



Jabez Elementary & Junior High School
Gordodin LPRC Community
Ganta City, Nimba-Liberia
Blessed to be a Blessing. Genesis 12:2

Blessings and Welcome to the first **Jabez Newsworthy Notes**
from The USA Board of Directors of Jabez School, July, 2024.



Rev. and Mrs. Jakes Voker have successfully made the journey to Ganta City and Jabez Christian School in Liberia. At the end of 2023, Rev. Jakes retired from active ministry in the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC and he and Esther moved back to their homeland. Their dream to develop a school that used Christ-centered programs to model and teach devotion to God, academics, service to their community and self-sufficiency had been born in 2013. The need was especially great due to the devastation from 15 years of civil war in Liberia. Now in retirement, they decided to go back and help that dream grow and improve.

Rev. Jakes, as the USA Board's "feet on the ground", has begun meeting with administrators and teachers to learn how to help improve and build the school experience for students attending Jabez School. This will help the Board in its decision making.

Meal Program for Students and staff has become a reality! In late March 2024, the "World Food Program" (WFP), through a local organization, delivered the initial rations of locally produced food items which included sixteen bags (25kg) of rice; twelve bags (25kg) of plain gari; nine bags of beans and three tins of palm oil with each containing five gallons.

The key policies and preconditions for receiving and serving food rations are:

- 1st. The school must qualify as a community based/non-profit institution.
- 2nd. Provide storage and cafeteria facilities. (Picture below shows finished cafeteria.)
- 3rd. School must hire and be responsible for two cooks. The cooks must be committed to cooking and serving the food four days per week.

We thank God that Jabez School satisfied all the required conditions and is currently one of the qualified schools that receive sponsored and quarterly supplied meal rations.



Newly Constructed Cafeteria

The Jabez School serves meals on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The number of students and staff served during each week day ranges from 160 to 183. The ratio of meal served: three persons to one cup of rice! The figures include the cooks as well as their kitchen helpers.

The USA Board of Directors has just sent in their application to the Wisconsin Conference Board of Global Ministries to be an “Advance Special” Mission. Receiving this endorsement will give us a wider reach for sharing the good news of Jabez School. The USA Board of Directors will continue their work of long range planning and assisting in building an organization that one day can have the strength of self-sufficiency to the degree that God makes possible.



One of Rev. Jakes and Esther’s early joys was the celebration of the first anniversary of the "Jabez Community's Christian Congregation!" Rev. Jakes wrote, “We paraded the main street of Gompa City with a large banner and concluded with a Divine Worship Service attended by over two hundred including some staff and students of Jabez School. To God be the glory!”



Historically, Liberia is one of the poorest African nations. This condition became even worse as the result of many major tragic events including the fifteen years of brutal civil wars (1989-2003); the outbreaks of the deadly “Ebola virus” of 2013-2015 followed by the most recent “Covid-19 virus”. These events have not only drastically paralyzed this poor nation’s economy, but also left the majority of its citizenry dangling in abject poverty!

More than 90% of the students come to school without having had breakfast. With the current World Food Program’s sponsored and supplied Meal Program, even though it does not meet the acceptable nutritional standard, we are deeply grateful for its availability.

It is our prayer that other hearts will be touched and moved to help provide additional funds needed to help the school’s administration purchase additional ingredients. Thanks for your prayers, and all you are and do on behalf of Christ for the least of God’s Children, our sisters and brothers.

Blessings, Rev. Jakes

Being in mission with Jabez School, no matter how small or large, is one way we who believe in the power of God’s love can be in service as instruments to mold, shape, and transform children’s lives. And to God goes the Glory. Make checks payable to Jabez Christian School. Send donations to:

Jerry Andersen (Board Treasurer)
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