

**RELIEF AID FOR ECOL: January – February 2015**

ECOL relief ministry received and distributed 580 boxes of Mana Pack Rice to 8 churches between January and February this year. A total of 1085 (710 females, 375 males) beneficiaries benefitted from the relief distribution in all 8 churches. Because there were more people than food boxes, we made the decision to have two persons to a box of Manna Pack rice.



These beneficiaries represent families. And since Liberian families are often large, we estimate that the food will benefit over 8000 family members for a couple of days since each box was shared between two family heads. The congregations were very happy and grateful for the gift. It was a great help for our church families especially during our current national crisis which has lasted for a year now. The effects of Ebola - a broken economy and untold suffering – now plague our country. Many families lost their bread winners or both parents to Ebola. And with farming activities disrupted as the result of the deadly outbreak, the suffering Liberians are going through cannot be over-emphasized. That’s why it is such a blessing for our congregations to continue to receive food aid from EMA-USA and FMSC. Below is a chart reflecting distribution record.

#	NAME OF CHURCH	LOCATION	BOXES DELIVERED	DISTRIBUTION DATE	BENEFICIARIES
1.	Evangelical Bible Church	Grand Bassa	120		240
2.	Community Evangelical Church	Somalia Drive	50		100
3.	Brewerville Evangelical Church	Brewerville	30		60
4.	Bible Way Evangelical Church	Bensonville	60		120
5.	Kakata Evangelical Church	Kakata, Margibi	50		70
7.	Faith United Evangelical Church	Monrovia	60		100
7.	Evangelical Christian Fellowship	Paynesville	100		200
8.	Evangelical Temple	Brewerville	110		195
	TOTAL		580		1085





A secretary taking down information of each beneficiary



Some teenagers who also received food boxes at Brewerville Evangelical Church

### **NEW MOTORBIKES FOR ECOL!**

We were very happy to have bought 4 new motorbikes for our rural pastors training program. The funding was made possible through our SIM funded Equip project which enables us to print training materials and provide transportation for trainers to travel to rural Liberia and provide training for our rural pastors. Trainers often organize week-long trainings during which pastors of churches in the same political sub division or church district come together for pastoral training. Many remote places in Liberia cannot be reached by vehicles. Trainers had to travel 6-9 hours on foot when they disembark from vehicles to reach remote villages for training.



It has been our prayer to purchase 10 motorbikes to be stationed in our 10 church districts to enable trainers easily reach remote places when they arrive in the districts. We raised funds in 2012-2014 and purchased one motorbike for our Equip training.

On February 20, 2015, we were pleased to have received funding authorized by SIM out-going director Will Elphick for the purchase of 4 motorbikes for our training ministry. We had a good bargain and got 4 good bikes instead of three! The backs will enable trainers to reach remote places in a shorter time and avoid body pains, sore feet and exhaustion which characterized all

our previous training trips. We are praying to purchase additional 5 motorbikes to have all our 10 districts covered. The type of motorbike we need costs \$950 a piece.

### **SIM-LIBERIA DIRECTOR ENDS DUTY IN LIBERIA**

On February 27, 2015, SIM-Liberia director Will Elphick and wife, Jenny ended their five-year duty in Liberia and returned home. A farewell ceremony was held jointly by ELWA and ECOL on February 24 for the Elphicks.

Speaking during the ceremony, ECOL president, Pastor Moses Paye, recounted the many positive contributions made by the Elphicks to the ministry of ECOL. He said:

“The Bible says that there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun. This passage teaches among other things that we must make the most of every opportunity that God provides. Will and Jenny, it is time for you to go home, but we want you to know that you have made the most of your God-given opportunity here. ECOL will remember you for your openness and willingness to listen to us and understand. You elevated the work and needs of ECOL and personally provided help where necessary. It has been a rewarding experience knowing you personally, and working with you. Your time here has ended, but your work will live on in our lives. You will always be in our prayers and in our hearts. Thank you so much, and see you later.” ECOL presented two gifts to the Elphicks and Pastor Moses Paye prayed for them.



### **ECOL CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE SPONSORSHIP!**

Perry Moore of EMA-USA informed the ECOL leadership on March 2, 2015 of his organizations decision to sponsor 400 primary students in 5 ECOL church schools to enable them continue their education in 2015. We were not sure that the schools would open because the deadly Ebola outbreak has affected everybody here including parents. Up to the last week before the reopening of schools (March 2), very few students had registered. At the Evangelical Christian Academy which had a pre-Ebola enrollment of 150, only 20 had partially registered. The story was the same all over our church schools and even across the country. Both parents and children were very sad. This heaviness was visible even at church. The deadly virus has caused more than 9000 deaths, stopped work for nearly a year, disrupted the farming season in rural Liberia, massive displacement and untold suffering. Many parents cannot sponsor their children in school in the wake of the situation. The focus of many parents right now is family survival – desperately trying to get a one-time-meal a day for the family. The ECOL leadership sent out a prayer letter and we all began to pray.

God answered the prayer when we received the email from Perry confirming EMA-USA’s decision to sponsor 400 students in 5 ECOL schools. We are celebrating this wonderful news and God’s love. To God be the glory. We say many thanks to EMA-USA. Thank you so much.