

# Les and Jane Zerbe

*In the Heart of Alaska for the Hearts of Alaskans*

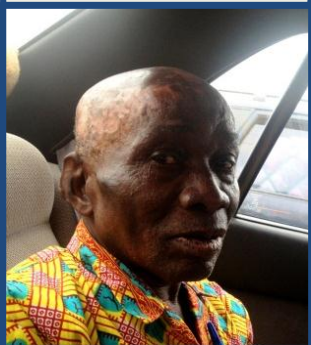
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March 26, 2013



Pastor Emmanuel Saywah



Pastor Bordor's burns healed

Dear praying friends,

From Alaska to Liberia, West Africa and return unscathed! From -44 to +114 degrees. From NYC to Monrovia, Liberia, in a big bird! The cell phone manual stated that the phone would shut off if the outside temperature air temperature was over 114 degrees. On **Pastors' Appreciation Day**, when we met with 129 faithful pastors and Liberian missionaries to the Muslims, the phone shut off!

Our first impression of Liberia was, "these people are in survival mode!" Yet when we left Liberia in 1980, there was only one fundamental Baptist church in the capitol city of Monrovia, and now there are **thirty!** All planted without the missionaries' help in any way! The Bible school we had to leave, the national pastors have kept going, educating future Liberian pastors. There are numerous churches throughout the country founded and led without help from the outside world, Liberian pastors following the Great Commission and staying true to 2 Timothy 2:1-3: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." For many years these faithful saints **had** endured hard-ness. And they will continue to endure hardness as Liberia ever so slowly rebuilds.



Les with two of the 129 pastors

"The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts." Prov. 17:3 Their hearts had been tried when they experienced something akin to a tsunami, not a huge wave of water, but wave after wave of war during which buildings were destroyed, livelihoods and life plans were interrupted, and thousands of lives were taken. If we could send relief to a country destroyed by water, how could we not extend relief to these in a country destroyed by war?

"But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem." Rom. 15: 25-27



129 pastors meeting

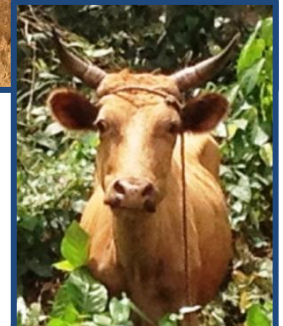
Because of your gifts, we were able to give a hundred pastors each a resource book for their libraries, a headlamp for getting things done after sundown, and a one-time gift of \$260. We had a drawing for a Thompson Chain Reference Bible, and Jane gave gifts to the pastors' wives. It was also the first time since the 1940's that all these Baptist pastors had come together in one place for a conference. After many years of civil war, it was a reminder that **we had not forgotten them**, and that like Elijah, **they were not the only ones still true to the Lord.**

THE CARAVAN CONNECTION, Inc., 356 Louise Lane, Fairbanks, AK 99709

CENTRAL MISSIONARY CLEARINGHOUSE, P.O. Box 219228 - Houston, Texas 77218-9228 1-800-CMC-PRAY

Sending Church: Lavon Drive Baptist Church, 1520 Lavon Drive, Garland, TX 75040

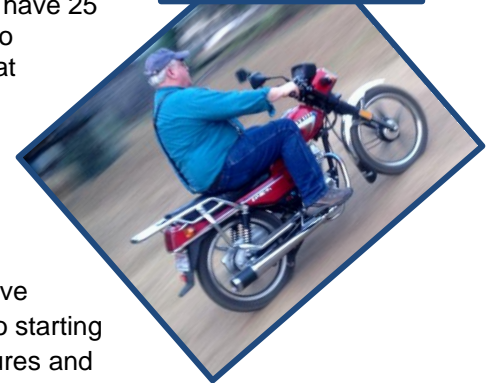
Because of a scarcity of chickens and goats and cattle in Liberia, my dad paid for a whole live cow to be bought in Ivory Coast and brought by pickup truck all the way to Monrovia. The heat just about wiped out that cow, but we cooled it with buckets of water. Water in the ear made it perk right up! The next day the refreshed cow angrily twitched its tail and charged us like a Mexican fighting bull! Eventually, it was caught and butchered in the church backyard for the Pastors' Appreciation Day feast. **For us, the cow was no big deal--simply a way to get enough meat for our menu; for them it was like that precious ointment broken and spilled out.** They had not eaten meat in years, and thanked us again and again for buying the cow, reminding us of the Biblical allusion, "...bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry...." Luke 15:23.



Our trip to Liberia was necessary to let these faithful men know that they had not been forgotten. This conference provided the first opportunity for all of them to see each other all together after so many years! It was "too sweet" to see them greet each other—back slapping, hugging, and shaking hands with that special Liberian snapping handshake. Thanks to all of you who contributed. I made sure they understood that it was you who had given for "distributing to the necessity of saints" Rom. 12:13.

I had an opportunity to visit the new church planted in Todee, 70 miles away, riding on a 125cc Chinese motor cycle. This is one trip I won't do again! Crossing a river by guiding the tire down the middle of three narrow logs, while balancing feet on the outer logs! One slip and I would be in the river! Arriving in one piece just in time for the church service, the people were so eager they would not even give us a chance to wash off the red road dust. After I preached, twenty-five people came forward to receive the Lord!

I told our Liberian pastors that the \$260 gifts were a one-time occurrence and donations for rice for the needy (\$35 per 100 lb bag) may not continue forever. The results of the war have not all gone away in a day. Plenty of needs remain. An orphanage run by a widow and her family needs a new roof, and rainy season is coming, but they have 25 children to feed. There is nothing wrong if you send some rice aid from time to time as the Lord leads. When we receive on our monthly CMC statement what came for special needs and rice, I send the funds from Walmart to Pastor Moses, who can get the funds in five minutes from a Money Gram office near him. Then he and others deliver to the needy the hundred pound bags of rice on the luggage rack of the motorcycles.



These pastors extend a very big thanks to all of you who gave. It was very important that this time of fellowship and encouragement happened. They have done an extraordinary job of not only keeping their churches together, but also starting new ones during the protracted civil wars. As soon as possible, we'll get pictures and videos posted on our website, and we will send out DVD's of the trip if you'd like to have one. **Pray for these faithful pastors as they serve the Lord in Liberia.**

Faithfully yours,  
*Les Zerbe*



**SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:** *"Where's the beef?  
Oh, I see, it's leftovers in the pan!"*

*"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"*  
-- 1 Timothy 4:4



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