

In 2017 Westminster Works with African Partners to Address Needs in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone

African Mission program goals include poverty reduction, child education and community empowerment. We seek to promote sustainable use of resources and to creatively address mutual concerns.

- In Ghana, for over 5 years HOCAP Missions in Tema, with support from Westminster and the Seven Hills Foundation, helped the Okushibri community acquire basic amenities -- potable water, latrines, and an operating school. The Government of Ghana has now taken over the school. In 2016, HOCAP Missions started a similar approach in Nyitawuta with Westminster support. (page 2)
- In Liberia, the 2016 Westminster delegation to Hope Mission (HM) in Bernard Farm developed ideas for building long-term school capacity. Thanks to these initiatives, funded by a grant from Presbyterian Women and \$4,000 from Westminster, HM will soon be able to support its 12-grade school. Westminster will continue to fund HM Ebola orphans and scholarship students. (page 3)
- In Sierra Leone, Westminster continues to fund distributions of food for 200 orphans at Freetown's M.O.M. orphanage and is responding to the disastrous August 14, 2017 mudslide.
- Westminster's Mission Committee sends PCUSA \$5,000 a year for a mission co-worker in West Africa.

The African Ministries Committee thanks Westminster and all friends and supporters for their gifts. For both *African Family Night on November 4, 2017* and *African Spring Dinner on March 24, 2018*, the fundraising goal is \$10,000.

PROJECTS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF 2017 MISSION PROJECTS; SOURCES
In Ghana	\$9,000	3 Tema partner projects, Ghana Mission Network support, 2018 visit of Tema partners
In Liberia (grants)*	\$14,000	Bee-keeping, snail farming, purchase of new generator and freezer, school rooms for Grades 11 & 12
In Liberia and Sierra Leone**	\$10,000	Hope Mission: 50 scholarships, school construction and administration; Freetown: mudslide relief
Ebola Orphans in Liberia & Sierra Leone**	\$9,500	\$6,000 for total care of 11 Ebola orphans at Hope Mission in 2017; \$3,550 for four distributions of bags of food to 200 orphans at Freetown's MOM orphanage
Total	\$42,550	*\$14,000 used in 2017 from PW Grant & Westminster match; **\$28,550 from Westminster's African Mission budget

Okushibri Community, Ghana



Capacity Building in Liberia



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September 2017

In 2017 Westminster Works with Partners In Tema, Ghana and in Sierra Leone

TEMA, GHANA: Since starting work with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in 2005, Westminster formed a partnership in 2011 with two Presbyterian churches in Tema -- Greenwich Meridian and Redemption -- and with a Christian NGO founded by Redemption Church -- Home of Care and Protection (HOCAP).

Greenwich Meridian Presbyterian Church. This large congregation, near to the Tema Port, celebrated its 50th anniversary several years ago. A Westminster travel team first visited Greenwich Meridian in 2005. Travel teams visit mission programs we have partnered to support. The current plan is to help support sustainable and income generating agricultural projects for the rural Kordiabe community where the church is expanding and supporting the community.

Tema Redemption Church. The Church celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. The Westminster travel team first visited Redemption in 2009. Tema continues to use funds donated by Westminster to support school scholarships for needy students and to operate a program for young children. In 2009 Redemption helped to organize HOCAP missions (see below)

HOCAP Missions (www.hocapmissions.org). HOCAP missions has worked to alleviate need and promote equal opportunity in deprived areas without infrastructure including schools. Following their work in Okushibri HOCAP Missions turned its attention to a very poor rural school in Nyitawuta in the Volta Region. Seven Hills Global Outreach is a HOCAP partner. Westminster funds will help this year to purchase a vehicle for outreach and service in Nyitawuta.

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE: Since 2015 Westminster has provided \$3,550 a year for bags of food for Ebola orphans living at the M.O.M. orphanage. The director of the orphanage reports that this support continues to be of vital importance. In addition, Westminster wants to aid the Regent area of Freetown devastated by a terrible mudslide on August 14. At least 500 persons have been killed, and hundreds are still missing. Many survivors lack access to clean water, sanitation, food and shelter.

Westminster is responding in two ways:

- The Church Mission committee has sent \$250 to the PCUSA Disaster Assistance Fund to aid the victims of these devastating mudslides, triggered by unusually heavy rains. To contribute to the PCUSA fund, give on-line or send a check with a memo line of Disaster Assistance-Sierra Leone to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
- The African Mission Committee will work with member Fatmata Hilton to honor the memory of her sister Massah Kamara who died this year. Massah was the Westminster contact for the M.O.M. orphanage and lived close to the site of the August 14 mudslide near Freetown. The goal is to ask members of the Albany community to donate hygiene kits containing items specified by Church World Service and packaged in a gallon zip lock bag for shipment after November 4.

Church Pre-school, Tema, Ghana



Massah Kamara with Ebola orphans, Sierra Leone



In 2017 Westminster Uses a Capacity Building Grant to Help Hope Mission Raise Own Revenue

In addition to ongoing annual support for Ebola orphans and scholarship students, ideas from the 2016 Westminster delegation visit to Hope Mission in Bernard Farm, Liberia for building long-term capacity at the school resulted in a grant of \$18,300 received in 2017 from a Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering grant and \$4,000 from Westminster. Using this funding Hope Mission has:

- Contracted with PCUSA's West African Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL) to provide instruction and supplies for vocational training for students and community members on snail farming and bee-keeping. Large snails are a valuable protein source produced for both cash and consumption.
- Purchased a powerful generator and freezer. The community lacks public utilities and has few private generators so the new equipment will produce revenue from sale of cold beverages and from the charging of cell phones and other equipment. The new generator will also increase Hope Mission's ability to light classrooms and common areas.
- Purchased supplies so local laborers could complete school space for Hope Mission students in Grades 11 and 12. Hope Mission now has the only K-12 school in the immediate area.

Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment and supplies and to hire local labor. Initiatives will further stimulate the Bernard Farm economy and enable more parents to pay school tuition fees.

TRAINING WORKERS IS ANOTHER APPROACH TO CAPACITY BUILDING

By 2019, Westminster hopes at least one partner will be able to promote an approach to food and life of the Asian Rural Institute (ARI). ARI challenges itself and the whole world in an approach to food and life titled: *"That We May Live Together."*

Westminster's November 4, African Family Night will highlight the ARI approach. Two dinner speakers will describe ARI's community-based, hands-on learning program which has operated in Japan since 1973. Emphasis is placed on servant leadership, community building, and sustainable agriculture. The speakers are Kathy Froede, ARI Ecumenical Relations Coordinator and Acivo Rhakho, a 2000 ARI graduate who now heads the ARI food program.

TOTAL PCUSA MISSION BUDGET FOR 2017

For 2017, there is a \$42,550 African Mission budget: \$7,400 from the Church Budget, \$21,150 from three fundraisers (January, April, November), and \$14,000 from our Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering grant and WPC match. Page 1 has information on the budget categories.

Capacity Building, Liberia



Capacity Building, Asian Rural Institute (ARI)



Westminster Presbyterian Church's African Family Night



Nyitawuta, Ghana, HOCAP Missions Project



Hope Mission School, Liberia

Saturday November 4

Keynote Speakers at 6:15 pm:

Kathy Froede

from Japan's Asian Rural Institute (ARI)

Acivo Rhakho

from India, 2000 ARI graduate

ARI challenge to world:

That We May Live Together

5 to 8:30 pm Dish-to-Pass Dinner

Transforming the Lives of Children
in Ghana, Liberia & Sierra Leone



WESTMINSTER
Presbyterian Church

\$10,000 Fundraising Goal

Kindly respond by October 31: 518-436-8544 office@wpcalbany.org

Parking & donations: 85 Chestnut St. Albany, NY 12210

www.wpcalbany.org

Give Online: www.wpcalbany.org/give

Checks payable to: Westminster Church, "African Family Night" in the memo line



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