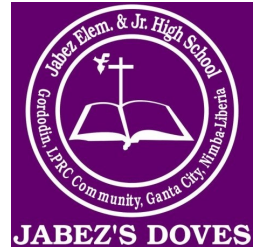




JABEZ NEWS



May 2020

A Publication of the Jabez Board of Directors-USA

Vol. 4 Issue 2

A Message from Miss Jolieth

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

It is a pleasant feeling to share with others, especially those who are lacking life's basic necessities because of no fault of their own. The virus has disrupted lives worldwide. There are regions in the world that have no food pantries nor meal sites for the residents to get a free meal.

It was certainly a thoughtful suggestion to assist the Jabez's staff and immediate neighbors in this financially critical time. It was even more heartwarming that the suggestion became a reality. Rev. Jakes stated that there were lots of cheers, laughter and thanksgiving among the recipients. To God be the glory! The blessings God gives us are intended to be shared and when we share we will be blessed.



Blessings to all.

Prayer for family and friends during COVID-19

By the light and truth of Jesus we lift our loved ones to you. By the hope of the Redeemer, we pray for your healing power to break through. By the peace and the grace of the Living One, we place them safely in your care. By the death and resurrection of the King of Kings, may your restoration now flow through our prayers. By the greatest gift of love ever known, help us care for them as you would do. By the hope and strength of the living God, we place our trust and faith in you. Amen

Exciting News!!

Our Web Page is up!

Please visit us at

<http://jabezschool-lib.org>

News from Jabez

On Sunday, 15th March 2020, Rev. Jakes held a teleconference with the Principal, Vice-Principal, and Chair of the Ganta School Board. In response to the Liberian Government's initial two weeks temporary ban, the staff were paid March 25th instead of the end of the month as usual. The Liberian Government extended the ban as a "State of Emergency" on April 8th.

The School is not in operation at the moment. However, we still maintain a skeleton staff comprising of the principal, business manager, and night watch man. Also, the two agriculture teachers help maintain the nursery.

The Jabez Board of Directors was able to donate 30, 25kg bags of rice to the Ganta Board, administrators, teachers and neighbors of Jabez School. Rev. Jakes reports on the day the rice was distributed there were lots of cheers, laughter and thanksgiving amongst the recipients.

The Liberian Government's first response to the Corona irus outbreak was not clear about what would happen with the schools. Then on April 8th, the Liberian Government declared a "State of Emergency" that shut down the operation of all institutions in the country until further ordered. This is very difficult for the average person.

This is very difficult for many people because a majority of the people live day to day on what they can earn each day. Now they cannot go out without a government permit. So the gift of rice was a gift of life.

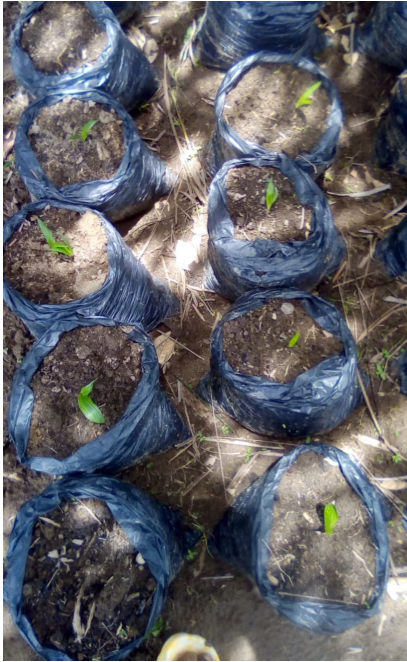
Also, Rev. and Mrs. Voker shipped ten sewing machine to Liberia.

"You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word."

Psalm 119:114

We pray all of you will be safe.





The Oil Palm Nursery - The nursery has six hundred ninety six seedlings that have sprouted out of the eight hundred seeds planted.

A Crossword Puzzle

Read this story and then complete the crossword puzzle on the next page.

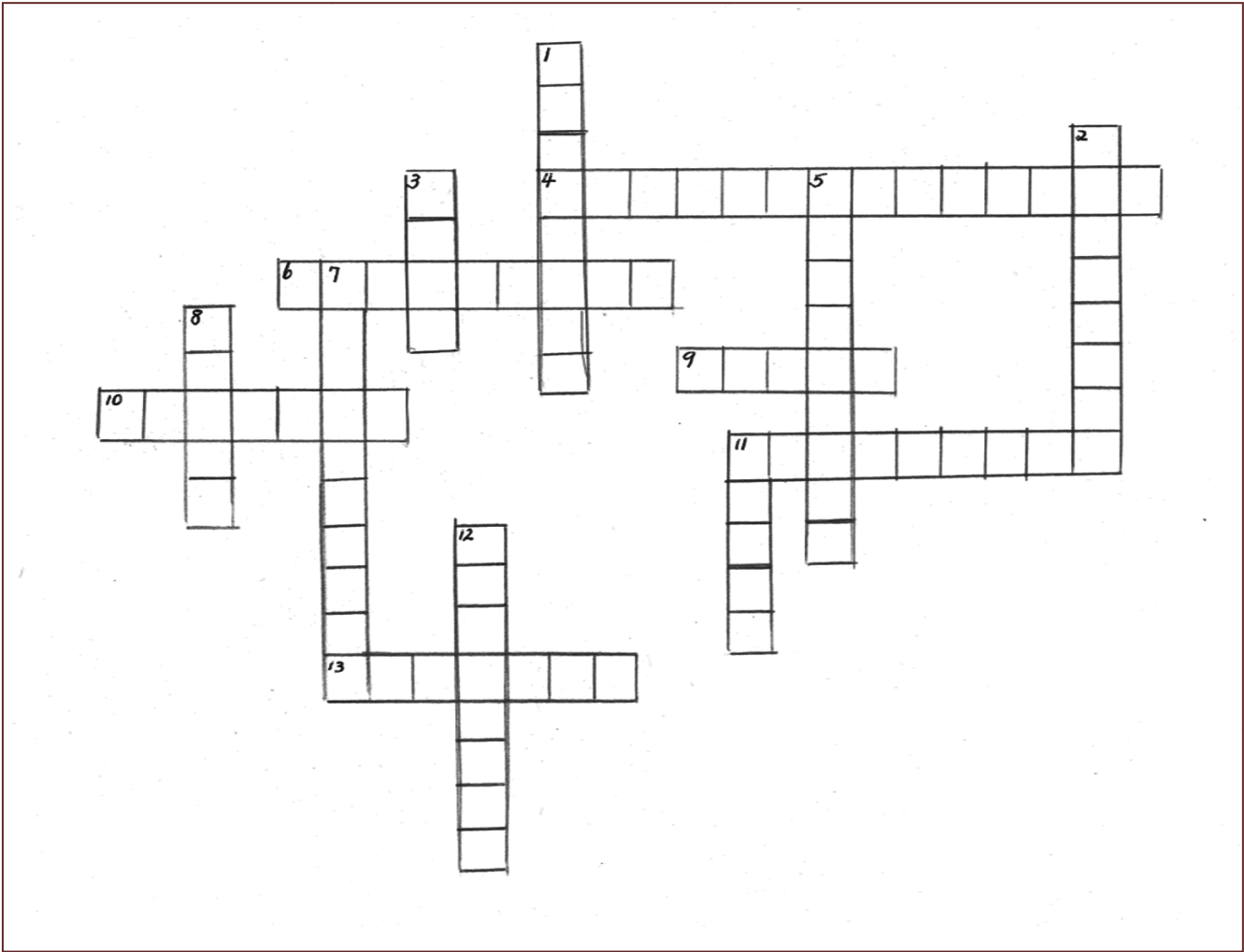
Liberia became an independent country on July 26, 1847. Many historical events have impacted the lives of all Liberians. The Voker family was gravely affected and are survivors. Rev. Jakes had an opportunity to study in the United States and when his family was reunited with him he said, “Why such undeserved blessings!”

How could they be a blessing? The answer was through “a Christ-centered education and trauma counseling ministry”. In 2009 a ground-breaking ceremony was held to begin the construction of two buildings containing 8 classrooms, a small auditorium, a mini-library, two offices, a half bathroom, and teachers’ lounge. Teachers were hired to lead the children.

Congregations and individuals in the United States caught Jakes and Esther’s dream. The dream was a school that would be stable, consistent, Christ-filled and an on-going resource to the Gampa Community. In order for that to happen a Board of Directors needed to be developed. They sought God’s desires and wrote foundational statements of vision and mission. They established strategic directions and initiatives. The school, Jabez, was operational. Then students originated the idea and designed a flag for the school. Soon more space was needed and an addition of a larger auditorium and three new classrooms in 2018 made the buildings adequate for the population.

The students also suggested the building of a Peace Hut which has been derived from the Palava Hut from ancient times. Here is where citizens of Liberia sit and discuss pertinent matters of welfare for their community. The basis for Jabez which helps students grow in spirit is the Love of Jesus Christ.

See puzzle on next page.



Down

1. The name given to a place built especially for discussion is a _____
2. Those who educate the children are called _____
3. An idea the students had to show honor for their school was to make a _____
5. The school is especially for the people of Gompa _____
7. Many students came. More buildings were made including a large _____.
8. The name of the school founded by Rev. Jakes is called _____
11. The group that gives stability and consistency to an organization is a _____
12. That which the Voker's received from God (singular) _____

Across

4. The foundational of the educational program at Jabez is _____
6. The ancient name for the PeaceHut is _____
9. The basis for Jabez is the Love of _____
10. A country that became independent in 1847 is _____
11. A ground breaking ceremony was held to begin construction of _____.
13. Foundational statements include vision and _____

Can we be afire with God? Yes we can!

Evangelism is telling the Good News of God's love and sacrifice. Stewardship is showing the Good News by the way we live. That is what is happening at Jabez.

What is different about our God and the God of our ancestors? Other peoples in the ancient Near East understood their gods as connected to sacred places and bound by territorial boundaries. When people left their homeland, they left their gods. But the God of the Hebrews, our God, was attached not to a particular shrine or territory but rather to a people. Old Testament stewards had a close relationship with the owner and were empowered to act as that person's representative making choices using the owner's values. Sometimes they did it well and sometimes they did not.

But in the New Testament the concept changes from trustees to partner. Stewardship is whatever we do with the Gospel. Stewardship becomes a way of life, flowing out from our hearts into daily action. That is the goal of the vision of Jabez. We say we want the students and

teachers to be transformed and renewed to be examples of Christ through love and forgiveness in daily life.

Jesus is our model as the authentic steward of God's grace. His service, done out of willingness, not servitude, becomes the ultimate form of extravagant generosity.

I Peter 4:10 says: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received....so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

Join me in working as a partner with God. with Jesus as our model as we "do" stewardship through Jabez School in Liberia.



The Board of Directors

Officers

Rev. Jakes Voker, Chair
Patsy McDonald, Vice-chair
Jerry Andersen, Treasurer
Vernita Green, Secretary

Board Members

Jolieth McIntosh
Maureen Beck
Steve Limbach
Bill Hutchison

Supporting Board Members

Gwen Beck
Maurice Beck
Austin Freest
August Grulich
Kenneth Walanski's Family
Dr. Ellen Spriering



The GPS coordinates for the Jabez School and

GUMC Mission House are:

Jabez School

(7.1982217,-8.9791855)

GUMC Guest House

(7.2334649,-8.9772242)

Type the coordinates into Google Maps

To Contact Us

Jabez Elementary and Junior High School
and Trauma Counseling Center

Rev. Jakes Voker

First Racine United Methodist Church

745 Main Street

Racine, WI 53403

261 497 4370

<http://jabezschool-lib.org/>



The Ganta School Board, administrators, teachers and neighbors of Jabez Elementary and Junior High School thank everyone for their generous concern and donations.

Donations to support Jabez Elementary and Junior High School can be made by sending the filled out coupon and a check to the address on the coupon.

I bless you to be a blessing. Gen. 12:2



Jabez Elementary and Junior High School and Trauma Counseling Center

Contributions for:
General _____

Restricted:

Investment: _____

Sponsor _____

Feeding _____

Palm Farm _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Unused restricted contributions not used within two years may be used for the General Fund.

Make checks payable to: Sherman Ave. United Methodist Church

Please note "Jabez School" on the memo line and

Mail to: Sherman Avenue UMC, 3705 N. Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704