Facts about Liberia:

Official Name: Republic of Liberia

Capital City: Monrovia

Population: Estimated at 3,370,993

Liberia is 43,000 square miles - just slightly larger than the state of Tennessee!

Pidgin English is the trade language of Liberia, but there are 16 distinct ethnic dialects spoken in the country!

Liberia is Africa's first and oldest republic. It was established on land purchased from indigenous Africans for freed slaves by the American Colonization Society in 1821.

From 1989 to 2003, a ruthless civil war killed over 250,000 people, while thousands more were mutilated and tortured, often by armies of drugged child soldiers led by competing warlords. There are even widespread reports of modern cannibalism. Many who survived the war struggle with severe Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

The 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak mainly affected Liberia, killing more than 11,300 people.

Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world. When measured by GDP per capita, it was ranked seventh poorest in 2020.

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Kyle & Elisabeth Burchwell

Preaching the Gospel of Christ in LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA

What is the need in Liberia?

Before Liberia's civil war, the country was a flourishing field with many church-planting missionaries and prospering ministries. Due to the civil war and the following dangers of the Ebola crisis, church-planting missions in Liberia nearly ground to a halt. Although the nation claims to be predominantly Christian, the "Christianity" represented is a conglomeration of tribal mysticism, Catholicism, Charismatic, and Prosperity Gospel beliefs. The most common idea of Christianity is giving some money to a self-proclaimed prophet, who then promises to pray that God will bless you. The average Liberian has no concept of sin, no understanding of who Jesus Christ is, and no idea what it means to be Biblically saved. Most of the "pastors" are charlatans and scoundrels scamming the people for money. The hardest part about leading a Liberian to the Lord is cutting through decades of false teaching and misunderstanding of the Bible.

On top of this, most of Liberia geographically is currently unreached. There are very few church-planting missionaries in the country, and many people in the rural areas and jungles have never heard the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Goals:

Our goals are to partner with Liberian nationals in planting local churches.

While pursuing this goal, we will be taking advantage of opportunities to partner with nationals in reaching their own ethnic groups in their own dialects. We will seek to make it possible for unreached Liberians to hear the Gospel in their native tongue by means of the internet, apps, recorded play-back devices, and radio.

There will also be endless opportunities for evangelistic outreaches, discipling, and teaching of the youth, seeking to reach them with the Gospel before their lives are destroyed by the darkness of the society in which they live.

Kyle's Testimony

Kyle grew up in a Christian home and accepted the Lord as his Savior at the age of four. Kyle's father surrendered to serve the Lord as a pastor during his later years, and moved his family to Lattimore, North Carolina to attend bible college. This move allowed Kyle to become familiar with the idea of serving God with his life as a child. During his early teens, he surrendered to full-time Christian service and then specifically to missions at a youth camp. Following God's leading, Kyle enrolled at Ambassador Baptist Bible College in 2014. During his college internship in 2018, God burdened his heart for the country of Liberia. He has been pursuing this calling ever since, visiting the country again in 2020 and in 2022. Kyle met his wife Elisabeth during the senior year of his undergraduate studies, and they were married in 2021. During his graduate studies, Kyle's father developed terminal brain cancer while pastoring at First Baptist Church of Limestone in Pennsylvania. Following his graduation, Kyle and his wife moved to Pennsylvania to assist his father, serving as the interim pastor for a little over a year following his father's death. After joining BIMI in December of 2022, Kyle and Elisabeth have eagerly followed God's leading as they seek to serve Him in Liberia, West Africa.

Elisabeth's Testimony

Elisabeth grew up in a Christian home, and her father became a pastor during her early teenage years. She was saved just before her fifth birthday, and at the age of twelve, she told the Lord that she would do whatever He had for her to do. Elisabeth attended college at Ambassador Baptist Bible College, where she majored in elementary education. While at Ambassador, she met her future husband, Kyle. She would continue her education with a master's degree in elementary education from West Coast Baptist College, and is looking forward to using her passion for teaching to serve the Lord on the field. She served alongside her husband while he pastored First Baptist Church of Limestone, and is looking forward to serving the Lord with him in Liberia, West Africa.

Dear Gospel laborer,

Liberia is an African country with great needs and great opportunities. Twenty years after their last civil war, God has thrown open the doors for evangelism and church planting like never before.

I am delighted that Kyle and Elisabeth Burchwell surrendered their lives to take the Gospel to Liberia. I had the privilege of watching Kyle grow up into a godly young man serving the Lord in our church. I have seen God stretch and mold him into a servant leader that will be an effective missionary.

Elisabeth spent three of her college years serving at our church. Her servant's heart and tenacity are hallmarks of her character. She has matured into a hardworking, able helpmeet and has much to offer in service to the Lord.

Their Christian testimony and character are exemplary. They are well prepared for missionary service. We are honored to send them out of Maranatha Baptist Church in Shelby, NC, and I wholeheartedly recommend them to you. Please pray for them and consider supporting them.

Laboring for Christ,

Jim Davidson
Pastor

Doctrinal Statement

We believe that there is only one living and true God. God is a Person, and He is infinite, intelligent, and the Creator King of all that is. We believe in the Trinity. The Godhead is three separate, yet equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

We believe that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and that God has promised to preserve His pure words. We believe that the Bible is inerrant, infallible, and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe that the King James Bible is the most faithful translation of the inspired and preserved words of God in the English language.

We believe that Jesus Christ is God, that He was manifested in the flesh, that He was born of a virgin, and that He lived a sinless life. We believe that He laid down His life on the cross for our sins, that He arose bodily the third day, and that He ascended back to Heaven, where He sits glorified at the right hand of the Father. We believe that He is the Head of the Church, that He is the only mediator between God and men, and that He is coming again.

We believe that salvation is a free gift of God offered to man by His grace and received by personal faith in the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is not secured by culture, character, religion, or good works. We believe every born-again child of God is eternally secure in Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit. The evidence of salvation is newness of life in Christ.

We believe the local church to be a body of believers who come together in obedience to Christ to worship God, fulfill the Great Commission, and observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper. The local church should be self-governing and independent from any interference of hierarchy, individuals, and organizations. Believers should assemble locally in order to be edified in the word of God and to serve the Lord. The offices of the local church are the pastor and deacons, and the proper order for the local church is laid out in Acts and the Pastoral Epistles.

We believe in following the Biblical pattern of baptism by immersion. Baptism is only for those who have been saved. Water baptism cannot impute grace or forgiveness of sins and is separate from salvation. Baptism symbolizes and identifies the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Baptism is the believer's first step of obedience after salvation, as seen in the New Testament example.

We believe that the command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable. The Great Commission is the responsibility of the local church and all believers as individuals. We are commanded to further the reach of the Gospel by going and teaching, by praying for laborers, and by sending others to bear the glad tidings of the Gospel in other lands.