



STUDENT-LED MOVEMENT

THIS IS OUR STORY

Greetings!

I am so sorry for the silence since the declaration of war on our nation by an unseen enemy called “Ebola”. This declaration of war was first made sometime in March with a visible sign of few cases emanating from Guinea into a town called Foya, in Northern Liberia. I guess if these cases were treated with some sense of urgency and accurate knowledge, keeping in mind that the virus has the capacity to multiply and destroy lives in a twinkle of an eye, the reported death toll could not have reached this devastating level.

The Impact of the Ebola Virus

It seems that the enemy force has not only succeeded in paralyzing our economy, and causing an untold suffering to people who were gradually rebuilding their lives after fourteen years of armed conflict. The virus also subjected the entire country to fear and uncertainty regarding who next to be hit.

The government, therefore, instituted some measures such as: an imposition of a state of emergency and curfew; the closure of public and private institutions of learning; those classified as non-essential staff at every government functionaries were re-

quested to stay home for a period of ninety days to limit the spread of the virus. Despite all of these stringent measures, it is reported that as of October 14th, the virus has killed about two thousand three hundred and sixteen persons in Liberia.

No Door is Close for the Gospel

There is a saying that “when one door closes God opens another”. Our primary environment for doing ministry is university campuses. Therefore, the closure of these campuses indefinitely is very frustrating. However, the students accepted the situation and quickly saw the open doors for ministry opportunity in the midst of the Ebola virus epidemic.

The **first door of opportunity** was a “Mobile Prayer Chain”. Initially, five students took advantage of the three days free call offered by the two leading mobile companies. These students prayed on their cell phones for one hour after every two days. Right now, this mobile prayer chain has grown from five to sixty five students into groups of at least five students per group. “My involvement in this mobile chain hasn’t only improved my prayer life, but, I have learned to pray strategically using scriptures”. Fatu, University of Liberia

The **second door of opportunity** is a campaign called “Ebola kills, Jesus heals.” This campaign is an ongoing community effort to stop the spread of the virus using several approaches:

The usage of PowerPoint presentations and video clips of the virus with emphasis on the cause, how it kills and preventive measures. The PowerPoint presentation is later transited from the negative effect “Ebola kills” to the gospel message “Jesus heals”, providing the audience the opportunity to make decisions for Christ. This campaign started on the 7th of August and ended on the 12th due to the imposition of night curfew. However, two hundred and sixty six watched the presentation and



PowerPoint Training of a Community Taskforce

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twenty prayed to make decisions for Christ.

2. Training Community task force.

Every community has set up a task force to fight against the spread of the virus. Two communities invited us to help train their task force with focus on; the history of the Ebola virus, the cause, preventive measures, contact tracing, the usage of the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and the gospel presentation. This training brought together one hundred and ten participants. Thirty two persons made decisions for Christ.



A student conducting an Ebola Training in the Duazon Community



Students loading the pickup for distribution

The Third Door of Opportunity

This provides students the opportunity to help with ongoing distribution of medical and food supplies to several places including; hospitals with Ebola Treatment Units (ETU's), Quarantined communities, and disabled communities from our major donor, GAIN, USA.

The four door of opportunity (In Touch Messenger)

This device contains the New Testament Bible and a pre-recorded inspirational messages by Rev. Charles Stanley of the United States. Our primary focus is to give each device to an Ebola survivor to help him

or her understand that if no one will accept them as they get reintegrated into communities, Jesus will. On the 7th of October, twenty one Ebola survivors discharged from Ebola Treatment Unit at E.L.W.A each received a copy of the device.

It is so unfortunate that there is not much publicity regarding Ebola survivors being discharged from ETUs across the country. There are more than five hundred confirmed cases that have survived. It is even more frustrating to note that there is no package to help survivors being re-integrated in communities after losing almost everything during their misfortune. As students made follow-up in communities where these survivors are returning, it is so disheartening to note that some are returning to empty homes with no mattress, food, clothes or other basic necessities. However, the students have distributed several items including three mattresses and ten sacs of drinking water, and with five of the twenty survivors receiving the Intouch Messenger. One of the survivors responded this way "My survival was only by Jesus. I saw over ten people die in the same place I was being treated."



Ebola Survivor sitting and Mr. Taylor demonstrating how to use the InTorch Messenger

Family Corner (Philippians 4:13-14, 17)

My family and I are in good spirits and continue to enjoy God's protection and provision. Many have raised concerns to stop what I enjoy doing and stay home for awhile. All these thoughts have been considered on a serious note and on many occasions I have tried to stay away. However, I haven't succeeded, especially when the students keep pricking my conscience with the question, is ministry possible only when the conditions are favorable? Since it

seems not possible to stay away during these perilous times for the sake of the gospel, the most you could do for me right now is to pray for the following:

1. for wisdom and open doors to present the message of love and grace to those that are yet under bondage.
2. More than eighty percent of our support has been generated locally from those the government classified as Non-essential staff. As a result, our support

has dropped drastically. Pray for this deadly virus to cease so that Liberians can again have the opportunity to support God's work through our endeavor. Remember, little is much when God is in it.

3. Please join us in trusting God for a four wheel truck or jeep to facilitate our movement as we continue to present the message of God's love.