



NEWS LETTER

The Koinonia Trust Inc.
Monrovia, Liberia

Summer2022

Our Building Project

Thanks to Liberia Mercy Partners and individual donors we were able to start our building project this year on land that was purchased a number of years ago. At present we rent and maintain a compound that is not just home to the ministry but houses 5 adults and Frances when she is on site. In the long term this is not financially sustainable. Within the next 7 years we would have spent 38,500 USD as a Trust on renting, maintaining and on electricity for our existing compound. This is not even allowing for price hikes that we have been advised that will be implemented in March 2023. Outside of the financial investment, having our own homes and ministry base means we will have security and peace of mind. We have two phases to our building project and we hope to complete phase 1 this year

Phase 1:

1. A community well (Complete)
2. The ministerial building which has our office, male and female bathrooms, our tailoring workshop
3. Momo's family home providing security as he ministers and leads the project
4. A water tower to service all the buildings (Started - needs to be completed)

The first part of the building was the well so the builders could access water. The well is 30ft deep and was dug by hand and the cement covets that line the well were all made on site. Making them onsite saved a huge amount of money on transport. The water tower supports and the casting on top was assembled on site. This will supply the buildings with water in the future.



Our community well, water for all of us!



Ministerial building

As you can see from the photos there is no fancy scaffolding! the building went up very quickly to roof level. We will have an office, male and female bathrooms and a large tailoring workshop.



Excavation of the land



Momo's family house at the forefront



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Thanks to The Irish Embassy/Irish Aid in Liberia, individual donors, Donegal and Stranolor Presbyterian Churches we were able to fund the following projects.



One of our former participants now a qualified apprentice facilitator helping to facilitate a trauma healing group for our tailoring class

The Tailoring Workshop

We have just had 11 students in the tailoring group who completed 10 months this June. The students started to make and sell some products in 2020/21 that enabled us to purchase another sewing machine and helped maintain the machines we have. They are now in a position to make a small living by making or altering clothes for others as well as making clothes for themselves. This project is a blessing to vulnerable women who have children to feed and no opportunity or money to learn a new skill. They are also a wonderful captive audience as we support and build their resilience. Liberia is a harsh environment and women face many challenges just simply being female.

We are hoping the new tailoring workshop space will enable us to train between 15-20 students every year. In the future it is anticipated that one of the former participants will become an 'onsite' tailor and assistant to the current tutor. This will generate income towards the cost of this project in the future. This year the students participated in a trauma healing group that was spread over the ten months.

The Homework club

The latest updates

This project has been the catalyst for other meaningful opportunities with other young people and adults. Between 62-80 children engaged with the homework club three times a week. Children were able to remain in school due to the encouragement of the study class. Their reading, writing skills and grades improved and they had a better understanding of their notes. Several of the children were promoted into the next grade



The Koinonia Football Club



The team have been together now two years under the supervision of one of our classroom supervisors who also is a soccer coach. There are now over 40 young men involved between the age of 10 and 18 and due to these increased numbers, we now have an assistant coach. The majority of these young men are from the rural areas and are without parents or guardians in Monrovia. They tend to move from place to place, as they find somewhere safe to stay often in unstable environments. We are currently now fielding two teams – junior and senior – both are performing well. In June this year two of the players were picked to play in the Liberian National team under 15s. Participants in the football teams are a captive audience for the trauma healing groups as well as our own workshops. In Liberian society there are very distinct gender roles and the football team has provided a great opportunity to discuss perspectives and belief systems. It has also provided a safe space for young men to share how they are feeling spiritually, emotionally and mentally with each other, our coaches and ourselves.

Prayer Requests

- As Momo continues to lead the work in Liberia, pray that God keeps him in good health and grants him ongoing wisdom.
- Pray for the team on the ground in Liberia that they would grow in spiritual maturity.
- Pray for the men, women and children in our community that we engage with, that they will experience Gods loving care and the hope of a future that He has planned for each one of them.
- Pray for the compound under construction in Liberia that God will provide the funding for its completion and that we will be able to relocate before the end of the year.
- Pray for Frances and her family as they grieve a mother and a grandmother at this time. Pray too for them as they each adjust to new roles or to new limitations.
- Pray for all those who have funded and supported us that God would bless their generosity



Practical help

We are hoping to raise the **7,000 USD** needed to finish Phase 1 of the build, so we can move from the compound into a permanent base which is rooted in the community and has an 'open door' policy where we can all grow together.

Please help us raise our target of **7,000 USD** - any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. If you feel you can do a fundraiser for us that would be wonderful, and we will support you in any way. Our overarching aims is to demonstrate God's love and care for each individual and nurture new hope for their lives by building positive relationships that bring healing, builds resilience and encourages new skills.



Reflections

Reflections from Momo

Psalm 8:1 O LORD our God, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who has set thy glory above the heavens.

As we reflect on the wonders of God's grace and his faithfulness, He has proven that we can depend on his name. The name of the Lord is a strong tower the righteous run to it and are saved. The name of God has won many battles and gained many victories. God has been good to us as an organisation. We have called on His name in our time of needs, He answered assuring us that He is with us. As we continue to depend on God He illuminates our steps, assures us when we are afraid and consoles us when we grieve. God has been faithful to what we are doing in Liberia and as we lean on Him we are assured of His continued presence in what we do.

Reflections from Frances

A prayer I came across many years ago was the serenity prayer; God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can and Wisdom to know the difference. It has taken me over thirty years to understand and perfect that simple discipline of living today without the burdens of yesterday or the fears of tomorrow. Each passing year I continue to learn to surrender and allow God to mold this lump of clay with its imperfections, fears and insecurities. In days of pain, grief, loneliness, despair and uncertainty I have learnt to say God I can't, but you can. The more I have let go, the more I have found serenity not in the striving but as a gift from the Father. The words *fear not* is cited in scripture 365 times, one for each day!!! I have observed in many verses it is followed by I AM....the One that takes my hand, your hand, the One who strengthen us, shelters us and guides us. In my journey as a sojourner in this walk with God, as I go between two countries, two people and two cultures God continues to deepen my walk with Him removing fear and replacing it with His peace. I feel I am learning more than I give. (Isaiah 41 vs 10 and 13/Psalm 91/ Matthew 10 vs 26-32)

Online

Our Social Media Platforms are currently being updated but you will find more information at www.thekoinoniatrust.com

Facebook: The Koinonia Trust
Instagram: koinonia_trust

All donations are appreciated & welcomed.

Links available online at the above sources



