

Making a List – for Todee Mission

The preliminary list of needs for Liberia's Presbyterian Todee Mission runs the gamut from solar-powered generators, roofing materials and a pickup truck to toothpaste, #2 pencils, and colored chalk. And that's only a fraction of what eventually will be required to re-establish the school and re-build its classrooms, dormitories, and administrative buildings—not to mention the campus-based clinic that serves as the sole local health care facility for 42 surrounding villages.



The list is emblematic of the task itself. It is daunting, to say the least. Yet at the same time, Todee Mission offers an exceptional number of different opportunities to help the young people of Liberia. No gift is too small (a box of chalk?), and many of the more substantial monetary needs are heartbreakingly modest. For example, a teacher's annual starting salary is \$1,200. Just \$100 a month. The need for time, talent, and expertise is also great. (Calling all solar-energy experts!)

Bush Hill's principal on-going role in this effort will be to get the word out. The more people and organizations who know about Todee, the more the offers will come in and the more items we can check off the list. One very welcome possibility of help came at the first meeting of the Todee Mission Committee on May 17, when committee member Dahlia Shaewitz brought in a 15-page sample inventory of much-needed medical supplies available as a potential donation from the Diabetes Research and Education Foundation. Estimated wholesale value: \$997,500.

Over the coming months, the committee, coordinating with Todee Board chair Ophelia Johnson in Liberia, will be working on a lot of lists—pinpointing specific needs and figuring out how best to help meet them. (Check out the new Todee link on the BHPC web site for updates.) Our most immediate task is to assemble a cargo of building materials, furniture, and other supplies for a mid-summer shipment to Liberia aboard a container vessel.

And that brings us to two particularly hard-to-come-by items that we very much need as soon as possible—and definitely will have to ask around for:

1. Warehouse space. We cannot store or load the anticipated cargo for a 40-foot shipping container at the church. We're hoping to find donated or reduced-rate storage space—with a loading dock.
2. A hoist. We hope to leave the container at Todee to serve as a secure storage structure. The problem: No crane or other apparatus to take it off the truck once it arrives. Carl has suggested that, along with the cargo, we might ship a hoist that could be assembled on-site and used to lift the container off the truck and set it on the ground. We really need some expert advice here—or good ideas for an alternative solution.

Please ask everyone you can think of. You never know who might have a friend, relative, or colleague who will turn out to have the answer to our prayers. And, oh yes, please don't forget to pray!

- Lydia Hicks (703-329-6943)