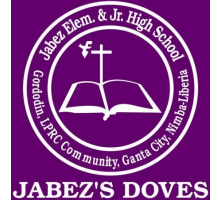




# JABEZ NEWS



August 2021

A Publication of the Jabez Board of Directors USA

Vol. 5 Issue 1

*A Message from Miss Jolieth*

## FRUIT BASKET OF LIFE

**You and I are in the fruit basket of life:**

**Some of us are like watermelons,  
firm outside and soft within.**



**Some like ripe bananas,  
slender shaped and sunny within.**



**Some like pineapples,  
rough outside and tasty within.**



**Some like oranges,  
round outside and juicy within.**



**Others are like grapes:  
small in shape and richly juicy  
within.**



**In the fruit basket of life,  
each has its own shape  
Each has its inner flavor  
each one is rich in life's vitamin C.  
Blended together in life's fruit basket  
..... we are refreshing.**

**Jolieth McIntosh**



**Exciting News!!**

**Our Web Page is up!**

**Please visit us at**

**<http://jabezschoollib.org>**

## A Message From Pastor Jakes

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM JABEZ ELEM. & JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Families and Friends of Jabez School,

Greetings to each and all of you on behalf of the Jabez School's U.S. Board of Directors and Local Board in Liberia; the administration and staff, parents; students, my family and myself, in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ! No doubt, it's been quite a long time since some of us last heard from, let alone, saw, each other! As dreadful, difficult, and challenging as the times have been, and possibly continues to be for some of us, it's been my prayer that our Good and Faithful God will continue to be present with each of us and our respective families. No matter what your experience has been during these difficult times, I would like to draw your attention to Jesus' consoling words to his first disciples when they heard him talk about his pending death and how they would be scattered. He said, "In this world you will have tribulation", but yet points them, and even us, to a greater and eternal hope: "Take heart; I have overcome ...." (John 16: 33). My friends, our hope is in a Living and Sovereign God. Therefore, let's keep up the fight with faithful prayers as hope is alive and in sight in the Lord and Savior, "The Resurrected Jesus Christ!" Stay faithful as hope is alive and in sight! I remind you of this because, we, the Jabez School's Family, have come so far by faith with hope in Christ, Jesus!



Now, permit me to give you some highlights on how Jabez School has been and is during amidst these dreadful and very challenging times due to the global pandemic – COVID- 19. Through your prayers, moral and financial support, the following Ministry/Mission Projects are either accomplished or ongoing:

**HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR: Please see photos on page 3.**

Christian/Spiritual formation, academic excellence, and Christ-like disciplines are foundational and uncompromising goals of Jabez Elementary.

### **Christian/Spiritual/Formation**

Daily devotions and regular attendance of Sunday school and Church Worship Services are encouraged among all students and staff members!

### **Academic excellence**

The provision and sustenance of qualified instructional and support staff has been one of the top priorities of the Jabez School's Bord of Directors and proprietors. Therefore, every year the school 's administration is encouraged to seek and contract qualified individuals that will teach for a period of ten months as required by the guidelines of the Ministry of Education, Government of the Republic of Liberia. However, the school maintains three staff members, the Principal, Vice-Principal, and Business Manager, year-round in order to continue administrative related issues that may arise during annual break periods.

The 2020/2021 School Year, as we may all be aware, was a very rough and tough period for everyone, including the school boards, administration, parents and the students, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

One of the most difficult problems was more than 98% of the parents who survive on "Petty trading" could not afford to pay their child's tuitions and fees, even as low as the \$45.00 minimum to \$75.00 for a whole year! Remember, since its inception, Jabez school has maintained a "NO CHILD IS TURNED AWAY DUE TO LACK OF FEES" policy. Now, with monthly budgeted expenses of \$1000.00 for both 20 staff salaries and operational expenses that are practically funded by U.S. donations, this was a very large financial bone for the School's Board and administration to swallow! However, the School Board and Administration still lowered the fees to the very bare minimum with the hope that most of the parents could afford, but to no avail! These problems still exist even as we look forward to beginning 2021/2022 School Year by the 2nd week of September 2021! Prayers and financial support will be appreciated!

"Home/Distant Learning" was another major challenge for the school! Jabez School, like all other learning institutions in Liberia, was shut down three times during this single academic year. Being a third world country with very little to no access to electricity, let alone internet service, every time "In-person Learning" was mandated to the school's administration and students and parents were placed in very difficult positions. The parents, some of whom do not read or write, were asked to provide notebooks for the teachers to HAND WRITE the students' weekly notes. The students were to take the lessons home for the parents to teach their children! It was difficult for the teachers also because some of them have three to four classes some with more than thirty students!

We thank God that Jabez School survived these tough times and its 2020/2021 Academic Year officially ended and closed on August 6, 2021 with the following results:

320 - Students enrolled at the beginning of 2020/2021 School Year.

30 - students dropped out for various reasons including COVID-19.

290 - Students ended the school year

260 – Successfully promoted to the next classes

30 – Students failed and are expected to repeat their classes



The Jabez School is officially closed for break and would hopefully reopen to begin 2021/2022 Academic Year activities by the 2nd week – August 2021.

Please note the major change in the administration of the Jabez School as it prepares for 2021/2022 School Year. The current Principal, Mr. J. Marshall Dolo, has been replaced by his Vice Principal, Pastor Abel Zewon. Pastor Abel once served as principal but was replaced with Mr. Dolo because he, Pastor Abel, didn't have the government's required academic credentials, i.e. a "C-Certificate in Education." Jabez School has sponsored Pastor Abel's educational journey and he presently holds both C and A Certificates! CONGRATULATIONS Principal Abel! Our thanks to Mr. Dolo for his short time of service with Jabez School.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to all of Jabez School families and sponsors for their exceptional random acts of kindness and extravagant generosity toward Jabez School's Mission and Ministry, enabling us to meet some of the needs God's most vulnerable people. Your gifts of prayer, time, service and financial donations are a huge blessing to Jabez School's Ministry and Mission to one of the least of God's children as Jesus referred to in his "Sheep and Goats Parable in Matthew 25: 31-46-NIV. No doubt, times are hard and that certainly makes giving a bit of a challenge. However, as hard as things are with us in the United States, think of a third world country like Liberia, and you will come to know it's worse for the families, who are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Do you remember the Jesus Story of the widow's gift? (Matt. 12: 41-44; Luke 21: 1-4). Giving out of scarcity, in times like ours giving truly reflects Christ-like generosity! Together we are touching hearts, molding minds, transforming lives, and shaping the futures of God's most vulnerable people in the name and to the glory of Jesus Christ! Let us not tire and grow weary of doing good, for such is the very reason God continues to bless us! (Gal. 6: 9). Also, be reminded, you are "blessed to be a blessing!"

**May God almighty continue to bless and keep us all!**

**Blessings, Rev. Jakes**

**Proprietor/Chair- Jabez School's Board of Directors**



## Matthew 25: Prayer for children's education | World Vision

Imagine how different your life would be if you had never learned to read or understand numbers. For millions of people in the developing world, this is their reality — and their lack of education significantly impacts their ability to step out of poverty. Join us in praying that people everywhere — especially children — will gain the education, wisdom, and discernment they need to reach the fullness of life God intends for each of them.

Worldwide, an estimated 258 million children, adolescents, and youths weren't in school in 2018. And more than 100 million youths were illiterate. Despite progress over recent decades, many children in school do not achieve functional literacy and numeracy skills due to overcrowded classes, lack of supplies, teachers who need more training, or disruption due to disasters and prolonged crises like the coronavirus pandemic.

COVID-19 exacerbated already difficult situations. The United Nations reports that more than 90% of the student population was affected by COVID-19–related school closures, which caused over 100 million more children to fall behind the minimum proficiency level in reading.

The global health crisis is also impacting future students.

Following abrupt drops in household incomes, disruptions to the supply of affordable, nutritious foods, and interruptions to health, nutrition, and social protection services, up to 15% more children suffered from wasting in 2020 compared with projections for 2020 without COVID-19

Poverty, ill health, and poor nutrition can undermine educational foundations, restricting what children are able to accomplish in the future.

***Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.—Jesus (Matthew 25:40, NIV)***

**Source: [www.worldvision.org/education-news-stories/pray-children-education](http://www.worldvision.org/education-news-stories/pray-children-education)**

### The Board of Directors

#### Officers

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

#### Board Members

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Maureen Beck  
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Bill Hutchison

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

**BE SAFE**

**BE SMART**



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**



**REGULAR MORNING  
DEVOTIONS BEFORE  
CLASSES IS AT THE CORE  
OF JABEZ SCHOOL'S  
CORE VALUES!**

As a Christian Values Driven Institution, Jabez School holds morning Devotions to which all staff and students are strongly invited to attend before classes and other activities each day of the week. Either a staff member or student leads the group by reading a Bible passage, meditation and prayer. We believe beginning each day's activities by recognizing God's presence and power amongst us is one of the ways to model constant reverence and commitment to practical and active Christian life. Therefore, every member of the Jabez School's Family is highly encouraged to participate!

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER PROJECTS:**

1<sup>ST</sup>. OIL PALM NURSAEY AND FARM PROJECT: Jabez School's "Oil Palm Project" is now in its third phase. The first phase was the purchase of the land, and the second phase putting the seeds in the nursery. During my visit in May this year, we were able to have transplanted 300 of the over 600 Seedings on 6 acres of land. The balance of the palm seedings are being planted on the 4 acres of land bought Rev. Jakes and Mrs. Esther Voker adjacent to Jabez School's land. Below are links to video recordings of how much work was done on the farm. anks to the Jabez School's Agriculture Technicians for a job well done.

**Links to Mr. Fred G. Jabez School's Agriculture Technician/  
Teacher talking to us about the Palm Farm:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/eV2JjHhtQ79jR4Jd7>

**LOADING PALM SEEDINGS ON A TRUCK TO BE TAKEN TO  
THE FARM AND TRANSPLANTED:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GY5MzTEfH564Lrsu7>

**YOUNG FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS CLEARING THE PALM  
FARM TO "INTER-CROP" THE PALMS WITH CASSAVA:**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/GY5MzTEfH564Lrsu7> /<https://photos.app.goo.gl/mFobkTtD9WmfyRwz7>



**PALM NURSERY READY FOR  
TRANSPLANT**



### REV. VOKER PRESENTS GIFTS TO THREE OF JABEZ 'S FIVE FEMALE TEACHERS

During the visit in May, Rev. Jakes took along assorted school supplies including 300 hundred customized ink pens plus others from Vernita Green, 22 pocket size calendars for the teachers, a set of Table Tennis bats and a dozen balls, one volley ball plus a net as well as 6 ladies hand bags specifically for our female teachers. Rev. was blessed with the opportunities of meeting with members of the local school board, the school administration and staff as well as the Parent-Teacher Association. We had both work and fun wonderfully going together! Rev. Jakes is very thankful to God!

### JOIN THE JABEZ BOARD - HELP CHANGE LIVES - INCLUDING YOUR OWN!

I joined the US Board of Directors about four years ago, with very little knowledge about the school. In fact, I wasn't even sure where Liberia was located, much less Ganta, and had no concept of the challenges faced by the local population. But, I was aware that from nothing, donations were raised to build a school, drill a well, hire staff and provide a valuable education for elementary and grade school children. It has been a success story that is an example of people coming together, helping others, and doing God's work. The future for the school is exciting and optimistic, despite all the challenges with poverty, governmental shortcomings and limited resources.

You don't need any special experience or background to join the Board. Only a desire to

learn about and help others. We meet on a quarterly basis (on Zoom) for about three or four hours. Our responsibility is to help oversee the school operations, at a high level, and provide stewardship for the financials.

Join us and I guarantee you'll not only help give others life changing opportunities, but it will also profoundly change YOUR life. "And in the end, the love you take, is equal to the love you make."

Bill Hutchison, Board Member

The next USA Board Meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, September 20, 2021, 9 a.m. - Noon. Friends of Jabez are always welcome and encouraged to call and ask questions of the USA Board. Contact Rev. Jakes for an invite to the meeting.  
Vernita Green, Secretary.

# JABEZ ELEM. & JR. HIGH SCHOOL



**GORDODIN, LPRC COMMUNITY  
GANTA CITY, NIMBA COUNTY - LIBERIA**

**Contact: 0886-947-051 / 0886-553-199 / 0886-972-049**

*Motto: Blessed to be a Blessing Genesis 12:2*



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