

# Update on Todee Mission

## May 2007

In order to establish an organizational structure for communicating and coordinating our Todee efforts, this information was sent to a leadership group who will assist Bush Hill Presbyterian Church in this mission.

This is where we are:

- Jay Belding, an elder at Doylestown Presbyterian Church and a committed mission-minded disciple, is coordinator for the removal of the Philadelphia school furnishings for shipment to Liberia.
- Melissa Storm, Dahlia Shaewitz, and Stacy Rush of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) who is supporting us in this effort, are coordinating education diagnostic assessments and curriculum development. They are also developing the teacher/administrator training for the school.
- David Milam, pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Purcellville, VA, will be visiting the Todee site from May 15 through May 24 with a neighboring Baptist congregation, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. Their pastor is Rev. James Graham. This church partners with 13 communities throughout Africa – they are primarily a mission church. Theoretically, David could complete an inventory of building sizes, roof pitches/slopes, and any other onsite measurements and evaluations that would be helpful in purchasing materials. (If David can't secure this information, what are other sources for obtaining these measurements?)
- Lydia Hicks, an elder at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, is the point person for container procurement, building material and all other supplies; and she will be the project coordinator in the US for Ophelia. Jacqueline den Otter is familiar with international shipping issues and has volunteered to help with container procurement and related transportation matters.
- A DC organization, LINKS, has given the Todee Mission \$10,000 dollars, and is putting the mission forward as a national and international beneficiary of their fund raising efforts. A meeting with LINKS, Dick, Ophelia, and Stacy (representing the AIR effort) was held with the Liberian Ambassador in April to establish a relationship between LINKS and the church and AIR participants in this effort.
- Dick Szymanski is liaison for Bush Hill Presbyterian Church with the Interpretation & Stewardship Committee and the Session. The more he knows about our tasks and the information we gather the better. His email address is included in the group email list.

### **Container Coordinator/Team**

- i. We need someone to step up and be the primary person to handle all container procurement tasks.
- ii. These tasks will include arrangement of all transportation of the container: including shipment to Baltimore, interface with Firestone, and possibly shipment from Monrovia to Goba Town.
- iii. Ideally, the container would be in Philly by May 9 for packing on May 10.

### **Building Materials Coordinator/Team**

- i. Someone is needed to coordinate and follow through on all building material purchases and placement in the container(s) holding the school furnishings from Philadelphia.

- ii. Determining in advance weight and volume information for all materials is crucial.
- iii. This person will need to work closely with the Container Coordinator.

### **Medical Equipment and Supplies Coordinator/Team**

- i. Currently, Dahlia, Jay, and Art Trask have communicated that they have contacts in the area of international medical benevolence. Art is a mission-minded elder, currently a member of First and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri, and has resources in the area of medical missions and extensive experience in general missions in Haiti.
- ii. What supplies should be sent and in what order?
- iii. What equipment should be sent and in what order?
- iv. It is necessary to provide specific weight and volume requirements for the container coordinator prior to shipping arrangements.

### **Education/Community Development**

- i. A designated team leader needs to be identified.
- ii. Currently Melissa, Dahlia, and Stacy are identifying needs through Ophelia, and are taking steps to meet these needs.

### **The following questions need to be answered for the first shipment and designated to a specific team(s):**

1. Where will containers be purchased/rented?
2. Size of container(s)?
3. Gross shipping weight allowed?
4. Materials to be included in this shipment?
5. Deadline(s) for Firestone shipment(s)?

### **The Todee Mission Board needs to make the following decisions:**

1. We know Ophelia is the overall Chief Administrator and Todee Board Chairperson, but who will coordinate for her in the US when she returns to Africa on June 16?
2. How can we secure a paid native **Liberian Project Director** on site for the Todee School and Mission? A volunteer **Todee Mission Project Coordinator** needs to be in place in the US when Ophelia returns to Liberia.

As members prayerfully consider their involvement in the Todee Mission, and are identified as team leaders/members, a mission coordinating meeting will be scheduled to launch the work of specific teams. In the meantime, those who have begun the work will continue to move forward with God's help.

Thank you all for your willingness to partner in this effort, and know that the children of Goba Town, Liberia are receiving a blessing through your work.

Grace and Peace,  
Carl

*Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals build the Titanic.*

- Anonymous