



JABEZ NEWS



February 2019

A Publication of the Jabez Board of Directors-USA

Vol. 3 Issue 1

*Children,
soar like an eagle,
fly like a butterfly,
swim like a fish,
jump like a kangaroo,
gallop like a horse,
hop like a rabbit
and
protect like a dog.
Children, you are you,
be the best of you.*

Jolieth McIntosh / 01.26.2019



Dear Friends of Jabez Ministries,

A hearty greeting in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us into partnership of sharing his love and compassion with the Gompahin Community and its environs through the Jabez Ministries. What a great joy to be a part of and see the wonderful things God is doing and accomplishing through Jabez Ministries. As the primary Mission, Jabez is effectively touching lives, molding minds and shaping the future of the vulnerable children, young people and their families in Gompahin City in the name of Jesus Christ.

Of the last five years of active Ministries and Mission 2018 marked the busiest and most productive year. Permit me to highlight some of the major accomplishments of the year under review:

- * Membership of the Board of Directors was increased by two additional members. Except for one, all of our regular meetings were held as scheduled, board business was well-coordinated and implemented. Special thanks to all members of both the U.S based and local board members for their efficient leadership roles.
- * A new Principal was immediately hired upon the resignation of the previous. The new principal and the Proprietor/Board Chair have a cordial working relationship. The administrative and academic activities are well on course with one hundred ninety-seven students currently enrolled. There was an attempt to begin the "Adult Literacy Program," but the plan did not materialize due to low enrollment. The U.S based Board of Directors voted to discontinue the program as a part of Jabez School's overall programs. However, the school's administration and a few teachers still maintain self-funded classes just to keep the lights on in the community.
- * The Staff- Development Program saw



three teachers benefit and graduate with “C” Certificates. There are two additional teachers currently in training for “C/B” and “A” Certificates respectively. This Staff Development Grant is meant to help improve the capacity of our instructional staff as required by the Liberian Government.

- * The Infrastructure Development program included two major and very important facility expansion construction projects that were undertaken and are now near completion. These projects are the Auditorium with three additional classrooms and the “Peace Hut.” The “Peace Hut” is named in memory of one of our key sponsors, the late Mr. Kenneth Walanski. (See photo page 3). Thanks to all who contributed to these projects. We are especially grateful to the Buhler Family’s Foundation for providing substantial funding for the auditorium and the Walanski’s Family for sponsoring the “Peace Hut.” Deeply appreciated!!
- * On Friday, October 19, 2018 we helped load a 40 foot container of supplies for the Friendship International Organization at its Beaver Dam Warehouse headed to various churches, schools, hospitals and clinics in Liberia. On this container were twenty armchairs, three file cabinets and other assorted supplies for Jabez School. See photos of a truck-load of supplies from the Monrovia Lutheran Church’s warehouse on the way to Jabez’s campus. Our deep gratitude to the Friendship International’s Family for always helping with our shipping needs.
- * The final blessings are, school’s choir robes and sewing machines. In September we received a gift of forty-five Choir robes from a Reformed Church near Fond du Lac. The robes are needed, first of all, for the school’s choir and the rest will be shared with any local Church that might need them. In November we received donation of fifty (50) brand new sewing machines from the “Brother International Corporation, Bridgewater, NJ. Deeply appreciated!!!

I believe these gifts are very timely and significantly helpful to translating our value driven Vision and Mission statements.

Jabez Vision and Mission statements are as follows:

Vision: Jabez School graduates will be academically, socially and spiritually prepared to be witnesses of Christ’s love.

Mission: Jabez School will use Christ-centered programs to model and teach devotion, academic, service to community and self-sufficiency.

Our Vision and Mission statements embody the life and teaching of our lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He taught by both words and deeds, and that is why his lessons are still relevant today. The Bible tells us, after teaching the crowds, Jesus saw Simon and his brothers on a lake struggling to catch fish all night, but no luck. Then, Jesus said to Simon, **“Put out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.”** (Luke 5:1-4). Amazingly, they caught so much fish that they couldn’t lift the nets without others help! Jesus taught his would be disciples and even us the importance of fishing for ourselves as well as equipping others to do the same. There is a Chinese adage that says:
“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and you feed him for life.”

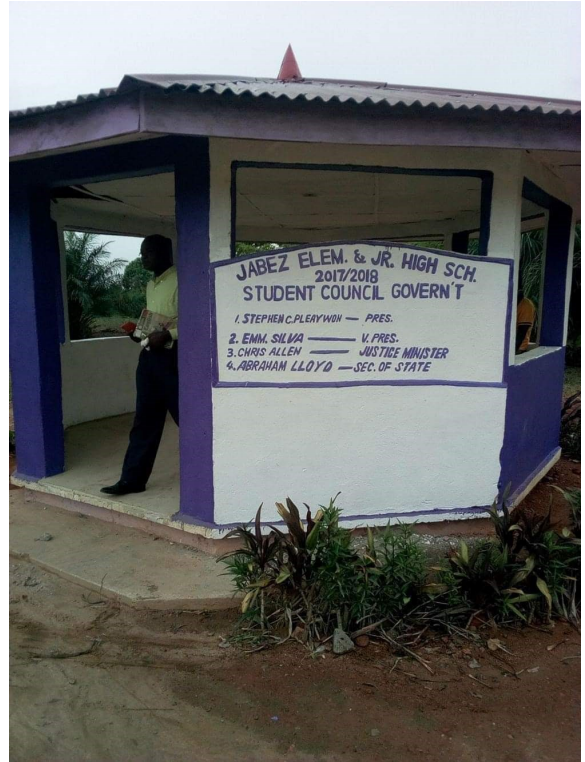
Jesus’ lesson on teaching and equipping people to fish, affirmed by the Chinese adage, certainly apply to the reality of life in the community in which the Jabez’s Ministry and Mission Project is

A side note.
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 or any location finder app and check it out!!

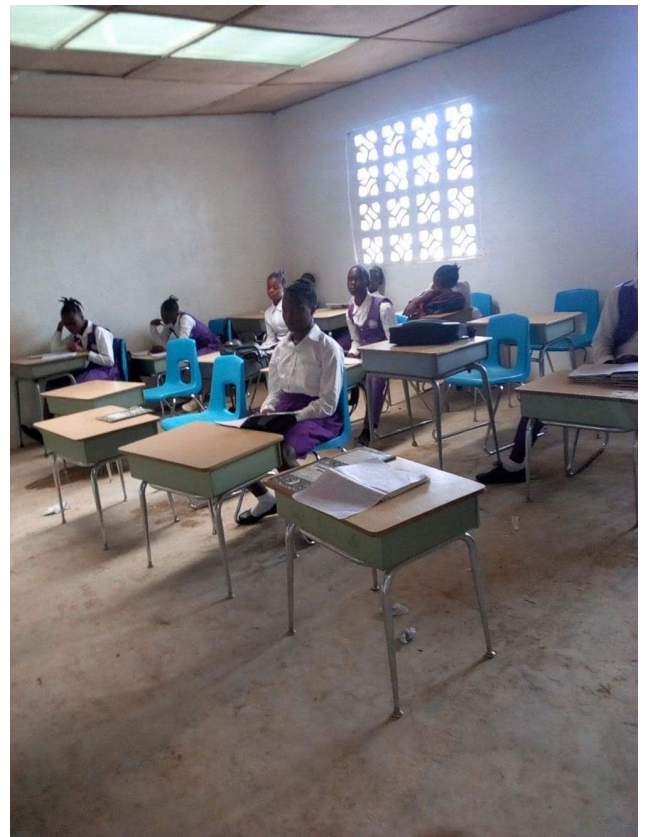
situated. As you might be aware, Jabez's Project is located in a community where both the illiteracy and unemployment rates are above 85%, and a family lives on less than one dollar a day. No doubt, a child learning a hands-on skill like "Tailoring" would make him or her financially self-sufficient and productive in the community. Let us not forget the core values that drive Jabez School and Post-Trauma Counselling Ministries and Mission Project, which are to touch lives, mold minds and shape the future of the people and community in which Jabez is located in the name of Jesus Christ. In other words, our desire is to equip the children, youth, young adults, and adults in the Gompa City and its environs with academic and socio-practical skills that are rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. I prayerfully hope that our efforts not be diverted toward something due to empathy, but guided by the principles and values to which we subscribe as enshrined in our Vision and Mission Statements.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my joy for the huge progress Jabez School Project has made over the years and continues to do so! We are indeed living out the School's motto: "Blessed To Be A Blessing!" Every one of you have made a huge mark, an indelible dent, on the life of each child that is either currently enrolled or has attended Jabez School and the entire community all in the name of Jesus Christ. Words are not enough to fully express our gratitude and thanks for your faithfulness and generosity toward the Jabez School. May God Almighty replenishes all of your used-up resources including time, talent, health, energy and money so that you would continue to be a witness to the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ both your community and the world. Until then, you all have a very blessed and prosperous 2019 year in Jesus' name.

Blessings,
Rev. Jakes Voker-
Proprietor/Board Chair- Jabez Board of Directors



The Peace Hut



Students in their new classroom.

Jabez School - A Way to Change One Child at a Time

Jabez became a reality because a group of people were willing and able to join with Pastor Jakes and Esther in doing something about the devastation the Vokers and all of Liberia experienced and witnessed in their home county of Liberia. War and its affects were all around. What would they do? Who would help? How would it be done?

Prayerfully and systematically they shared, they saved, they searched. The answer...a possible way to help would be a school and a trauma center. Vokers prayerfully and systematically shared, saved, and searched. A couple of major thoughts kept surfacing. The first is that God must be at the center of what would be done. It would not be accomplished without God being a part of everything done. A second major thought is that what is done must be sustainable. A two year project or a ten year project is not what is needed. Sustainability is necessary to begin to serve the people.

How does an idea become sustainable? One way is to form a Board of Directors where the foundational statements connect God to each idea, to each act, to each goal. A second way is to form a Board of Directors that develops policies that direct actions to be consistent and not get off track when an exciting idea comes out that is good, however not in line with the foundational statements. Detours can cause destruction or loss of way.



In this regard, the people who were to become the Board of Directors of Jabez School spent several months building a set of well developed foundational statements and policies that keep the school heading in the direction that would strengthen and not weaken the Jabez School.

Would you like to know more about the foundational statements and policies? Would you like to be a part of the Board of Directors? In what way would you like to be a part of this exciting, God centered journey to give children who live near Jabez School a chance for a more meaningful life in many ways?

Contact Rev. Jakes Voker at the number below.

The Board of Directors

Officers

Rev. Jakes Voker, Chair
Patsy McDonald, Vice-chair
Ed McDonald, 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
Ken Walenski's Family

We are currently seeking a person to take over the Treasurer's position on the Board. Ed McDonald is retiring from the position and we need someone to prepare the financial statements. We are looking for someone with an accounting background, good excel and communication skills.

If you are called by God to be part of this exciting Mission, please call Rev. Jakes at 261 497 4370.

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

An idea.....choose Jabez School for your mission emphasis

Wesley United Methodist Church in Oshkosh chose Jabez School for their mission of the month for January, 2019. An article highlighting the Peace Hut and the new construction was put in the monthly newsletter. Short paragraphs about the school were placed in the bulletins on each Sunday. A mission moment with slides of the Peace Hut were shown one Sunday. The congregation was encouraged and given the opportunity to give a gift to Jabez School during the entire month. On a couple of Sundays, slides showing the construction of the new auditorium were shown during the offering time.

In all these ways the story of Jabez was highlighted and the people at Wesley are more informed.

Suggestion: Would your church or organization be interested in highlighting Jabez School? Let us know if you need an article, a speaker, or slides. We would love to work together with you to spread the story of Jabez.

Donations to support any of the Jabez Projects funds can be made by sending the filled out coupon and 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:
Building _____

Investment: _____

Sponsor _____
Feeding _____
Other _____

Name: _____

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

Make checks payable to: SAUMC/Jabez School

Mail to: Ed McDonald, Treas., 1918 Gulseth St., Madison, WI 53704

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



Inside the Auditorium



Views of the new building



Supplies being delivered

