

Global Ministries Commission



Evangelical Congregational Church

2016 Liberia Trip

Rev. Rick Sergi

Emmanuel EC Church
Bethlehem, PA

www.emmanuel4me.com





*ECC-USA delegation to the ECCOL's 2016 Annual Conference
Ralph Owens, Randy Sizemore, Carla Sizemore, Rick Sergi*





LIBERIA POWER AFRICA FACT SHEET

Liberia Energy Sector Overview

The Government of Liberia is working closely with development partners, including Power Africa, and is undertaking ambitious steps to rebuild its electricity infrastructure. The civil war, which ended in 2003, destroyed nearly all of the country's ability to provide electricity for its over four million people. Unemployment and extreme poverty are pervasive in Liberia.

Liberia has one of the lowest electricity access rates in the world with an overall total of less than 2%. In the capital city of Monrovia, only 6.7% of the population has access to electricity. And Monrovia's grid is largely supplied by expensive diesel fueled generation resources. Less than 23 Megawatts (MW) of Liberia's on-grid installed generation operate on a daily basis and, therefore, larger facilities such as hotels, restaurants and office buildings self-generate electricity at their premises at levels estimated to be ten times greater than the existing installed generation capacity. By the end of 2014, an additional 37 MW will be in place for the public grid managed by the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

By 2030, the country aims to connect 70% of Monrovia to the electricity grid and provide access to 35% of the rest of the country, or the equivalent of over one million new connections and a peak load over 300MW. As the critical next step, Liberia, with development partner support, is rebuilding the Mt. Coffee hydropower plant. When the plant and related transmission line come on line in 2016, there will be during the rainy season, a maximum capacity of 140 MW in Liberia available through the public grid.



“For the last decade, we’ve been digging out from the aftermath of a 23-year civil war that left our energy infrastructure in shambles. In a country of 4.1 million, only about 1 percent of urban residents — and almost no rural residents — have access to electricity. Everyone else depends on unreliable and inefficient sources of energy such as firewood, charcoal, candles, kerosene, battery-powered flashlights, palm oil, and small gasoline and diesel generators...”

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/08/29/lets-power-africa/>

Monrovia

About Liberia - Monrovia



About Liberia - Monrovia



About Liberia - Monrovia



Out-and-About

About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



View from the hotel.

Community well

About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



Drying clothes

About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



About Liberia – Out & About!



Rubber trees at the Firestone plantation

About Liberia – Out & About!



A termite mound!

About Liberia – Out & About!

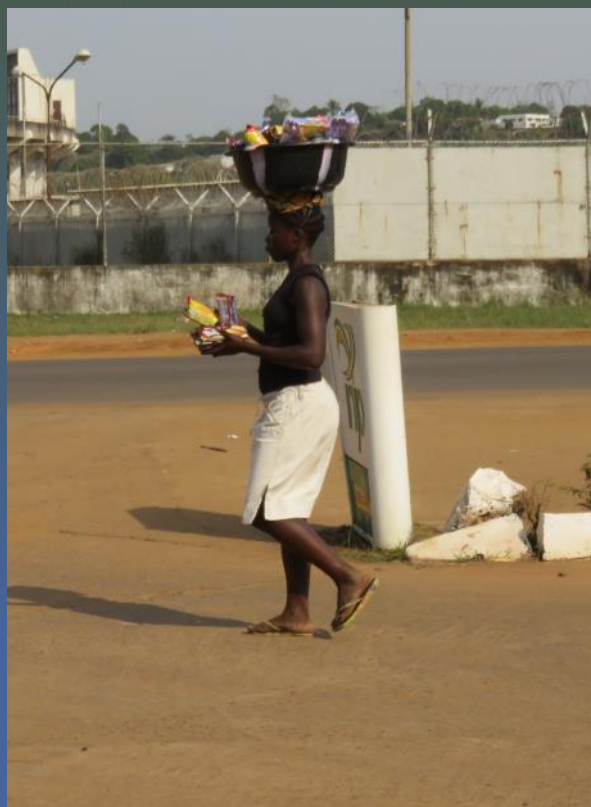


About Liberia – Out & About!



Almond trees

About Liberia – Out & About!



Roads

About Liberia - Roads



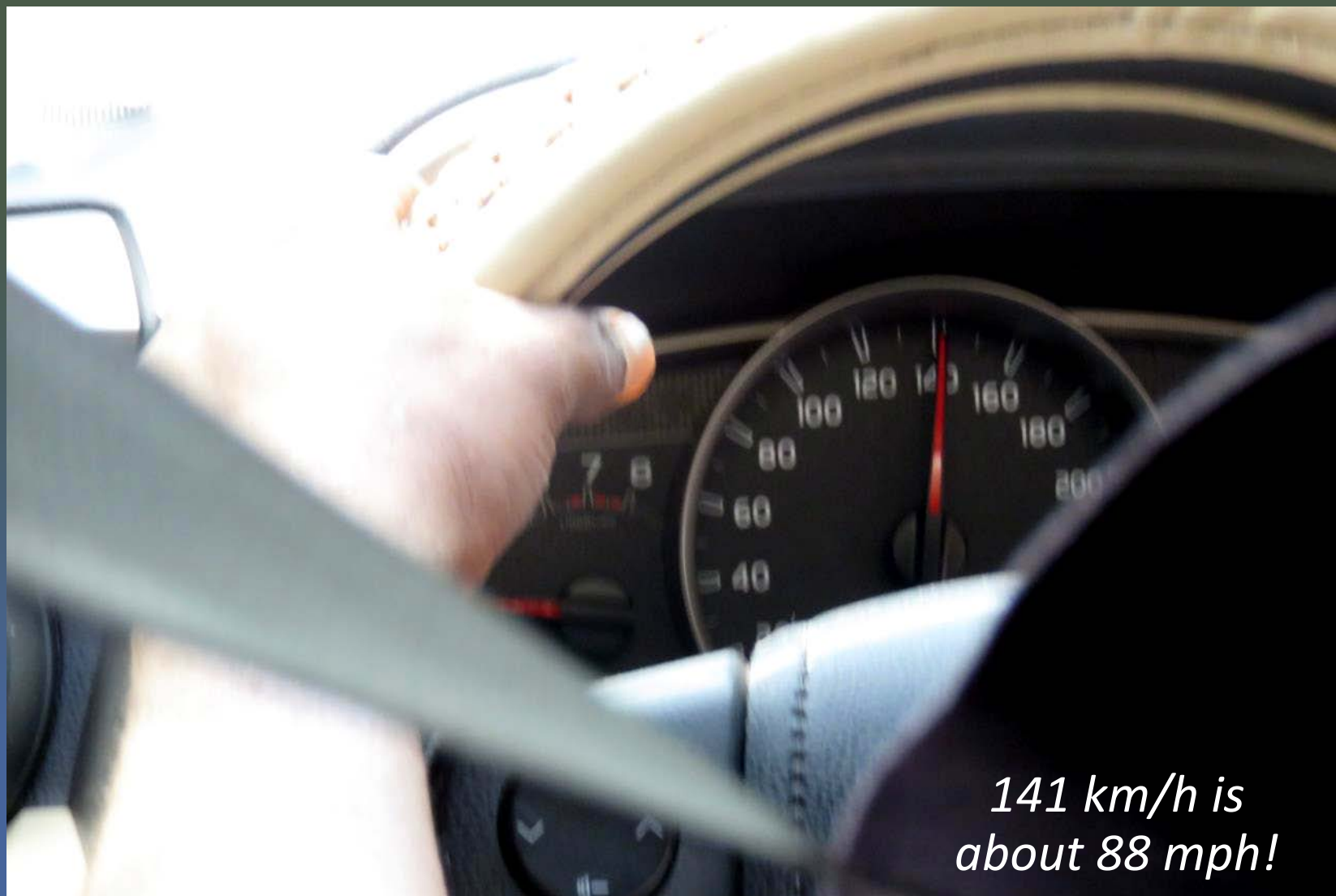
About Liberia - Roads



About Liberia - Roads



About Liberia - Roads



*141 km/h is
about 88 mph!*

About Liberia - Roads



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About Liberia - Roads



What We Ate!

About Liberia – What We Ate!



Just Kidding!

About Liberia – What We Ate!



About Liberia – What We Ate!



“Western-style” breakfast at the hotel

About Liberia – What We Ate!



Most cooking is done over charcoal

About Liberia – What We Ate!



What gracious hosts!! Rev. G. Abraham Powell and his wife Olive served us a traditional Liberian meal

About Liberia – What We Ate!



About Liberia – What We Ate!



“Daily Bread”

Aka - Survival!

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Manually making cinder blocks

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Car washes frequently pop up wherever water can be found

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



About Liberia – Daily Bread!



No fork-lifts here!

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Forest cleared for making charcoal

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Making charcoal

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



About Liberia – Daily Bread!



These 2 pics are from the internet... not personally taken. However, they are representative of a common sight.

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Manually breaking down rocks with a hammer...

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Gasoline!

About Liberia – Daily Bread!



About Liberia – Daily Bread!



Village Life

About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life

Gassing-up in the
village!



About Liberia – Village Life



Pastor Rick having a lot of fun with the village children!

About Liberia – Village Life



About Liberia – Village Life

Her pole!



*A special little girl with
a HUGE grin!*

*I tried to take her picture pounding cassava...
...but was "photo-bombed" by the boys!*



ECCOL

Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia

ECCOL - Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia

The EC Church in Liberia was started by the efforts of a native African woman named, Clara Letitia Blaine-Wilson, known as "Aunt Clara" in the year 1966. Aunt Clara was a Christian woman who told Bible stories and other stories using nature, to help the Liberian children learn about God. 'Aunt Clara' even had a radio program to broadcast her Bible Messages to the children of Liberia.



"Green, Green Christmas" was written by our beloved, Aunt Clara Letitia Blaine-Wilson. She was a well-known storyteller on Radio Station ELWA, and we all loved to hear her Spider stories, prefaced by "Once upon a time..." Her audience then had to chorus "TIME" before she would continue. She was so well-regarded in Liberia, that she was given a state funeral upon her death in 1979.

Aunt Clara was returning from a wintery trip to the US, and on the plane back home, penned her longing for home in this classic song. Those of us who were privileged to know her can vividly remember her sitting in front of us in her white dress, singing this, complete with motions. It wasn't Christmas until "Green Christmas" was sung, and it still isn't!

Liberian Missionary Here

'Aunt Clara' Felt Calling

By PAUL A. FLIPPIN

Ms. Clara Letitia Blaine Wilson has one regret in her life — that she didn't enter the Lord's service earlier.

"No? A missionary? I used to say," Mrs. Wilson — known to everyone as "Aunt Clara" — related. "Then I'd never — served!"

But "Aunt Clara" had a calling to God's service and she answered it with the result a whole new line of fulfillment for the African woman.

"Aunt Clara" lives and works at Radio Village in Monrovia, Liberia, along with missionaries from throughout the world. She is sponsored by the main base of the Evangelical Congregational Church, which is the organization that has brought her to America for her career "vacation" and massive schedule of speaking engagements.

While in the Bucks area she is residing at the EC mission home, 288 S. Wymington Ave., Shillington. Her speaking schedule takes her to the

Frederick EC Church Sunday at 11 a.m. and to Zion's EC Church, Martinsburg, Monday at 1:30 p.m. On Monday, Nov. 18, she will speak at Christ EC, Easton B.D. 4, in the morning and at St. Paul's EC, Hagerstown, at 7:30 that evening.

Sponsoring Church: St. Paul's Church is her sponsoring congregation for her work in Liberia. And "Aunt Clara" says that church "loves."

An educated African, "Aunt Clara" worked in the state department at Monrovia prior to answering God's call for her to enter the work of the church.

"It was due to the death of my son," the self-styled woman, who admits she has raised more foster children than she can count, said about her only natural child. "Charles was 25 and in divinity school here in the United States. Suddenly, one Wednesday I was told he has passed."

Charles died of stroke and meningitis and his death, over 12 years ago, served as a turning point in "Aunt Clara's" life.

"I got like I was swimming down a black sea. God called me and suddenly I was turned around swimming up that black sea of life."

Daily Broadcasts: "Aunt Clara" moved to Radio Village and she has been working there night and day ever since.

"I only wish I had answered God's call earlier," she repeated. "There is so much to be done and so little time to do it."

"Aunt Clara" broadcasts over the radio nearly every day and five days each week her devotional program airs off the station. Radio Village broadcasts over the entire continent of Africa and is even heard in many countries behind the Iron Curtain.

When "Aunt Clara" went to Radio Village to live and work she never thought about having a church sponsor her.

"One day someone asked me who my sponsor was. I said I didn't have any. Shortly thereafter the mission board of the EC Church began sponsoring my work," she stated.

Today she is the overseer of the 23 EC congregations in Liberia.

In March, prior to her departure for America, "Aunt Clara" was called to the Liberian office of President William R. Tolbert where she was presented a medal signifying the highest grade of service to her country. The medal she wears constantly.

Two of "Aunt Clara's" adopted sons are cabinet members for Liberia. One is minister of presidential affairs while a second serves as minister of rural government and infrastructure affairs.

"And they are both Christians," Aunt Clara modestly said. "One is an elder of the Presbyterian Church and the other a deacon in the United Methodist Church. How very proud I am of them."

At the end of November "Aunt Clara" is scheduled to return to Africa via seaman's freighter.

"I could have gone by airplane," she related. "But I feel the 18 days at sea will give me time to rest. I've been so, the go since March, traveling, speaking and meeting people in America. Now I must return where the real work needs to be done and I must be ready for it."



'Spinning' Tale of Liberia

Clara Wilson, "Aunt Clara" to Liberian radio audience, gives a native by as she tells about her homeland during a visit to Bucks County.—Eagle Photo.

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Meeting our Liberian “hosts!”

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At St. Paul's EC Church for Bishop Matthew Gueh's retirement service

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Bishop Matthew Gueh, Rev. Ralph Owens, Rev. Rick Sergi

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Ecstatic worship!

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Dedication of the 4WD vehicle

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Rejoicing for what God has done!

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Singing a blessing over us (US delegation)

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Waiting to vote

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Rev. G. Abraham Powell is elected as next bishop of ECCOL

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Rev. Rick Sergi ministering during Youth-Focus night

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Newly-elected Bishop Powell embraces Solomon Smith



Preparing communion



Communion table ready

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The ebola-response team of ECCOL