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ICBM Newsletter

Introducing Gertrude Bouh; ICBM Liaison in Liberia

Upon returning home from our mission trip to Liberia, the team presented a report to the ICBM board. We discussed the long-term goals and ideas to have a lasting impact to the blind community in Liberia. The first step in these long-term goals is to have a liaison to be on the ground and in the community on a regular basis to build those relationships. An individual willing and able to be a trusted liaison for ICBM to work with in this new venture in Liberia. They will distribute resources, food, and spiritual support to the blind community. Being in constant communication with ICBM via weekly reports, pictures, and videos.

Over our past few mission trips to Liberia, Africa to minister to the community of blind people there, the team has grown in relationship and trust with Gertrude Bouh. The team first met Gertrude because she was one of the people that would prepare the meals for some of the community. While Mike, Devin, Missy, and Steve were there, they sat down and talked with Gertrude about becoming a liaison for ICBM. With Gertrude being a local and already having knowledge of the community and culture; she is able to improve our outreach and the way we minister to the people in Liberia.

Devin took time to start teaching Gertrude Unified English Braille (UEB) in hopes that she will be able to teach others what she has learned. Steve did the same with his Orientation and Mobility

instruction on how to most effectively use a white cane for transportation. Before returning home, the team agreed to support Gertrude for a few months while they sought the approval of the ICBM Board to fund her partnership for a longer amount of time.

We are asking for your support to ICBM so that we can continue to reach the blind community and to support Gertrude as an ICBM Liaison on the Liberia area. We are currently sending \$550 per month, the details of what we are sending on a monthly basis is as follows:

- \$150 - Gertrude's monthly salary
- \$200 - Food for the blind village
- \$150 - Transportation costs
- \$10 - Medical needs
- \$40 - Cell phone for weekly reports to be sent

These short-term mission trips cost \$3,700 per person. This includes transportation, food, and lodging. We are thankful for God's guidance and opening doors for ICBM to be an instrument to share his Gospel to the blind community in Liberia. We want to ask continual support for these mission trips and to support Gertrude being a liaison.

If you have any further questions about the mission efforts in Liberia, please feel free to call 606-474-3411 or email icbmwv@icbminc.org.



Gertrude Bouh Servicing Her Community

A Message from Mike Smith

This was the third year that I had gone to Liberia. During the first year, I just observed to see what was needed. I also with the assistance from the ministry of Psalm 82:3, distributed audio bibles. During the second year, I preached a 3-day revival and we worked on meeting some needs of the blind village and the Buchannon School. We also visited the Buchannon School for the Blind. We bought a new generator for the blind village and had an electrician to rewire the village. We gave braille writers and materials to both the blind school in Monrovia and the blind school in Buchannon.

We also encouraged the villagers to make drums that they could sell. This past January, my third trip to Liberia, I preached a 3-day revival which resulted in 20 baptisms. We wanted to concentrate on the spiritual needs of the people. Again, we distributed braille writers and canes, but our emphasis was on spiritual matters. We also stressed braille literacy which will result in biblical literacy. Thank you to all that have supported the International Christian Braille Mission in our ministry both in the United States and in Liberia.

A Message from Devin Otte

This is the third year that ICBM has travelled to Liberia, Africa to help the blind learn about God's love in Christ Jesus. We have been honored to be hosted by Psalm 82:3 Mission. This Mission was founded by Matt Lee and has built four orphan houses and a school in Buchanan. We have partnered with them to reach out to the blind in the area.

This was an exciting year. In the past few years, we have focused on three different places in Buchanan: The Village of the Blind, The School of the Blind, and The Old Folks Home. We visited each of these places this year. They remembered us with joy and warm greetings. This year Mike Smith preached, and we baptized 20 souls! It was a strange occurrence of these baptisms. Because the river water is polluted, we had to baptize people at a pool in a resort. They charged us \$5 a person! It was well worth it. Praise God.

This year we were also very excited by what we saw at the School of the Blind. Last year we brought them five Braille Perkins writers, braille paper and material for young people to learn braille. There were eight students last year and the school has grown to 20 students. Moreover, the students were tested in front of us on their knowledge of braille and were able to recount from memory the braille dot numbers for each letter of the alphabet!

During our 10-day stay, we met frequently with Matt Lee. He encouraged us to consider hiring a Braille Liaison on a full-time basis. This would be a native of Africa who would be able to learn braille and help with the three locations that we had visited. After prayer and discussion, we felt that this was an excellent idea. We took a young lady named Gertrude Boehn on our visits. When we came back to the United States, we met with the ICBM board and made a decision to fund Gertrude as the ICBM Braille Liaison in Africa. Please keep her and us in prayer that we may continue to reach out and share the love of God in Christ Jesus with the blind in Africa.

A Message from Missy Nettles

This trip to Liberia was my second and was more fulfilling than my first trip which opened my eyes to the need for a blind mission. The second trip opened my eyes to how fulfilling the many needs of the blind could do and the possibilities of meeting their needs in the future. This was such a special trip to be able to not only see this happen, but to be able to be a part of it and to witness my brother, Mike Smith (Mikey) preach the Gospel to the blind.

The love that we received from everyone no matter that their situation was in such dire need of help. To be a witness for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ that they have and their desire to be baptized. We baptized 21 blind women, children, and men and one who had sight which was myself.

The team that Mikey put together for this mission came together and provided and distributed food, pots and pans and other needed necessities to the School of the Blind, Village of the Blind, and The Old Folks (actual name!) of the Blind. We saw the need for this as many have no way of providing for themselves and do without.

There are so many blessings that I witnessed during our trip. I will forever hold in my heart and be thankful to God that I was able to be a part of.

Matt and Melvin talk with the team from ICBM

Scan this QR code to watch a video of the ICBM team meeting with Matt Lee and Melvin of Psalm 82:3 Mission and talk about what they did during the recent mission trip to Liberia.



A Message from Steve Hoyt

I was super blessed again going to Liberia with the Psalm 82:3 Mission Team. We worked with 35 to 40 adults and children with white canes. Another highlight was Mike Smith preaching the Word, and around 21 baptisms at the pool! I was blessed when a little girl who was blind wanted to help Mike by holding his hand at the Monrovia School for the Blind.

I was blessed by all the fellow teammates and their attitude and willingness to serve. I was blessed by Pastor Jerry doing an independent route with his white cane at the village of the blind. I was blessed with Pastor Robert and Jerry made all the drums for us. I was blessed by all the children at the mission and their joy in the Lord. I was blessed to see Pastor Joseph, and all the Pastors at the Mission and Melvin, and Morris. I was blessed by the adults using their white cane last year. I was blessed by Gertrude being a Liaison for the blind at Buchannon. I was blessed by William with CP using a motor cart at the Old Folks Home. I was blessed by Mindy, Mike and Devin who were our team. I want to thank them for their love and service to others. I want to thank Matt and Mike for the opportunity to go again to Africa and thankful to Jim, our CEO for funding my trip to Africa.