

NARRATIVE REPORT

Project # 95034

Date of report: March 26, 2017

Project Name: ECUL Equipping Leaders for Service

Report for the period January – March 2017

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 project training team conducted four church leaders training from January to March 2017. The teaching was focused on two main topics including the following: principles and dynamics of teaching, and preparing and preaching biblical messages, even though we had time to discuss the devotional life of God's minister. We plan to make several trips to each region in order to fully exhaust the topics. The first training was conducted on February 8-11, 2017 at the Yarpah Town Evangelical Church in Yarpah Town, River Cess County. It was originally intended as part of the discipleship strategy for new leaders that are being developed for our two young churches that were planted in River Cess nearly a year ago. But due to appeals from other non ECOL churches in the region to participate, we ended up providing training for participants from 16 churches in the county. 56 leaders participated and the facilitators included William Merlinburg and Moses Paye. Some of the pastors in the River Cess training came with their wives. We took some radio gifts donated by ELWA Ministries Association in the USA to pastors at the training. See photo below.

The second training was conducted on February 13-15 at the Bomiwood Evangelical Church in Bomiwood, Cape Mount County with pastors from 8 ECOL churches in the region in attendance. The facilitators for the training included Momo Senah, Jallah Smith and Moses Paye.

The third training conference was held on February 16-19 at Timma Town Evangelical Church in Timma Town, upper Gbarpolu County. It brought together pastors of eight ECOL churches in that rural region. The facilitators for the training included Momo Senah, Jallah Smith and Moses Paye.

The last training was conducted on March 17, 18 & 20 at the Evangelical Bible Church in District #3, Grand Bassa County. 12 church leaders of ECOL churches in the county were in attendance. Facilitators for the training were Moses Paye and Jeremiah Kollie.

We were also able to purchase a public address system from the project fund for use during large training events. This is good news for us as this will greatly enhance the work of ministry.

Story time

Pastor Jackson Washington, one of our host pastors at the February training in River Cess expressed his joy and delight for the knowledge he had gained in the following words: “I am completely out of words to describe what I have learned over the past days. I am so grateful that I was a part of this important training. This is my first time learning how to prepare a message from the Bible, and how to teach from the Bible. We have never had a training like this here in this region, and I am sure that my fellow pastors will agree to that. I think my effective pastoral ministry has just begun. I beg you to keep coming as you have said so that we can learn more about preaching and teaching God’s Word. “

Pastor John Gaye, a participant at the training hosted in upper Gbarpolu also summarized his feelings in the following words: “Fellow pastors, this is truly an answer to prayer. Let’s pray that this team will keep coming to teach us because our ministry cannot develop well without this knowledge.”

We plan to make three training trips in each of the regions this year and to increase the number of training days to enable the pastor-students complete the courses of study.

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.

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Photos



LEFT PHOTO ABOVE: Training team taking a break in Cape Mount County. RIGHT PHOTO ABOVE: Crossing the Mano River in a canoe. We had to leave the motorbikes behind in a nearby village.



LEFT PHOTO ABOVE: Training pastors in upper Gbarpolu. Pastor Paye (with arrow over head) is seen teaching his student-pastors under a tree. RIGHT PHOTO ABOVE: Some of the pastors in Cape Mount after training.



LEFT PHOTO ABOVE: Some of the many homes in Timma Town, our training venue, in Upper Gbarpolu. RIGHT PHOTO ABOVE: Participants at training in River Cess.



Pastor Moses Paye teaching through an interpreter during River Cess training.



Pastors at River Cess training who received radio gifts (ELWA fixed-toned sola paneled radio) from ELWA Ministries Association in the USA.