

## **NARRATIVE REPORT**

**Project # 95034**

**Date of report: December 26, 2017**

**Project Name: ECUL Equipping Leaders for Service**

**Report for the period: October 2017  
(ECOL PASTORAL TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM REPORT)**

### **Vision of the project**

To enable ECOL through her mission department, train local church leaders and indigenous missionaries to serve as pastors, church planters and evangelists.

### **Project background**

ECOL rural church leaders are hungry for biblical training that will help them lead the flocks and protect them against the myriad of cults and heresies that have swept into Liberia. Seminary for these servants of God is not an option. Most of them will not qualify, cannot afford the tuition and seminary training will take them away from their churches for four or more years.

### **Progress**

The ECOL pastoral training team conducted a training on October 23-27, 2017 in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The training was held at the Bomi Evangelical Church, and was a pilot training in preparation for the Bible training school we intend to run in Tubmanburg. ECOL in collaboration with SIM is considering the building of a training facility (8-classroom building with three offices and three bathrooms) on a plot of land provided by SIM in Tubmanburg for the training of rural pastors in the western region. Courses covered included Spiritual Formation, New Testament survey, pastoral leadership, Old Testament survey and biblical interpretation. 17 pastors and 3 Sunday School teachers participated in the training from eight churches. There were four facilitators including David Writebol, Moses Paye, Aberdeen Gargli and Jeremiah Kollie. The participants received printed notes; they also received books and face caps as gifts for their participation. The training was intended to equip the pastors for the effective work of service, recruit students and launch the program while we await the construction of the building for the Bible school. For now, the training program will be conducted at the Bomi Evangelical Church.

### **Story time**

One of the participants, Pastor James Sackie, summed up his joy for being a part of the training in the following words: "I am overjoyed that at long last we can start a program that we have been praying and yearning for. The main challenge pastors in the rural areas face is the lack of training. Most of the rural areas do not have training facilities for pastors so we are left with little or no Bible knowledge. With this program, I am so happy that our prayers have been answered and I know that all of our colleagues will be very happy when the news spreads all over that ECOL has started a Bible school. What we have learned this week has really opened my mind and motivated me to want to keep coming. I have learned things that I have never learned before, especially in biblical interpretation and pastoral leadership. This program will really equip us for better service. I want to thank the ECOL leadership, SIM, and all those who helped to make this training possible."

Another participant, Johnson Momo, explained how he has benefitted from the training: “I am so glad to have been a part of this training. I nearly missed it, but my pastor friend kept encouraging me to attend. I am glad that I attended and I do not regret spending a week here in training. My expectations were all met. I have learned great truths from Scripture that I have not learned before, and they will stay with me; I am surely going to pass it on to others. The worship, training, and fellowship have been awesome. With this program, I think our churches will grow stronger because pastors will be very equipped to teach others. I pray that the training team will keep coming and that the training center will eventually be built. Thank you so much.”

### Prayer requests

Please pray with us for the following:

1. For more funding to enable us reach more rural pastors with the training they need for effective ministry in the remote towns and villages. These pastors have no previous formal biblical training, and many did not complete high school due to the prolonged civil war that wrecked the country and the resulting chronic economic hardship.
2. For safety as we leave families and journey to remote regions to reach pastors with the training they need.
3. For funding for the building of the training facility for rural pastors in Tubmanburg, Bomi.

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### Photos



Participants at the during training



Group photo after training



David Writebol facilitating



Moses Paye facilitating



One of the participants making remarks



Two participants studying during break