

TODEE MISSION UPDATE

Dick Szymanski, I&S Committee

We will be shipping another container to Todee Mission in March and will need help to consolidate school furniture, books, other items, etc., to one warehouse location. We will need people to help coordinate the pick-up of these items. More details will be available the first week of March. Contact Dick Szymanski or the church office if interested in helping.

The following letter is from Ophelia Johnson on the latest update on Todee Mission:

Compliments of the season to all of you, brothers and sisters in Christ, and especially with whom we share a common commitment and passion to do God's work in His World.

Todee Mission School:

Christmas break is over and in some ways the period and the challenges we were faced with have re-shaped /modified the time frame in which we operate and budget for a 12-month per year venture/ministry. This is related to the fact that there were five students (4 girls and 1 boy) who had no where to go for the vacation nor did anyone come to take them; in addition, we have animals that also needed attention. This translates into increase costs.

<i>Enrollment:</i>		<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
School	106	52	54*
Boarders	34	10	24*

* We have received appeals from four Presbyterian mothers in Goba Town, whose daughters are at risk for abuses by rape, to please take them on the mission; and because they are unable to meet financial requirements, they are pledging to do all they can to help us voluntarily. We are appealing to our friends to step up to this plate because we cannot refuse to take these girls. I have received one sponsor who is supporting one of the girls. He is a friend Carney worked with in the Mining Company in the past. He owns a Construction Company that does low-cost housing. He expressed an interest in helping us and has promised to come to Todee and take a look to see how he can help us. Also, we will be going to the local officials of government to report this abuse since this is a community problem.

Location of Boarders:

Monrovia	17	Gwee Town	1
Kakata	10	Goba Town	6

The new classroom building has been renovated. We are waiting to have burglar bars installed. We will be starting the 2008-2009 academic year and setting up our "library" and Science Room. Our Science teacher is excited! We have three toy microscopes—EDU Science Toys—so that our kids at least will know and learn the parts of the microscope. We go on thanking God for these instruments for learning.

Another reason for disappointment is that we have decided to utilize a large room on the basement floor of the new building next to the shower stalls as a temporary dorm for the boys

until the boys dormitory is renovated, and we have purchased a few bunk beds and must put this on hold until installation of bars.

Activities:

The *Rice from the Farm* gifted by Rev. Rush was harvested and we thank Rev. Rush for his efforts in conceptualizing the project and the other donors who made funding of the project possible especially Bound Brook Presbyterian of N.J and First & Calvary Presbyterian Church (Betsy's Kurtz church). We have written the Ministry of Agriculture, with whom we have an MOU for provision of Mills for rice and corn.

Our two pigs (again gifted by Rev. Rush, who helped build the pig pen) have become nine! I guess we will soon have some pork! We still have some chickens, but are searching for a pair of rabbits which cost \$150–200 US dollars.

Integrated Agriculture Project:

Elder Sylvester Urey, our new Principal, has jump started our IAP! We suffered some setbacks with the swamp rice production and the establishment of the fish ponds, but with onsite supervision by the Principal, preparation for planting of the swamp is in progress. Some vegetables, storage roots, and stems have been planted and we anticipate to put in some cash crops for long range sustenance. Our next planned major activity is to undertake the renovation of the Dining Room/Kitchen building as we receive help from donors.

Needs:

- o Business Manager, Special Education Teacher, and Secretary/Registrar
- o Work Teams – We will provide lodging and boarding for teams of volunteers. Need electricians, carpenters, agriculturists, home economists, nutritionists, arts/craft teachers .
- o Vehicles – Pick-up truck, tractor, bulldozer, and school bus

We have increased our staff by three people to handle our growth.

- Ophelia Johnson

The above letter covers a lot of information. I&S Committee, along with the Johnsons, thank all who have supported Todee Mission! Keep in mind there are a number of churches and individuals supporting Todee besides Bush Hill. For instance, Rev. David Milam from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Purcellville, VA, along with the Rotary Club in town, has sponsored the first year's salary for the new Principal. We just shipped another medical container in December, donated by the Diabetes Foundation; and this help was achieved by Dahlia Shaewitz, who made the trip with us last year. Lastly, we are grateful for the donations of books, school supplies, shoes, etc., from this congregation and hope we can ship the container out in March.

Please keep Todee Mission in your prayers - *Dick Szymanski*