

AFRICAN BIBLE COLLEGE

YEKEPA, LIBERIA

LIBERIA RESTORATION REPORT 2007

The steps to the RESTORATION of a war-torn country are slow and tedious. So many of these steps are tied upon HOPE and FAITH.

The Liberian people never really gave up. Even though they suffered through 15 years of Civil War, their heart-cry was the same as the South after the War Between the States—"The South Will Rise Again!" That same determination existed in the courageous people of Liberia.

And so it is with African Bible College. The FAITH that planted that first building on these hallowed grounds is the same faith that inspired us and our graduates to "BEGIN AGAIN."

As I look out my bedroom window here on the ABC campus in Liberia, I see the towering palm trees lining the driveway and the bare steel girders of the beautiful chapel begging to have that bareness covered, the gaping windows filled with colorful glass panes, the mildewed walls adorned in white paint.



Palm Trees Out My Window



Before Restoration



After Restoration— By Faith

Twenty-two buildings, each of which has a legacy. The “Cleveland Library” where the church in Cleveland, Mississippi, collected and catalogued hundreds of books, and then sent three of their skilled women, headed up by Rebecca Austin, to train the students in how to use the Dewey Decimal System...and to put those books on the shelves.

The gymnasium has a unique history. Jack and I were speaking to a college-age Sunday School class in the First Presbyterian Church in Macon, Georgia, and Jack had just finished telling the story of how the motto “Faith in Action—God in Motion” had brought about all the buildings to be underwritten. There only remained the gym and one dormitory. “But,” Jack said, “we really don’t need the gym right now; that can wait.”

After the class, one very tall young man came up to the front and said to Jack, “I’m from the University of Florida and I’m training for the Olympics in basketball. I think that Gym IS IMPORTANT! You’ve been talking about “Faith in Action...” Well, I have just ten dollars in my wallet and I want to give you that as a down payment on the gymnasium!”

As we drove home that night, we were excited about what God was doing. Before we even opened the door to our house on 220 Queen Anne Lane, the phone was ringing. It was Jack Ross, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Brookhaven, Mississippi. “Hey, I hear those buildings are going like hot cakes! What do you have left?” “Well,” Jack replied, “we have the gym and one dormitory.” “We’ll take the dormitory!” And Jack Ross hung up the phone.



Cleveland Library



Brookhaven Dormitory

The next day there was a call from Jim Baird, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Macon, Georgia. "Our elders have voted to underwrite one of the dormitories," Jim said. "I'm sorry," Jack answered, "All the dormitories are gone—but let me tell you the story about the gym!" Because the gym was more expensive than the dormitory, the college group made up the difference so African Bible College could have the **ONLY GYMNASIUM** in the country of Liberia!

Even though as I look at that gymnasium, I can only see walls and cement floor, by **FAITH** I know there will soon be those steel rafters in place, basketball hoops on those walls and ABC students once again winning basketball tournaments!

Now, as I look out my bedroom window, even though the room is bare, I can hear the carpenters hammering, I can walk outside and see Delbert up on the roof trying to put rain gutters on, and Jack down in a ditch digging to replace the sewage line. They are all preparing for the coming of the **FIRST TEAM**. Our son, Palmer, is bringing 15 men from the church he pastors in Chandler, Arizona (the **GROVE BIBLE CHURCH**), to complete the first house.



Del getting ready to set up water tank under eaves of roof to catch rain water



Jack putting in the sewer line...Just call him Art Karney (The Honeymooners)...at least the teams will be able to flush the toilets!



Macon Gymnasium

“EVERYBODY ON THE WALL” is the motto our graduates have given the restoration of African Bible College. This was taken from a sermon preached in the ABC Chapel in Liberia from Nehemiah. They all want to have a part in rebuilding the campus and so, the greeting of ABC graduates to one another now is not the usual, “How’s your body keeping?”...but it is “EVERYBODY ON THE WALL!”



What a Challenge! As we “BEGIN AGAIN”—we have faith that Liberia WILL LIVE AGAIN. As the manager of Mittel Steel told us, the project in Yekepa will be bigger and better than it was in the day of LAMCO. And as Jack has preached, “God is a God of restoration and what He restores, He makes better than new!”

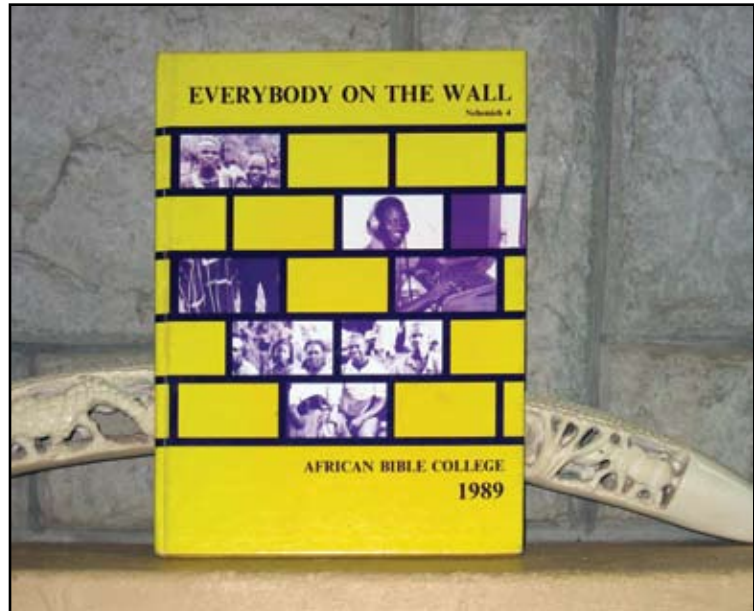
May you too desire to join us “ON THE WALL” and be part of another demonstration of God’s faithfulness to “Go into Motion” as we put our “Faith into Action!”

In Liberia...On the Wall
January 3-17, 2007

Nell and Jack Chinchen

Nell and Jack Chinchen

Some of the 50 workers Del hired while we were there...I promised them that the teams would bring them all hats! (baseball caps)...They were wearing ski caps “to keep the sun off their head”! How thankful they were to have work! And looking forward to helping the teams!



Last Liberian Yearbook Before the War

EXCITING NEWS FLASH: OUR SON, DEL (who was president of the Bible college in Liberia during the War years) and HIS WIFE, BECKY HAVE COMMITTED THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO THE RESTORATION AND REOPENING OF AFRICAN BIBLE COLLEGE IN LIBERIA! He and Becky will be “On the Wall” overseeing the KING CYRUS PLAN (see the enclosed explanation) to “Go into Motion” as we put our “Faith into Action!”