

Dearborn Bible Fellowship (DBF) and Stones Cry Out Annual Report for the year 2022

(Published January 3, 2023)

Brief takeaways for 2022:

God has been gracious by showing Himself faithful and powerful on three fronts. 1) He continues to sustain the local DBF and SCO ministry. 2) He has continued to use this ministry to help many people in Liberia, including the conversion of several Muslim people (in Liberia). 3) He has been drawing our adult children back to Himself.

The local (Dearborn, MI) evangelism and DBF ministries continue with some encouraging evidence that God is drawing people to Jesus. Also, we began engaging in the local campus ministry here in Dearborn since the majority of students are Muslims that live in the area.

In comparison to the local Dearborn ministry, many more people are starting to follow Jesus through the ministry to the people in Liberia.

Evangelism and Training Ministry Updates

Door to door evangelism of East and South Dearborn (Mostly Muslims)

Linda and I continue to engage in purposeful evangelism outreach on a weekly basis. However, diminishing physical stamina prevents us from staying out more than one – two hours at a time, especially when the weather is very hot or cold.

In 2022, we noticed an increase in the amount of animosity towards us from the Muslim community. I cannot prove this, but I wonder if perhaps some of the Muslims might be leaving Islam and turning to Christ. This would definitely cause some Muslims to become agitated.

Campus Evangelism outreach

Several other Christians have been doing consistent evangelism outreach at two local college campuses. The leader (Scott Cherry) invited me to come and check it out. I found that there are many students (mostly Muslims) that are very eager to talk. Some just want to argue their Muslim talking points. But others seem genuinely interested to learn about the gospel. Because there seems to be more gospel conversation opportunities with the campus outreach (than door to door work), Linda and I engaged in the campus outreach often during the warmer months. The ministry continues in the winter months indoors, but I have not yet engaged in it. But the plan is to check that out also during the next several weeks.

The 2022 Stones Cry Out Evangelism Training Video series

I do not claim to be a “polished” orator. Nor do I possess a fancy teleprompter. But I fully believe that I have valuable knowledge to share, which has been gleaned from my 22 years of evangelism learning and practice. Much of this knowledge and experience is documented in my book, [*How to Evangelize*](#). But since many Christians prefer to learn from videos, I decided to produce a series of Evangelism training videos to help teach and equip Christians to do the work of evangelism. The value of them was confirmed to me already by Pastor Koon of our Liberian ministry. He owns a smart phone but generally does not have access to the internet. To gain

access, he must travel to a place and pay as he uses the internet. We sent him some money so he could watch the videos. So far, he watched about ½ of them, and he is excited about the things he learned. He began using the knowledge he gained from the videos during the month of December and God used his preaching of the gospel to reach 7 Muslim men for Christ and also 17 of the students. By the end of 2022, they renounced their old way of living, and were baptized, having embraced Jesus as Lord.

Though I might not be the most pleasant thing to look at and listen to, I believe that Christians with teachable hearts can benefit greatly from this Evangelism training video series. (To view them, [click this to go to the Stones Cry Out Ministries web page for Free Evangelism training.](#))

These are the various videos in the series:

- Video #1: Fulfill God's purposes as His ambassador. (Motivational)
- Video #2: God has promised to richly bless those who evangelize. (Motivational)
- Video #3: Bible warnings to those who do not evangelize. (Motivational)
- Video #4: Things every Christian can do to evangelize. (Informative)
- Video #5: What is evangelism and our duty to do it? (Educational)
- Video #6: Jesus delivers from the wrath of God that is coming. (Educational)
- Video #7: Jesus delivers from slavery to sin. (Educational)
- Video #8: Invite them to begin following Jesus while explaining the cost of discipleship. (Educational)
- Video #9: Understand your role and God's role in converting souls per John 6:44. (Educational)
- Video # 10: The Milestones of an Effective gospel conversation. (Educational)
- Video # 11: Evangelism Don'ts.(Educational)

Book Ministry

During 2022, I published a new gospel study guide that Christians can use to help their unbelieving friends and loved ones gain a thorough understanding of the gospel. It is called, [The Narrow Way Gospel Study Guide.](#)

(Though the quantity of books sold is small, all author royalties from their sales go toward the Liberian ministry.)

To view all of Tom Bear's books on Amazon, click this link to his author page: [B006H2CK7](#) (author ID#)

Tentative 2023 Evangelism training classes at a local church

We are in the planning stages of some evangelism training classes that would be held at a local Dearborn church. If you are interested in attending, please contact Tom Bear.

2022 Liberian Ministry in review:

The churches:

The main church is called Revelation New Life Bible Church. It began with 9 adults and 9 children. By the end of 2022, there are 129 members. (39 of the children attend the "Free" school.) They meet in a building. During 2022, they poured concrete for the floor. They also possess musical instruments that are used in the worship. They have started 2 other churches in Liberia and 2 in Sierra Leone. These other churches have inferior meeting places that they hope to replace with more substantial structures.

The “Free” School.

There are now 285 children attending this school. They finished their 2nd quarter at the end of 2022 and will restart classes on January 3, 2023. During 2022, 17 students began and continue to follow Jesus. The only work done on the property was the addition of a stick (thick sticks) fence that boards the property and the name of the School now appears on the outside of the building. They have begun to offer low cost meals so students do not have to walk through dangerous areas to get food.

To see how this ministry began (to Liberians now living in the bush), see the end note.ⁱ (see end note)

Bear family updates:

Our children

During the past few years, God has been drawing our adult children back to Himself. Our oldest daughter Shawna attends the meetings. Our oldest son Brian professes Christ and attends a church in Ohio where he lives. God has been speaking to our second-born son Steve who lives in Georgia. Most significantly, our youngest daughter Leah recently professed Christ and God is producing fruit of repentance that is wonderful to behold. Our youngest son Sam is close to Leah. He has been observing this fruit and it seems to be affecting him.

Our health

As best the doctors can tell, the strength of my heart is normal. But the electrical system that controls the beating is faulty. The most dangerous condition is called a bifascicular block. Two of the three conductors of electricity no longer work. This is a life-threatening condition because sometimes, the pulse does not make it through the only working conductor. (They determined that I flatlined 5 times because of this.) They installed a pacemaker that monitors the heart and begins to pulse whenever the last conductor fails. This prevents my heart from stopping. But during 2022, they determined that I also sometimes experience extensive “PVC’s” (premature ventricular contractions) which are not life threatening. But these have the effect of negating regular beats which results in less overall blood flow. So, I experience shortness of breath often and my legs are becoming increasingly weaker. So far, I am still able to go door to door but Linda is the one who walks up the front steps to place tracts and knock on the door.

Linda also has an electrical heart issue known as SVT. During a bad episode, her heart can race over 200 BPM and require immediate medical help (911). During 2022, God kept her SVT issues under control. During 2022, she had one SVT event but the high BPM only lasted a short time and then subsided on its own (thanks be to God). But she has other health issues (not heart-related) that can be very painful. Bottom line, both Linda and I grow weaker as we age but God continues to sustain us.

Ongoing prayer requests

Door to door outreach:

That God will raise many more Muslims to new life in Christ.

That God will keep moving us to proclaim the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us from Satan's snares.

That God will raise up at least one of the Muslim men to new life in Christ who will become a pastor for his people who begin following Jesus in the future.

Liberian Ministry:

That God will provide physical protection to Pastor Koon and the other men leading the various churches and the school and that God will provide a spirit of unity among them.

That God will cause the men to discern between truth and error and to reject African ecclesiastical traditions that are contrary to God's clear revelation in His Word.

That God will raise up many righteous men among them that will then teach and equip others to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. (That the ministry over there would become a center of leadership of God's people worldwide.)

That God will continue to protect and provide for the material and educational needs of the Liberian orphans and poor children.

That God will protect the "Free" school from scandal so that it becomes an increasingly strong beacon of light that God uses to draw many to Christ.

That God will also give wisdom to Patience (our chief liaison to the people of Liberia) who has a vision for expansion of the ministry. She hopes to make a trip back to Liberia within 3 years to help us further shape that expansion. That God will raise up one or both of her sons to new life in Christ and then become instrumental in sustaining the connection and oversight of the work in Liberia. (Their names are Razak and Wahab.)

Dearborn Bible Fellowship (DBF):

That God will add more people that God is calling out of the darkness.

That God will continue to shape DBF's views and practices in accordance with His will and His truth.

Bear children

Pray that God continues drawing them to Jesus, injecting a healthy dose of the fear of God.

Year 2022 Financial summary:

About \$ 6,821. was donated to this ministry during 2022. (There was a beginning balance of \$ 238 carried over from 2021.) About \$ 6,335 of this was disbursed during the year 2022 leaving a balance in the bank of \$ 705. at the end of 2022.

Of the total money disbursed, 81% (\$ 5,651) was used to support the Liberian Orphan/bush people ministry in Liberia, mainly to support the "free" school. (It should be noted that additional money to support these people was sent directly by Patience and people she knows living in the U.S.A.)

18% was designated and used for the local Stones Cry Out/DBF ministry support.

Any contributor may request the annual, monthly income/expense summary spreadsheet for further details.

Just a reminder to anyone who wishes to donate to this ministry:

Any money received can be designated by the donor for any of the following funds:

General Ministry (This includes Stones Cry Out and Dearborn Bible Fellowship support)

Liberian orphan/bush people Ministry

Special Designation

Benevolent fund (to be disbursed to DBF members if and when they experience financial hardship)

Link to Stones Cry Out Web Site: [Stones Cry Out Ministries](#)

Link to Dearborn Bible Fellowship web site: [Dearborn Bible Fellowship](#)

ⁱ ***How this ministry began (to Liberians now living in the bush):*** In Liberia, when the parents die, the children receive no help at all unless a relative takes them in. Many run the streets trying to survive. The 2020 COVID 19 pandemic affected millions of people in Liberia causing many people to become homeless. Many people are now living in the bush. We have a connection with a pastor living among them (Pastor Koon). Patience (DBF member) has known him for many years from her time growing up in Liberia. The pastor (also a schoolteacher), has assumed pastoral responsibilities for the entire community and he has started four additional churches in other areas. These Liberians have come together as a community (in the bush) and are trying to care for each other and the many orphans among them. Patience and this DBF ministry are engaged in supporting them. There are now 285 orphans and poor children receiving help through this ministry. God has shown His power.

In just 6 months, an eight-room school building was constructed. All the funds were provided by friends of Patience and friends of Stones Cry Out ministries who were moved by God to contribute. Education is a critical component in this care. Because it is so critical in Liberia, this ministry launched the building construction project. Starting January 4, 2021, classes began for the orphans. (Most schools require tuition, but this school does not.) There will be ongoing financial support needed for minimal salaries for the teachers. This school is like the heart of the community for these people and especially for the orphans living among them. It is necessary for stability. The land and the building are deeded in Patience's name. She envisions the purchase of a little land that can be used for agriculture so these people can create income for the school and community. Also, they could really benefit from having a small clinic eventually. **To see pictures**, click the [2021 Liberian Orphan Ministry Update](#). In case anyone is curious, the monthly teachers' salaries total \$ 480 U.S. per month. Also, there are other projects on the school and property that will require funding. The most urgent one is a more permanent wall around the property.

In addition to the school building project, money has been provided to these people for food, school uniforms, other clothing, medical assistance and a few books and Bibles.