

His Excellency, Mr. President, Officials of Government present, Members of the Legislative Caucus of Grand Bassa County, Our Norwegian Partners, Conference Official of the United Methodist Church of Liberia, Other Church Leaders, our friends from Southern Africa to be specific Zimbabwe, and our own sisters and brothers from neighbouring Sierra Leone where we share a lot of good and bad things common, Town, Clan and Paramount Chiefs, other high profile personalities here today, Fellow Citizens, members of the full estate, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

The United Methodist Church remains a long standing - partner with the government of Liberia in responding to the needs of Liberians from 1822 to present no matter their conditions.

In 2006, the two sister churches in Liberia and Norway (UMC) decided to strengthened the partner relationship that existed for several years; to enable the church respond to demeaning situation of poverty in Liberia with support from the Norwegian United Methodist Church and the people and Government of Norway. The partnership was extended with a program, Liberia-Norway Partnership-Community Development Program, (CODEVPRO) with the aim to develop sustainable communities.

Since 2008 to present, several lives in different communities within fourteen of the fifteen counties of Liberia has been touched by the United Methodist Church through the Department of Community Services, with community based projects ranging from wash, schools clinics/hospitals, bridges, guest houses, Farina mills including capacity buildings amongst others.

Today, we are very happy to be in Gorblee Administrative District on this wonderful day set aside by God, for the presentation and dedication of a fifty plus bed rooms health center/hospital worth over Two Hundred thousand United States Dollar for the people of this community and its surroundings. I can recall few years back on one of our missionary journeys to Boegeezaye, Rivercess County where we constructed the first Junior High School in that district; we decided to stopover on this Compound because of bad road and late traveling. I don't know whether it was a good luck for the people of Gorblee or not; but we taught to pack our vehicle in the than Statutory Superintendent yard (Hon. Abel Yournbo) since he was the highest in authority, so that we could pass night.

After a while, Hon. Yarbon came outside of his house and greeted us. We also introduced ourselves; and told him about the work that the United Methodist Church was doing around Liberia through our office with support from our Norwegian partner. Immediately, the honorable man got interested and appeal for a project in his district. Within a week we received a letter of request from Gorblee and its surrounding towns, appealing to our office for a bigger clinic or hospital because the current facility could not serve the population of Gorblee and its Satellite towns; and that; they were ready to make available the land and the local resources for the construction. Thank you Hon. Younabou for your far sightedness. Their request was later granted

by the former Director in person of Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay who is now servicing as one of the senators of Grand Bassa County. After all of the formalities the project got started.

Based on the size and cost of the project, we together with the people of compound three/Gorblee had to partner with the stakeholders of Bassa through the County Health Team for support to the hospital through the County Development Fund. After several documentations, the project became a partnership project between the Government of Liberia represented by Grand Bassa County Health Team and the United Methodist Church in Liberia.

The original cost for the project including furniture was US\$234,336.96 United States Dollars. Off this amount, the government was to contribute 40% and the UMC contributes 60%. However, due to delay beyond DCS's control couple with the high cost of building materials the project cost was later increased to US\$283,728.58. Off this amount, the Government contribution should have been USD93,734.77 of which we received US\$77,928.58 through the Project Management Committee. The balance is yet to be made available. Be as it may, we are still grateful for the level of support and cooperation received from the stakeholders of Grand Bassa County. The facility has about four sections with fifty plus rooms, water towel, generator house, hand pump with some hospital utensils donated by our friend from UMC Norway. The facility we have come to dedicate today is the biggest hospital/health center in this district and it will be turned over to the people of Bassa through the County Health Team of this County.

At this junction, I like to appreciate the people of Grand Bassa County Bassa, the Legislative Caucus, County Health Team, Project Management Committee, and the County superintendent for considering the need to partner with the UMC-Liberia to construct this hospital which we believe will improve the health care delivery services of the people of Bassa and beyond. We are grateful to our UMC-Norway family, the Britanan University College students and the UMC – Liberia who stood with us and supported this project from the beginning up to present.

People of this community, we acknowledged your individual and collectively roles played. So we say celebrate your new beginning because your labor did not go in vain; especially our project management committee.

As I conclude, Let me also extent my gratitude to our former and present Bishop of the United Methodist Church Rev. Dr. John G. Innis under whose administration this project started and Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Quire,Jr under whose administration it is completed and will be dedicated today. Thanks for the supervisory role each of you had played in the life of this project.

Still on my feet, I would like to salute Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay, former Director of DCS, for running with this vision that we are now celebrating. This project was implemented up to 65% under his administration as Director. We want to applaud you for the effort you applied in making sure that the dream of your people has become a reality today.

To my hardworking and committed staff including our contractors, I say BRAVO to us because together we give life a chance and restore human dignity.

As we have gathered to thank God for this gift, I now present the Gorblee Health Center for dedication to the honour and glory of God.

I thank you.