

Liberia

by Pastor John Clark



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Our most recent trip to Liberia (August 2023) was one of the most fulfilling trips we have taken to date. It was such an encouragement to personally meet with the core group of pastors and church leaders we had not seen in-person since February 2020 due to COVID travel restrictions and difficulties. From the fall of 2020 through the spring of 2023, Rob Armstrong and I taught six separate workshops online and via ZOOM, and then in May of this year we received the wonderful news that we could return to Liberia.

We were truly amazed by the work God did in the lives of our dear brothers and sisters in our absence! It was a living example of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 which states: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God **may be complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work."* We witnessed first-hand the value a steady intake of the Word of God can have in the lives of saints who consistently respond to the Lord by faith.



John Clark, Pastor Paye and wife Mabel, and Rob Armstrong.



By his own testimony, the gospel of grace has revolutionized the life of our co-laborer in Liberia, Pastor George Paye. Pastor Paye's ministry reminds me of the delicate balance the apostle Paul described in 1 Corinthians 15:10 when he said, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."*

Pastor Paye has personally trained and developed four teachers in his local church who are actively involved in disciple-making workshops in three separate geographic areas.

In addition to these teachers, he has put together a team of 20 people who function in multiple support roles including: teaching the gospel to the children whose parents are attending the workshops (think mini-VBS), working a rice and vegetable farm to support the teams' expenses and food needs, working a printing shop and internet cafe (located onsite at the church), teaching and running a Christian school (in which they share the clear gospel of grace and eternal security each week during their chapel service with 180 children), and bottling drinking water to sell to the community. This team also disperses in small groups of 2 or 3 to teach the Romans 1-8 curriculum throughout their own and neighboring communities. They consistently receive feedback like: "Why have we never heard the gospel preached like this before! This is such good news!"

Rob and I had the joy of meeting with these brothers and sisters as they took turns describing the ministry they were involved in and the life-changing experience understanding the gospel and finished work of Christ has had in their lives. There were faces in this group we had never seen before. We found out later that some of the team members were 3rd, 4th, and even 5th generation disciples from our original group.



In addition to Pastor Paye and his team, we also met with four young men (early to mid-20's) who have been attending our workshops since they were teenagers. These young men are now college graduates and have a thriving ministry among the youth in their community. Every other week they have what they call a "revival." Now this not what we in America typically call a revival. Their "revival" involves teaching Romans 1-8 for multiple hours on Friday and Saturday night to about 150 young adults. Their emphasis is the three tenses of salvation with a focus on the finished work of Christ for both justification and sanctification. Additionally, these young men informed us they now have open doors to go into more rural communities and teach pastors, church leaders, and other adults.



Rob and I are simply rejoicing in all the ministry outreaches we are aware of, and in all the outreaches we are simply unaware of. There is light, passion, and love in the eyes of our brothers and sisters in Liberia. We are so thankful to the Lord for the privilege of serving them and enjoying their fellowship in the Lord!

A big, big thank you to anyone who has ever supported DM2's ministry in Liberia. Your financial gifts and prayers have changed the eternal destiny of untold numbers. Glory to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Note: The Liberia workshops are run by Pastor John Clark and his church, Grace Community Fellowship. You can learn more about their ministry at www.gracenewnan.org



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