ezra & Alexandra. Josh graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from McKendree University where he studied Theology, Philosophy, and World Religions.



Dr. Caleb W. Benitone, *Vice-President of the Board, Medical Division*

Email: caleb.benitone@gmail.com

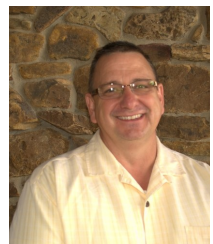
Caleb has been on and consulted on many of our Overseas Medical Outreach and is working with us in the planning of our new Hope Community Wellness "GAP" Clinic launch. Caleb has his Doctor of Pharmacy degree (2018) from the prestigious St. Louis College of Pharmacy and married Jessica Kowalski, also a graduate from STLCOP, in 2018. Caleb works as a Nuclear Pharmacist at PETNET Solutions and Jessica is the Inpatient Operations Supervisor at Seattle Children's Hospital.



Mr. Jerry W. Johnson- *Vice President COF Global Division*

Email: jerry.johnson@hohfoundation.org

Jerry Johnson serves as an elder at Community of Faith Church. He was a member of the board for Braswell Ministries from 2007 to 2010 and had the honor of representing the ministry in Honduras. He currently serves on the board of No Greater Love Ministries. Jerry is employed by Southeast Missouri Hospital as the supervisor of Cat Scan in the Radiology department. He and his wife Kim live in Anna, IL and have six children, Jessica and her husband Jason, Benjamin, Jacob, Zebulun, Caleb, Katherine and one beautiful granddaughter, Reagan Faith.



Mrs. Elizabeth (Mother Beth) Benitone- *Board Member*

Email: BethBenitone@aol.com



Mrs. Kim Johnson- *Board Member*

Email: boo6mom@gmail.com

HOH STAFF TEAM & MEDICAL TEAM LEADERS

Mrs. Valerie Fry, *Education Director*

Email: valerie.fry@hohfoundation.org

Valerie Fry and her husband have been members of Community of Faith since 1981. She has served over the years in many ministries involving children, youth and adult teaching, including serving as a youth leader for nine years. She has been on the teaching staff of Trinity School, in Carbondale, Illinois since 1990. Valerie earned degrees in teaching and fine art (she is also a working artist) from Southern Illinois University. She made her first international mission trip to Liberia in 2011, as an educational team leader and now serves as HANDS OF HOPE Educational Director. She says "Not only has my life's work been to teach children how to be strong academically but to find their identity in Christ. Valerie and Steve have two married children Dave (wife, Natalie) and Rachel (husband, Charles) and three wonderful grandchildren, Eli, Ethan, and Annalise.



Mrs. Donna Kraniewski, *Executive Assistant & HOH Logistics & Supply Coordinator*

Email: donna.kraniewski@hohfoundation.org

Donna became the Executive Assistant to Pastor Troy in the Summer of 2019 and has served over the last 8 years as the HOH Logistics & Supply Coordinator. Donna Kraniewski has served in church ministry for years in many capacities and has ten years of medical information experience. After leaving the medical field, she has worked as an administrative assistant for over 10 years. This "on the job training" has prepared her to handle the medical supplies and inventory systems for HOH. Donna has truly enjoyed working to get the medical supplies ready for transport. A ministry like HOH brings into focus how we can be the "hands and feet" of Jesus in this world. Donna and her husband, Rick, have two daughters- Kate and Lindsey.



Mrs. Tracy Lake, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Email: tracy@hohfoundation.org

Tracy Lake is a part of the Community of Faith Family and services as is Business Administrator. She has embraced her love of the Lord and assists leading a small group, helping in Super Kid Academy and with the BBQ Heroes team. She is a leader for the Boy Scouts of America, both on a local and district level, and advises youth as part of Future Business Leaders of America- Phi Beta Lambda. She works as an accountant at Southern Illinois University and got involved with the Hands of Hope Foundation to be able to use her skills as an accountant to benefit the people of Liberia and around the world.



Dr. Jeffrey D. Parks—
HOH Medical Director Emeritus



Dr. Ukeme I. E. Umana—
HOH Chief of Surgery Emeritus

Hands of Hope Foundation: LIBERIA NGO

Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo- *Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia NGO, National Director*

Email: paye@hohfoundation.org

Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo is the National Director of Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia and President of the College of West Africa, in Monrovia, Liberia. He has previously served as the District Superintendent of the Weala District Conference, Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He and his family took assignment in Weala Margibi, Liberia, in March 2007, after serving the Lord as a pastor and church planter in several cities over the previous 20 years. He has led numerous mission trips and crusades to plant churches in other parts of Liberia. Paye shares, "My heart's desire is to be involved in leading the church in the area of new church development and creating hope and building lives for the community, also expanding the reach of the church through growing new faith communities through new church starts. My life credo is to- Dream dreams and plan plans so grand that if God is not in them, they are doomed to fail because with God all things are possible." Paye and his wife, Deborah, have four beautiful daughters: Priscilla, Catherine, Christiana, Praise and Abigail.



PARTNERSHIP

HOH Partners & Friends- Along the way we have been blessed with so many Partners and Friends. Not to mention every person that has given their time and resources to make such a list like this a reality. We have also had some very special anonymous donors that have done so much to help us in *"Offering Hope in Christ."* Here is a list of some of our working partnerships over the years:

Community of Faith Church, Marion, IL. Community of Faith Church provides a high level of outreach ministry support, and also houses the headquarters of the Hands of Hope Foundation. In addition to this support, our **"Community House"** facility is located on the COF campus. www.cofchurch.org

Pro Health International (PHI) and our good friend Dr. Iko Ibanga, Executive Director (Founder) and his incredible team of gifted medical missionaries.

Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) has been such a great friend through their incredible health care professionals that have traveled with us and for the gift of precious items for the Weala Medical Center through the years that has impacted so many lives.

Surgical Direct Inc. Our good friends, Kevin & Dana Davis, at SDI have been such a blessing in providing our Eye Surgical team with high quality ophthalmic equipment, supplies, and technical assistance for our medical outreaches. <http://www.surgicaldirectinc.com>.

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach of Springfield, IL. (HSMO): We could do none of our medical work without the incredible servants of the HSMO who have made so many amazing medical supplies and equipment available for *"Offering Hope in Christ"* at the Weala Medical-Surgical Clinic.

Surgical Eye Expedition Int. (SEE): We are so grateful to Surgical Eye Expedition International, Inc., www.seeintl.org for providing so many of Dr. Ukeme Umana's, HOH Chief of Surgery's, eye team surgical supplies.

Crosslink Memphis, Inc., and their Executive Director Dr. David Lewis. Crosslink has a vision of *"linking medical supplies with medical missions"* and they have certainly blessed Hands of Hope with so many important medical supplies and medicines over the last 4 years.

Hope for the Children and the Bulgarian Church of God. We are working with the abandoned children of Bulgaria.

Hand to Hand Foundation: Our Thailand based partner working with the poor, neglected and abused in Thailand. www.handtohandpattaya.com

Tamar Center and Pattaya House of Prayer: Our partnership with the Thailand based ministry that is offering Hope to the girls leaving the human trafficking world.

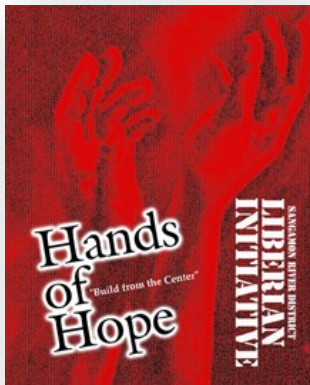
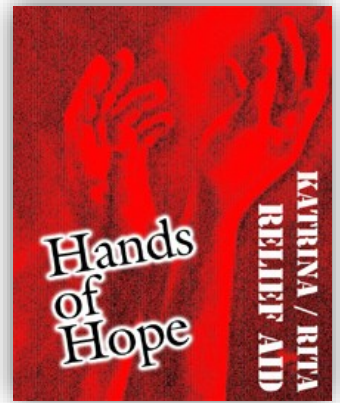
Healthy Women Healthy Liberia & Dr. Chris Hena: Our good friendship with the Kakata-based outreach clinic that our good friend Dr. Hena leads. She joins us for our Liberia medical outreaches & our medical centers have a shared supportive relationship in the efforts to serve Liberia. In 2018 she now serves as our Liberian Chie

No Greater Love Ministries & Network, we are partnered with No Greater Love Ministries in providing logistics support to their efforts of *"Offering Hope in Christ"* in the USA.

Global Methodist Church (GMC), Hands of Hope Foundation is an approved extension ministry of the Global Methodist Church and our Executive Director, a GMC Elder in the Great Lakes Conference has been appointed to serve there as an Appointment Beyond the Local Church (ABLC).

HISTORY

Hands of Hope began as the vision of a single-event, gathering together a cluster of local churches in the Springfield area of Illinois in an effort, to raise resources to assist in the Hurricane Katrina-Rita recovery in August 2005. The Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone, then pastoring in Pawnee, Il., was one of the co-coordinators of the event, and was inspired by God in developing the image and persona for the event which was "The Church living out its mandate to be God's Hands, Hands of Hope, to the victims of the disaster." Pastor Troy worked with an artist to develop the logo for that event called **Hands of Hope: Hurricane Katrina/Rita Relief Aid**. On October 9, 2005, the family-day concert event raised over \$35,000 worth of cash and relief items. The items were sent to the relief efforts of the Hurricane Victims through the United Methodist Commission on Relief via the Midwest Distribution Center and Hands of Hope was complete.



In 2008, Rev. Benitone was asked by his superintendent for the Sangamon River District of the UM Church to lead a district-wide effort to fund the building of a District Center and Parsonage for a war-torn sister church in the Weala District of the Liberian Conference of the UMC of West Africa. Liberia had gone through a devastating 14 year civil war. Our district was partnered with Rev. Paye Cooper Mondolo, the Wealah district superintendent, and his people to help in restoring hope to the people of Liberia. When asked to take on the goal of raising \$51,000 for the building of a District Center and Parsonage, Pastor Troy having met Rev. Mondolo and working with Rev. Sylvester Weatherall and Springfield 1st UMC, Pastor Dr. Roger Ross, all church planters, struck an agreement with our District Superintendent Rev. Jerry King, that every dollar raised beyond the \$51,000 needed would go to crusade to establish new churches in the war torn district. We had a dream to do three! It was then that Rev. Benitone said it

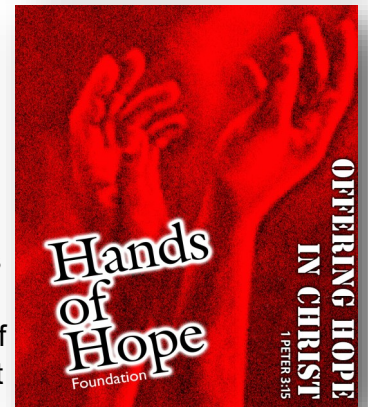
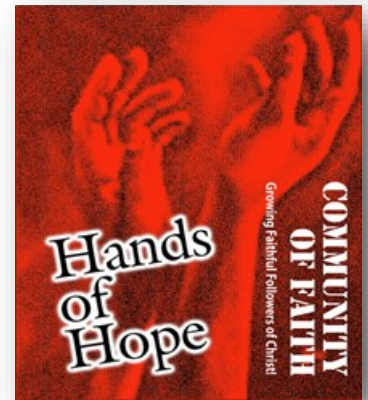
was time for Hands of Hope to ride again. The logo was revised **Hands of Hope "Build from the Center", Sangamon River District Liberian Initiative**. This time an entire district of churches came together to celebrate their fund-raising efforts through another even larger and more powerful family day. This event surpassed the \$51,000 goal for the district center and exceeded \$135,000. Not only was the center built, but we rebuilt or upgraded 4 war ravaged churches and planted the three new churches. Rev. Benitone and Rev. Ross made trips to Liberia in 2009 and took a team of 13 in January 2010 to use the resources raised to fulfill the dream of holding the crusades and planting three new churches with Rev. Mondolo in the regions of Salala, Totota and Village #7 in Liberia. Those churches are thriving today.

Just months after returning from the 2010 crusades, Rev. Benitone became the Directing Pastor of Community of Faith Church, a non-denominational church located in Southern Illinois. During the transition Rev. Benitone shared his heart to continue this work with, Bishop, Gregory Palmer. With his blessing and with the invitation of the Liberian Bishop, John G. Innis, Rev. Benitone and the Elders of Community of Faith Church entered into an independent partnership with the Liberian church to continuing the work that God was doing in Liberia through Hands of Hope. By early 2010, the work in Liberia had grown to include not only new church crusades, but doors were opening to enhance the churches work through Christian education, providing safe-drinking water wells, and helping to re-establishing medical services to strengthen the life of the Church. It was clear Hands of Hope had moved way beyond a couple of events and now was a full-blown ministry drawing others to be God's Hands of Hope.

Back up in time! In 1996, when the Community of Faith Church established a Refuge Home to provide housing and living accommodations for up to six mothers and their infant children in order to help them become self-sufficient. The Refuge Home provided these services to any mother with one infant child without regard to race, creed or ethnic background in a Christ-centered environment that promoted life-affirming values. After years filled with many incredible success stories of changing lives, things changed. When the home began, there were very

few options to help a young girl facing the birth of Child, but by 2010 increased governmental welfare programs and services with little expectations made the Christ-centered alternative unattractive. In 2010, the Refuge Home Foundation shut down its operation.

During this time, the vision of **Hands of Hope** was flourishing in its new home at Community of Faith Church. In February 2011, Rev. Benitone took another education, crusade, new church building and medical mission team called **Hands of Hope: Community of Faith**, composed of 15 from several area churches. During that trip the Weala Medical Clinic was launched and we developed our John Wesley K-12 Sponsors program for over 50 children and our Hope Scholars program were birthed. During this trip a vision plan was developed for Hands of Hope to go to the next level in planting and building new churches, expanding the Christian School, supporting the Weala Medical clinic and so much more. It was on this trip that we decided to rename and purpose the former, Refuge Home Foundation, to give Hands of Hope a non-governmental (NGO) faith-based 501©3 organization to build on. After seeking God's heart for wisdom, the Elders of Community of Faith Church, also acting as the Board of the former Refuge Home, renamed and purposed the ministry into one ready for the next level. What started as the inspiration for one event through the incredible blessings of God has become an epic in the making, with a bright future ahead, all for the glory of God. Today, **Hands of Hope Foundation** with a vision of **Offering Hope in Christ** in the spirit of 1 Peter 3:15 is the result. Today we have a whole new global look and you can see that new look below as we head into the next season.



VISION:

The Hands of Hope Foundation has a simple vision of **Offering Hope in Christ** in the spirit of 1 Peter 3:15.

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life.

And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it."

MISSION:

"The Hands of Hope Foundation is an organization designed to operate and develop faith based communities that will function on a local, national, and international level to provide financial and/or direct assistance to individuals, families, and other organizations in meeting a wide variety of needs to include: short-term housing, medical care, education assistance, drinkable water, food, and clothing; as well as a place of respite for Ministers and their families."



The Hands of Hope Foundation is registered in the United States as a non-for-profit 501©3 tax-exempt organization in the State of Illinois.

The Hands of Hope Foundation Liberia is registered as a NGO "Non-Governmental Organization" in the Republic of Liberia.

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