

THE LOTT CAREY Herald

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Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville, Liberia Celebrates Centennial



Since 1908, the Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville, Liberia provides high-quality education for children K-12. Many students are former child soldiers from Liberia's recent civil wars.

The Lott Carey Impact

By Brian C. Jenkins, Chosen 300 Ministries, Philadelphia, PA

In 1996, I sat at my computer and printed out the name of the ministry that God had given me—now known as Chosen 300 Ministries.

Since our early beginnings, we have used the same motto, “Uniting The Body Of Christ To Reach The World.” The body of Christ was easier to define—all those who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ regardless of their race, denomination or the diverse ways we practice our faith in the savior. If you are a part of the kingdom, then you are my brother or sister.

The word our ministry has continued to redefine is “world.” It means those who are not a part of the kingdom. It means people we refer to as “of the world.” It means the world around us, our community, those within the confines of our immediate reach. It means reaching those who are less fortunate; the homeless, the needy, the incarcerated, and those within “our world” who need help. It means extending the gospel of Jesus over the airways, Internet and television. Previously, I did not think the globe was all of these things.



Brian’s wife Shandai Jenkins feeding an orphaned child in Cairo, Egypt.

Lott Carey has made a tremendous impact on our ministry, helping us to extend the mission work of Christ, locally and around the world. My first encounter with Lott Carey was when my congregation—who are primarily homeless—were welcomed to have dinner at the Lott Carey Convention in Philadelphia. At



Brian Jenkins of Chosen 300 praying for children at the Crusade in Guyana.

this point, our ministry was still young and the financial support Lott Carey gave our ministry allowed us to move to a full-time ministry. Since that time, our ministry in Philadelphia has grown from serving 20,000 meals to 15 churches a year, to serving more than 60,000 meals to 37 churches a year.

In 2006, Lott Carey’s Executive Secretary, Dr. David Goatley, introduced me to PEP (Pastoral Excellence Program), a 3-year program funded by the Lilly Endowment to engage pastors into foreign mission immersions in Guyana, Jamaica & South Africa. PEP also provides pastors with workshops and training sessions to equip them with useful tools needed when striving for pastoral excellence.

After much prayer (I had never even flew on a plane before)—okay, a whole lot of prayer—I decided to take the plunge. Since I entered the program, it has made a tremendous impact on Chosen 300 Ministries to extend our definition of the word “world.”

The first immersion in Guyana, South America, we were able to partner with our host church to establish a monthly food distribution of 4,000 lbs of rice flour, peas, and dry milk. In the process, we were also able to encourage three U.S. churches to sponsor two Guyanese churches to do a food distributions managed by Chosen 300. I had two additional visits to Guyana. In June 2007, I returned to witness the impact



Top: Cacoon Castle Baptist Church in Jamaica. **Above:** Brian Jenkins baptizing new congregants in Guyana.

of the food program and to provide additional training to the church leadership. The second visit last July was with a team of pastors to expose them to our work in Guyana. People are not only being fed naturally, but it has also created an evangelistic avenue for the churches. More people are coming to know Jesus as their savior.

In October 2007, we entered our second immersion, journeying to Jamaica, West Indies. To the average American, Jamaica symbolizes sandy beaches and the warm soothing unpolluted waters, forgetting about the poverty that lies outside of the tourist areas. I went with expectations carrying my experience from Guyana with me, but this immersion was different. This time we stayed in houses for part of the trip and hotels for brief intervals. I remember standing in the shower with no hot water saying, “I can do this.” I really enjoyed working with the pastors of Jamaica but the highlight of the trip was speaking at the schools.

They told me I could say the “J” word (Jesus), which I found amazing, coming from a country where prayer was removed out of the school system. Trapped in my American bondage I went through the whole sermon and did not say Jesus once, and they all reminded me of it too. The second school I was ready, surrounded in an outside courtyard by about 900 high school students, I shared with them the Gospel of Jesus. At the end of the message, over 30 young people repeated the sinners’ prayer and gave their lives to Jesus. I felt the presence of God fall in the courtyard that day. The schools lack the resources to provide the children with top-level education, but one thing they don’t lack is the discipline and respect for authority.

During this first visit to Jamaica, the pastor of the Cacoon Castle Baptist Church shared how the church only collects about \$30 (U.S.) per month. I was able to view the struggling expansion of the church. So far, the exterior walls were built, but it has been a while since any additional progress was made as large plants have formed in the middle of the roofless rooms. In January, Chosen 300 established a partnership with the Cacoon Castle Baptist Church. We duplicated the model we started in Guyana, distributing rice, flour, peas, dry milk, and canned fish. Each month, funds



More prayers for the children at the Crusade in Guyana.

are wired down to the church from Chosen 300 Ministries. The church, in turn, buys the bulk food, and distributes half to the congregation and half to the community. The goal is to again provide food for the congregation as well as create an evangelistic effort for the church. After the distribution, the church returns



the receipts from the purchases and a signature log signed by the families who received food.

In March, I returned to Jamaica along with Dexter Scott (homeless outreach director of Chosen 300) to witness the food program in action. I was also able to establish partnership with the Linsted Baptist Church outside of Kingston, which was my second host church during my initial visit. The pastor stressed a desire for a computer lab at the church, so students from the local school would have a place to do their homework. In this community, most families could never afford to have a computer at home. During our stay, we were able to help Linsted by installing one computer lab with four computers. We also added four computers to the lab at McGraph High School.

Beyond the endeavors in Guyana and Jamaica, Chosen 300 has adopted an orphanage in Predesh, India, assisting in housing, rest room facilities, educational supplies and year round support. Without the support of Chosen 300, these children would be subject to child prostitution, slave labor in rice patty fields, or be killed and sold for their body parts. My wife Shandai, along with one of Chosen 300's board members, has also extended our Christian witness to the families who live in the trash dumps of Cairo and the ministries Abuja, Nigeria. In June, we established a monthly food program with Shandai's host church in Aturu, Nigeria.

Our re-defining of "the world" will never end as long as there are persons who need to be reached for the cause of Christ and poor people who need relief from their despair. Our recent successes in foreign missions, and our quest to come, are jewels in the crown of the Lott Carey Convention who took the effort to engage pastors to extend their Christian witness to the world. I encourage every pastor who is in need of a life changing experience that will impact them individually and the mission focus of their congregation to sign up for the Pastoral Excellence Program.



Top: Food prepared for distribution. **Above:** Students at McGraph High School in Jamaica receive new laptops from Chosen 300 Ministries.

A special thanks to the Lott Carey pastors who continue to provide support to Chosen 300 including: Gerald L. Chapman Sr., Zion Baptist Church of Ambler; G. Daniel Jones, Grace Baptist Church of Germantown; Alyn E. Waller, Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church; Vincent Windrow, Olive Branch Baptist Church; Larry Branch, Love Center Unity Full Gospel Church Int'l; Keith Savage, First Baptist Church of Manassas; Elizabeth Vareene, Grace Of God Ministry; James Thornton, Salem Missionary Baptist Church; Gina Stewart, Christ Missionary Baptist Church; and Frank Coleman, Shiloh Baptist Church.

May the blessings of the Lord continue to be upon the Lott Carey.