

Les and Jane Zerbe

In the Heart of Alaska for the Hearts of Alaskans

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Dear friends,

The oil pressure gauge on the six-place Cessna 206 had always indicated 50 lbs; Then on one memorable flight it read only 25 lbs! Thirty minutes to Fairbanks or 10 minutes to Manley Hot Springs---the choice was made in 5 seconds. Some of you folks have given funds toward a new engine some time back, and it took me six days to replace the engine on the ground in uncomfortable circumstances in the bush. I am now blood relative to many mosquitoes in Manley Hot Springs, Alaska!

A man in Manley heard of my predicament and gave me the keys to his four-place plane on the airfield, a Cessna 177 Cardinal. The plane had only 2600 hours total time and a new engine just installed. He didn't just give me the keys, he gave me the plane! We will be evaluating how best to use this smaller, more economical plane. I finished the annual inspections on both planes last week.

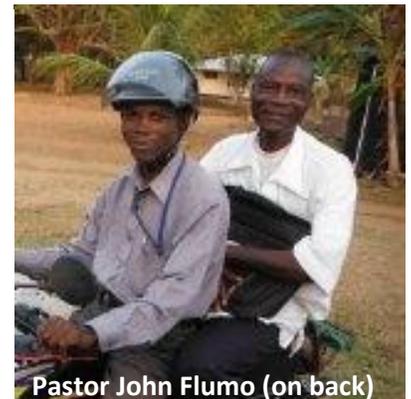
After we returned from the visit to Liberia, we made reports in several churches, telling how we distributed funds to 100 of 129 pastors. We had asked the pastors what to do, since we had only raised funds for \$260 for 100 pastors. We offered to divide the funds so that each pastor received less, but we wanted to give enough to make a real difference. The 29 pastors who came from the interior jungles said "we will go home with nothing." Two weeks later a couple who heard me tell about the humble pastors wrote a check for a lump sum of \$8500 to cover the donations for the remaining pastors and to purchase them also 2000 pounds of rice! So quickly was the need met for those who had the patience and graciousness to wait and see what God would do to bless them!

A church in Montana donated \$2000, which we applied to purchasing motorcycles for two more Liberian pastors, making five pastors who have received 125cc Chinese motorcycles. This multiplies their ministries greatly. Just imagine if your pastor had to walk everywhere! How much time would he have to "labor in the Word" for a well thought out message four times a week? Pastor-Evangelist John Flumo is a missionary to the Muslims and is doing a good work among them. He was walking many miles each week, but now he is driving a Chinese Motorcycle.

A lady sent us a check for \$500 designated for Africa ministry. Just a few days before we knew about it, Pastor Vaye wrote us of three Bible Institute students who could not pay anything on their tuition. Now please understand that the pastors who teach in the Bible Institute receive only a little money for their transportation, yet they continue to teach others how to serve the Lord. Pastor Vaye told us that they could not get gas money, making it very close to stopping classes until these students could find work to pay something toward their tuition. Knowing that the students would benefit more by receiving work, we asked Pastor Vaye to find small jobs around the campus for which the students could earn their tuition. That lady's timely offering was just the right amount for three "work scholarships" and sent before we knew the need!



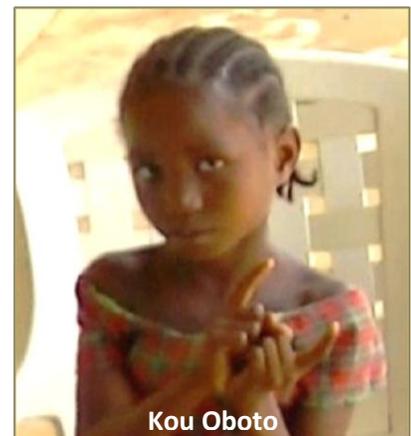
Annual Inspection



Pastor John Flumo (on back)



Bible College students



Kou Oboto

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

A ladies' Sunday school class in Montana sent Jane a check recently that we used for our newly "heart adopted" Liberian deaf "grandchild"--Kou Oboto. Jane writes: One of our goals for the Liberia trip was to educate the pastors about having a ministry to the Deaf. I had previously asked several pastors if they knew of any church with a ministry to deaf people. None knew about deaf ministry. In fact, one pastor said that many people believed that deaf were not human, but were merely like the animals, because they did not speak.

Three deaf teenagers and their teacher from a mission school for the deaf attended and sat in the front in the view of the 129 pastors. As their teacher interpreted for them, 129 necks craned to see his hands moving in sign language. After the teens "spoke" to the pastors, including Bible verses from memory, the pastors could clearly see the humanity and intelligence of the deaf students and the joy of the Lord in their faces. The pastors were so moved by the deaf presentation that they ***asked if they could give an offering for the deaf mission school.***

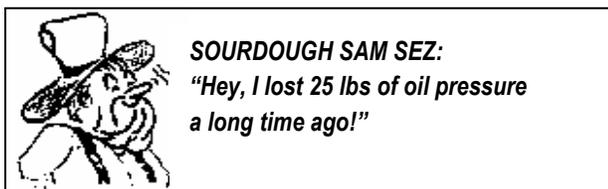
"Mommee, (term of respect for older woman), can you help my daughter? She can't hear." The father wanted his five year old daughter to attend the deaf school. Since the father was out of work, we decided to sponsor Kou at the deaf school for \$40 a month. Just a few months previously, the mother had walked out on the large family. Because I did not want Kou to think her father also was abandoning her at the deaf boarding school, I taught her a few basic signs along with her father and 13 year old brother, with her brother performing the actions. A shy grin formed as she gave her brother orders for the first time: go, come, jump! (It's probably the only time he'll be so happy to obey his little sister!) Now Kou is attending boarding school and doing well in acquiring language and knowledge. My goal was to teach pastors about having a deaf ministry, and that may occur sometime in the future, but God's immediate plan was for us to find **one little lost lamb.**



We have been sending funds for rice to a Christian orphanage run by a widow and her grown children. She has 28 children living there, but the roof on the large building is rusted through, and it is rainy season. It will require 15 bundles of zinc roofing at \$125 each, plus planks and nails. We have purchased the first bundle. If any of you would like to help, please send funds to CMC with a note "for Les Zerbe—Orphanage roof."

My (Les) dad, Ludwig Zerbe, flew the first mission plane in Liberia, West Africa, helping wing the gospel to where it would not otherwise easily go. It revolutionized missions back then, and there are still places in the world where missionary aviation can be used. I have heard about two tribal peoples hidden in the jungles of Costa Rica, never reached with the gospel until recently. Now some Costa Rican Christians are walking seven days to get to these people who are very receptive to the "Good News." To me seven days is unacceptable when a 45 minute plane ride would suffice, but it is all they can do.

We feel so blessed to be able to share God's love and provision to needy people—whether other missionaries or the lost, deaf or hearing, in Alaska or Africa. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive. Thank you for your support and prayers over the years.



SOURDOUGH SAM SEZ:
*"Hey, I lost 25 lbs of oil pressure
a long time ago!"*

Faithfully yours,
Les Paul Zerbe
www.FarNorthFlyingChaplain.com

P.S. Please pray for a deaf woman in Fairbanks who is has been recently released after serving six weeks in jail. Jane showed her several American Sign Language videos having visual representations of Creation, the Fall of Man, the Gospel, and Breaking Free and staying Free from alcohol and drug abuse. Pray that she will grow in her knowledge of how to experience victory over her struggles and will show up at church and Reformers Unanimous Meetings.