



**Evangelical Congregational Church of Liberia
2023 Trip Report**

Rev. Rick Sergi

Emmanuel EC Church - Bethlehem, PA
www.emmanuel4me.com



“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Revelation 7:9-10

About Liberia!

Liberia

USA



maphill

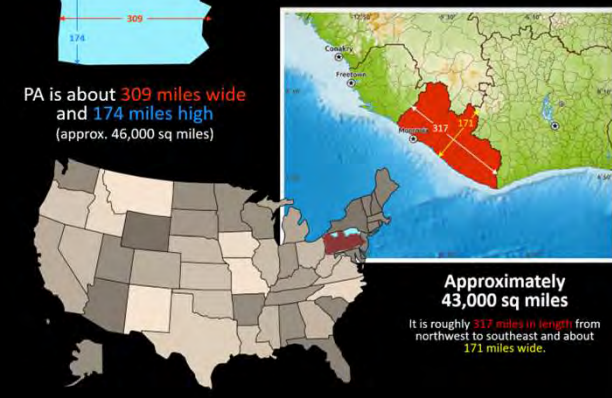
PA is about **309 miles wide** and **174 miles high** (approx. 46,000 sq miles)



Approximately 43,000 sq miles

It is roughly **317 miles in length** from northwest to southeast and about **171 miles wide**.

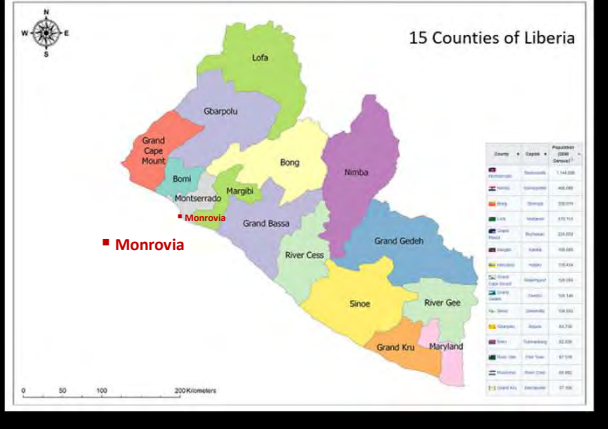
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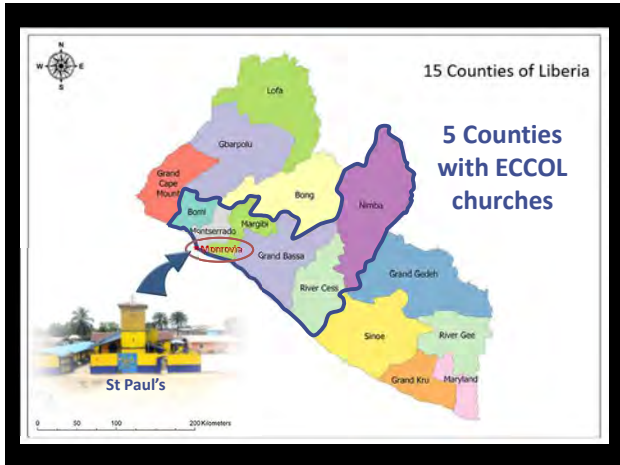


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15 Counties of Liberia





About Liberia!

Liberia is emerging from horrific civil war that lasted 14 years (1989-2003). The impact of the war will remain a factor in Liberian recovery and development for years.

The Liberian Civil War (1989-2003)

In 1989, Charles Taylor and his NPFL rebel group launched a rebellion against the Samuel Doe government of the Republic of Liberia. Civil war ensued among various tribal groups and the country suffered estimated deaths of up to 300,000 people before the end of fighting in 2003. The war was characterized by the use of child soldiers (many of whom were fed narcotics in order to incite them to perform the deadly tasks directed by their leaders) and gruesome atrocities including the random amputation of limbs, mutilation and the murder of pregnant women simply for the purpose of betting on the gender of the unborn child.

In addition to the human carnage, the infrastructure of the country was laid to waste. Buildings, including hospitals and power facilities, were looted, burned and destroyed. Water and sanitation systems fell into unimaginable disrepair and were rendered useless. By the end of the war, the nation was left without power, water or sanitation. The war displaced nearly one-third of the population into refugee camps across the country and West Africa. Tens of thousands of refugees migrated to the Firestone farm seeking to avoid the horrific violence, overwhelming the property.

The U.S. State Department has said that the war "brought about a steep decline in the living standards of the country, including its education and infrastructure." Most major businesses were destroyed or heavily damaged, and most foreign investors and businesses left the country. Today, about 85% of Liberians are unemployed.

USAID, the foreign aid branch of the U.S. State Department, has said, "it is difficult to exaggerate the devastation that this war has had on Liberia's physical, social, political, economic and governance structure."

1st Civil War: 1989 to 1997

2nd Civil War: 1999 to 2003



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.

Liberian Woman's Story

"Aunt Clara" Felt Calling

Clara, 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 spoken stories, prefaced by "Once upon a time..." In addition there had to be a "Tale" before she would continue. She was so well respected in Liberia, that she was given a state funeral upon her death in 1979.

Aunt Clara was returning from a visiting trip to the US, and on the plane back home, penned her longing for her home in this classic song. "One of us who were privileged to know her can really remember her sitting on top of us in her white dress, singing this, complete with melody. It wasn't Christmas until "Green Christmas" was sung, and it was 1971!"

2016



Dedication of the 4WD vehicle

2016



2016



2016



Waiting to vote

2016



2016



ECCOL – The ministry



ECCOL – The ministry



ECCOL – The ministry



2023
"7 Years"



Arrival at Robert's International Airport



View from the hotel window



Monrovia market area



Traveling around Monrovia



Keke's are everywhere in Monrovia! (aka - "tuk-tuk")

Traveling around Monrovia



...as are "motorbike" taxis!

"This too is Liberia!"



Car/truck wash



Car/truck wash



Around Monrovia (Lumber)



Location of St Paul's Evangelical Congregational Church
Iron Factory, Somalia Drive, Gardnersville Monrovia, Liberia

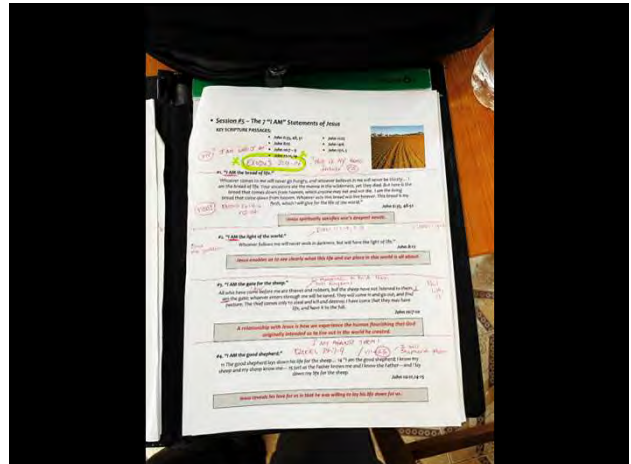


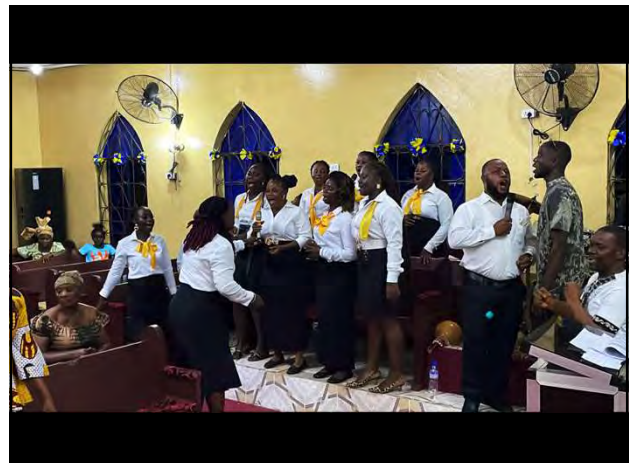
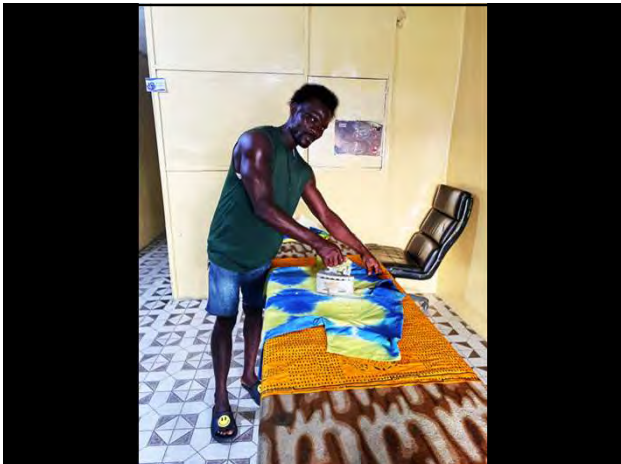


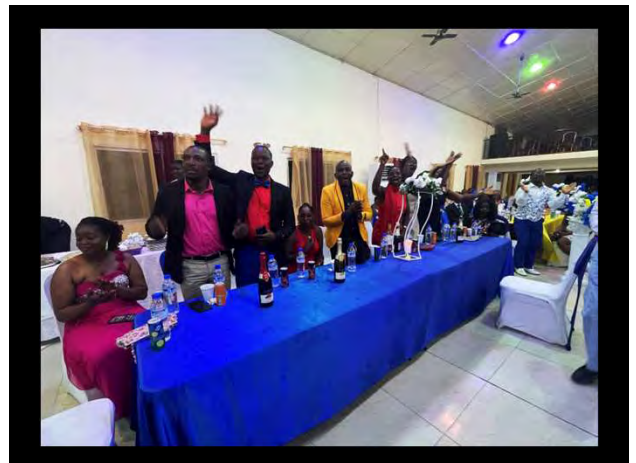




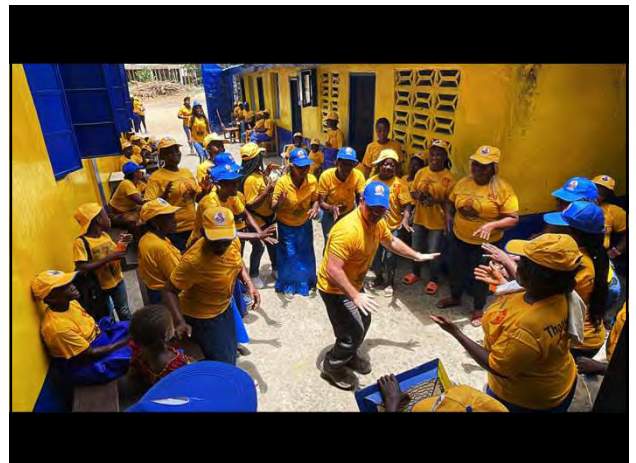
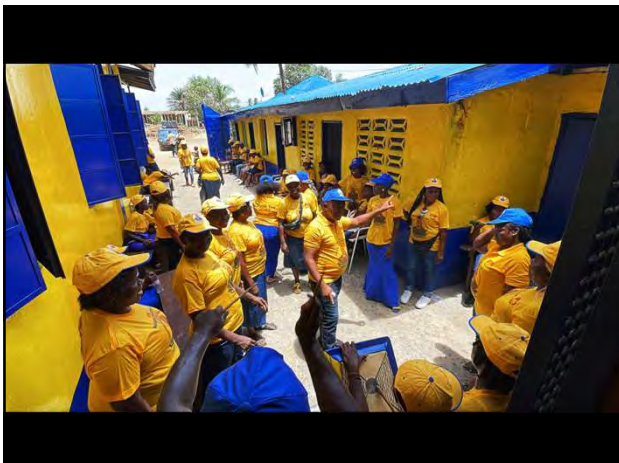




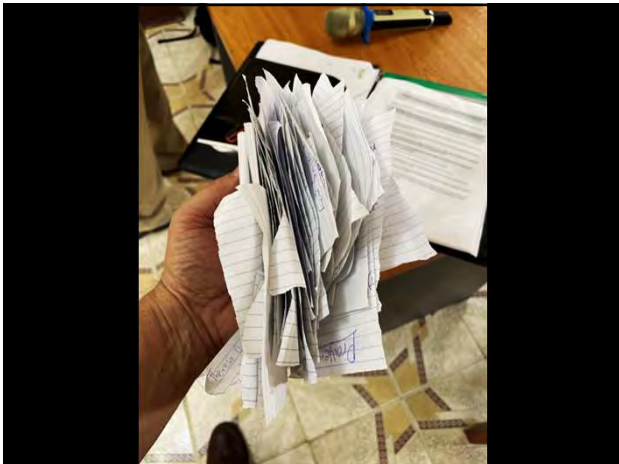






















Area being cleared for farming (cassava, rice, plantain, or sugar cane)



Cassava is a starchy, tuberous root much like potatoes

"Private" rubber trees being grown for their latex











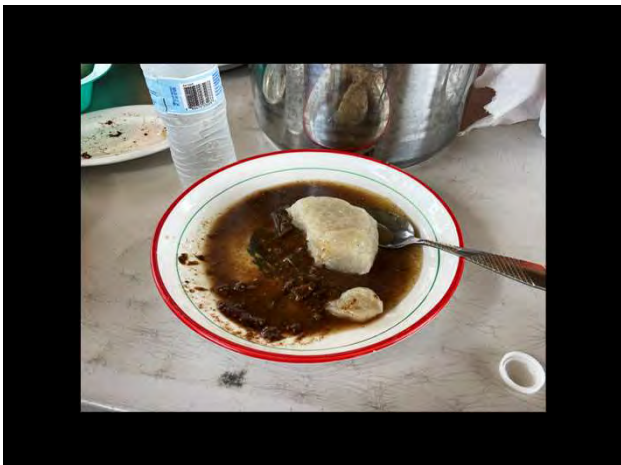












1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Revelation 7:9-10

Salvation Belongs to Our God

