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USA

Liberia

By John Clark

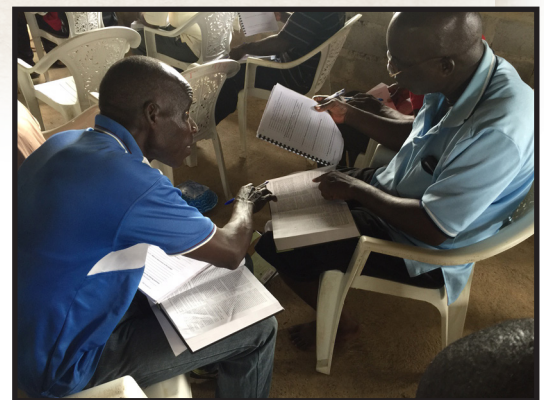
Our trip to Liberia in October 2018 provided a couple of new opportunities, such as teaching at a Bible institute on Saturday morning, preaching at a church's 20-year anniversary celebration, and speaking on the radio; but nothing gave my heart more joy than our evening meeting with three young disciple-makers. These men, all in their early twenties, have each personally bought into Jesus' vision of disciple-making.

When we started coming to Liberia in 2014, I was very excited about the idea of investing in other people's lives. I had no idea that some of the young men we had a hand in training would also minister to me in such an encouraging way. Let me explain.

Although they are very poor, have no formal theological training, and are recent high school graduates with only some university education, these three young men are well versed in the book of Romans, understand salvation in all three tenses, and regularly speak of the finished work of Christ, their position in Christ, walking by faith, counting themselves dead to sin and alive to God, and presenting their bodies to the Lord. Via God's provision through their families and churches, these men have established three different locations where they teach DM2 curriculum to Liberian youth groups every summer. These workshops are completely funded by these three men; they provide student manuals, lunch each day of the workshop, and completion certificates to every young person in attendance.

Before one of their workshops this past year, they located a printing company that was going to save them some money on the student manuals. They were excited for this new vendor. Unfortunately, however, with just days to go before the workshop, the vendor, along with their initial deposit, was nowhere to be found, leaving them short of cash for the workshop.

Because they now had to purchase the manuals at the last minute at a much higher price, they were going to be short on food costs for the last two days of the workshop. They contemplated canceling the workshop but reminded each other that God had called them to be disciple-makers and Jesus said He had all authority in heaven and on earth and would be with them until the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20). So, they pressed forward with the workshop by faith. Monday and Tuesday came and went, but still no "miraculous" provision. By the end of Wednesday, they were going to run out of food. They continued praying and planned to tell the group on Wednesday evening that they were willing to continue to teach them on Thursday and Friday, but that they were not going to be able to provide the food as promised. Culturally, this would have been very embarrassing for them, but they were willing to own up to the issue at hand and trust the Lord with the results.



On Wednesday morning, the pastor of the church, greatly impressed with what the young men were teaching, notified them he and the church would like to provide the food for the workshop for the rest of the week. Unaware of their dilemma, he felt led to give to their effort. Little did he know that the God of the universe, in fulfillment of His desire to motivate and encourage disciple-making to the ends of the earth, had used him to not only encourage three young disciple-makers in Liberia, but also a pastor (me) in Atlanta, Georgia who equally needed encouragement to trust the Lord in his ministry. Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness! I consider it a true privilege to be a small part of what God is doing in the hearts and minds of these disciple-makers in Liberia!

Update from our February 2019 trip to Liberia: We are starting to see “second generation” people at our workshops who were led to the Lord by one of our participants and who have been studying with them.

I feel like the field in general is like a snowball rolling downhill. Every time I go back the snowball has increased in size and speed. Many of our core group of Liberians are re-teaching the material. They are starting to organize some teaching teams and formulate a “plan” on how to get this message and training to more pastors and church leaders. These guys are all from a small village. For them to be thinking biblically concerning the Great Commission is amazing.

Liberia Workshop

By Ken Draper

DM2 is going strong in Liberia. February 11-15, three of us conducted a workshop teaching the Life of Christ. More than fifty pastors and church leaders engaged in this thorough survey of the life of our Lord.

My partnership with DM2 Liberia began in 2014. Under the faithful direction of John Clark and Liberian pastor, George Paye, God has graciously blessed this ministry. I was excited to see how God has worked in the short time since my last visit in 2016. Pastor Paye has recruited two teachers (one being his teenage son) to travel to nearby towns to teach the DM2 curriculum. The other, Nathaniel, was a teenager who lived in an orphanage when we met him in 2014. Now, as a young man, he teaches DM2 material to a group of young boys from the orphanage. He even brought three of these teens with him to our workshop! These are just two examples of Liberians who have caught the vision. I am sure that in the growing core group of about 25 regular students these examples are repeated in many ways. What a privilege to join in the work God is doing in Liberia. The Great Commission is being fulfilled through these faithful believers.



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