

education. Unfortunately, that is simply not true in many developing nations. The alternatives for those with a poor education are few and generally are hard-labor related. Hard labor jobs in these nations do not provide a living wage. Not even close. It is generally less than two dollars per day.

Now it might seem strange, but the statistics back this next fact up. That is that individuals in poverty don't just have their children earlier in life, they also have more children. Usually twice as many children. That's twice as many children living in heart-breaking conditions. Twice as many children going to bed hungry on a dirt floor; most often without even the comfort of a simple blanket. That is why it is so critical that we be sure that the help we give them is not a hand-out, but a hand up. It is the only way that we can be relatively certain that we are effecting lasting change.

God gave us all a mind, a body and a soul. Each has its own requirements to be healthy and yet each is integrally connected with the other. Together, if properly fed and nurtured, they are what makes us whole persons. When one of those are neglected, the sad truth is that the whole being is broken.

As I have said many times over the years, the good we do for the orphan children of the world is exponential and generational in nature. When we help an orphan child become a whole and successful adult, they pass the attributes that made them successful on to their own children. They give them a comfortable home and feed them good nutrition. They send them to school. They teach them about Jesus and the steps to salvation. They save them from repeating the same life of suffering and hopelessness they knew as a child.

This is critical because just as the good is exponential and generational, so is the bad. The orphan children of the world who don't have the help they need, that even survive, will

do so through means that are not acceptable or productive. Those means include begging on the streets and crime. These learned behaviors of survival will be passed on to their own children, and as mentioned before they will have twice as many children and they will have them 6 to 8 years earlier. The prevalence of disease and illness will be much higher as well.

As Christians we have a huge opportunity to make our world a better place to God's glory. We have a huge opportunity to use Jesus' example of love and teaching in our own actions. We have an opportunity to make a life-changing impact in the lives of the most innocent who suffer the most.

The David Board Vocational Training Center will become a new tool in our ever-growing toolbox to combat the suffering of innocent children. There, we will mold the minds of young adults and give them skills that will help them truly have a chance when they go out into the world on their own. They can do so without the fear and uncertainty that is so inherent in the lives of those who don't receive such help as young adults living in poverty. They will have confidence. They will have hope.

We are so thankful to each and every one of you whose prayers and gifts allow us to continue to grow in scope and scale to create more precious, living legacies in God's name and to His Glory.

We will be breaking ground soon for the construction of the David Board Vocational Training Center. He would be so honored for such a place to bear his name and for the many young adults whose lives it will change. It is truly a *ground-breaking* addition to their community and to their young lives.



July 2022 Monthly Newsletter

Ground Breaking - Precious Legacies

by Greg Timmons



My father (our late CEO, David Board) was never much of one to simply give a hand-out... at least not unless it resulted in a hand-up. That was pretty much his unspoken, but obvious rule.

Don't get me wrong.

He was capable of great compassion. That was always the initial catalyst. He was without a doubt one of the most giving people I have ever met in my life. It's just that he didn't believe in simply handing someone money or things without expectations that it would make a permanent change; as opposed to a temporary change that would likely require more benevolence in the future and a cyclic reoccurrence. That was his choice. The way he chose to make a difference in people's lives.

Over the years, growing up, I watched him do the same thing over and over again. I watched him hire people in our businesses when we didn't really need employees at the time. We simply had to find more business to justify it financially after the fact.

He even started businesses simply to give people jobs during a time when there were few to be had. People who were ill. People who were just down on their luck.

He also invested in other people's businesses when they couldn't obtain the financial resources necessary to be successful in their start-ups. He loaned money so family members could buy homes; helping them remodel them and raise the value of the property so they could then get the final mortgage themselves and then pay him back.

Without a doubt, he followed the "teach a man to fish" principle... believing that constructive investment in others lives was much better than a one-time gift. A hand-up, not just a hand-out. It's therefore no surprise that he ended up becoming one of the co-founders of Orphan's Lifeline International. It's clear that he had been practicing the

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principles of helping others in careful and pragmatic ways for a very long time.

From the beginning, it was our goal to develop programs that were just that... a hand-up and not a hand-out. And as the years have passed, we have continually expanded, not just the scale, but the scope of our programs as finances and opportunities have allowed us to do so.

So, it is a fitting and well-deserved tribute to him, and his life, that we announce the beginning phase of the construction of the David Board Vocational Training Center in Liberia. This center will be overseen by John Travis, the Director at Safe Home, also funded by Orphan's Lifeline.

This center will become a critical educational offering for young orphan adults from Safe Home and the area in general whose lives did not allow them regular attendance at schools, and also for those who simply didn't perform well enough to qualify for college. The Training Center will offer certification courses in Agriculture, Auto Mechanics, Carpentry, Sewing and Home arts.

With these skills a living wage is very likely. This translates into the ability for them to care for their own family while also providing a valuable service to a community where such skills are in short supply. This, much like college, is one of the key elements required to break the cycle that creates orphans in the first place.

Conversely, without college... without vocational skills such as will be taught at this facility, the odds are very high that the cycle of poverty that creates orphans will continue. The needless suffering will continue. The hunger, crime and hopelessness will continue and be passed down to their future children and so on.

We live in a country where there are many resources for those who suffer from the effects of poverty and a poor education. We also live in a country where there are many opportunities to earn a living wage even without a higher

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DAVID BOARD MEMORIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, LIBERIA

"It is my pleasure to inform you that the David Board Vocational College will be a great blessing in the lives of those who will attend the center. The benefits are numerous, but I was able to collect a few from the interviews done today in Weala Town, Margibi County.

1. The training will keep our youths and adults very busy, thus ending the idleness of the community.
2. The training will create business interests for all as their hopes and dreams are to learn and begin to make income available at their own terms. They want to send their kids to school, making their community a viable one in terms of trained personnel.
3. They believe the training will add value to their scattered lives where there is no employment or business to hold onto that is capable of bringing an income to their families, etc. Parents want to be respected by their children, but it is difficult putting food on the table and implementing this respect. I believe this is true in many societies.
4. The church will collect more offerings as they will be able to pay due bills and give back to God what he has provided."



**John B. Travis, Director
Safe Home, Liberia**

"We are happy to begin our trade school very soon. Everyone is excited. Hopefully by the beginning of September the school will be opened to the public. The following are the main classes:

1. Carpentry/Wood work
2. Agriculture
3. Auto-Mechanic
4. Sewing/Fabrics
5. Home Arts"

"Those that have primary education most likely will have dropped out of school due to unpaid fees, death in the family or early marriage. When they add vocational training to their lives, it makes it a lot better. They can easily consider returning to complete their classes they dropped from and improve their lives. The reason they will succeed easily is that they will begin to pay their own fees and probably the fees of siblings with them since they can now earn money to help them. Their income will be two times higher than before when they master numbers and instructions in training.

The person who has had no primary education will be about 95% dependent on the practical aspect of their classes and will do better to sustain the survival of their family."

Samuel Sumo, Department: Carpentry



Samuel wants to learn wood work to be a help to his family. He has 5 kids. All his life he has not learned any trade to feed his family and as a result, ended up going to the bush to learn charcoal production. Learning carpentry will enable him also to conduct some repair work in his community and the church.

Linda Mulbah, Department: Pastry & Sewing



Linda wants to learn and begin to help church women with their dresses and members' kids school uniforms. This will be her last chance of earning a living to help her 5 kids, especially her son, Dekerkai, who currently suffers from mental health issues (epilepsy). Procuring these medications have been a challenge in her life, so earning money from sewing will help her and her kids survive. She wrote her own name to the surprise of many youths who are not able to do so, due to the fact they can't read or write. She ended her interview with this message: "Please tell our friends that we want to learn. I still have the hope and courage to support my children when I am supported to be trained."

Tete Flomo, Department: Sewing



Tete, a single mother of 2 kids and 3 siblings, wants to learn how to do sewing on the machines. She wants to send her kids to school and earn money to pay her bills.

Henry Flomo, Department: Agriculture



Henry can't wait to be formally trained into farming. He wants to learn how to feed himself and his community. Learning the training will also help him to give back to God.

Martha Kollie, Department: Home Arts



Martha wants to do dyeing of clothes and home arts. She wants to learn how to design clothing and also decorate rooms and halls when occasions are being held. She has to feed her 5 kids and make repairs to her mud home.

Samuel David, Department: Auto Mechanics



Samuel David, a father of 4, has lived his entire life making charcoal and small size farming which mostly end on the farm after harvest. The food is not enough to carry into storage. Learning how to do minor repairs and maintenance on vehicles will bring him a new sense of hope and income.

Mamie Flomo



"Hello friends. I am Mamie Flomo, 47 years and have 2 children. I want to learn how to Bake and fix other things with my hands to make money for my family. This trade school is the only hope for me to change my life"

Naomi Sumo, Department: Sewing & Home Arts



In addition to her desire to do sewing and baking, Naomi, a 16 year old student, is happy to be able to learn a career fast to enable her to feed herself and feed her two siblings. Naomi wants to pay her fees as she is self supported in this community.

Giving Update

Higher Education (College & Trade School) - We have received \$18,103 of the \$25,215 needed for Higher Education. We still have \$7,112 to go and we need to raise the rest in just a couple of weeks as the majority of our programs begin school in July and August! Thank you for giving!

SPECIAL NEEDS

DAVID BOARD MEMORIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

The training center will be such a benefit to the students in Liberia that will truly direct their paths that God has set them on. It will be a monumental final step in the process of our involvement in their lives, giving them a complete education, equipping them to strike out on their own as young men and women of godly character with practical knowledge and skills. Thank you so much for considering a donation to make this dream possible for our students from Safe Home and others in need of education in this area of Liberia. We already have several commitments toward the project. May God bless you deeply for all that you do!

Training Center Construction - \$41,475.25

