

Dearborn Bible Fellowship (DBF) and Stones Cry Out Annual Report for the year 2023

(Published January 2, 2024)

Brief takeaways for 2023:

God continues to show 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 some former Muslims in Liberia. 3) He continues to draw 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. In addition to the door to door outreach, we also engaged in the local campus ministry here in Dearborn. (A majority of these university students are Muslims that live in the area.)

During 2023, I updated our biography (book) and published another book.

Significant improvements are being made to the free school operating in the bush of 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. Our diminished physical stamina prevents us from staying out more than one – two hours at a time, especially when the weather is very hot or cold. As we did in 2022, we continue to notice an increase in the amount of animosity towards us from the Muslim community.

Campus Evangelism outreach

Several other Christians have been doing consistent evangelism outreach at two local college campuses. Though we had less involvement in 2023 than we did in 2022, we again spent some of our outreach time laboring on the U of M campus. We generally find the university students more open to discussing the gospel than those we meet going door to door. Late in 2023, Scott Cherry began a Bible study in the “talking” area of the U of M library. I was encouraged by the response of the students that attended and hope to become more involved in the study in 2024, God-willing.

Book Ministry

In the fall of 2023, I published a new book called, “[Today’s Truncated Gospel and its Effects](#).” I consider this my most important book because it identifies a relatively recent distortion of the gospel being taught by most “Bible-believing” churches in the U.S.A. (This probably includes your church.) This truncated gospel, when believed, inclines Christians toward a stagnant spiritual existence and makes them prone to falling away from the faith.

New for 2024, I revised and updated our biography, “[Toward the Celestial Shore](#).” This book recounts the many marvelous works that God has done both prior to and since our conversion. Since it is a story, it is easy to read and often encouraging. It was written to draw attention to God and glorify Him rather than man. (Some stories do not portray me in the best light. A few have been challenged by my frankness and openness in some parts of the book.)

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#)

In addition to the book writing ministry, we published a new gospel tract which has become our main tract. It is called, "[How to live a life that pleases God.](#)"

2023 Evangelism training classes

In 2023, I provided evangelism training for three different groups:

- A local Dearborn Church
- A local church located in a northern suburb of Detroit.
- George Saig's group involving Christians from various parts of the U.S.A.

2023 Liberian Ministry in review:

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

The "Free" School: After closer evaluation during 2023, it was determined that insufficient attention was being given to the oversight of the school building and the school's operation. Within the past two months, Patience's half-brother Patrick Wright agreed to act as the new superintendent over the entire operation. Thanks to his intense focus and oversight, the school building, the property, and the education operation have all improved dramatically. Patrick is a strong follower of Jesus. He has been a positive influence on the teaching staff. Morale is up among them. They are even volunteering to help improve the building. Until now, the school has been providing education through the tenth grade. In December (2023), someone donated a house to the school which will be used to educate the younger students (nursery through 3rd grade). This will enable the larger building to facilitate classes through the twelfth grade. There are also plans to more efficiently take care of special needs of the children that may need assistance due to poverty.

It is hoped that this "free school" will increasingly become a beacon of light for Jesus in this remote area of Liberia. It is our desire that it will provide not only the opportunity for basic education, but also provide spiritual guidance and consistently communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to both children and their parents.

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 has begun to follow Jesus and is displaying fruits 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

The physical strength of my heart remains normal. But the electrical system that controls the beating is faulty due to what 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 3rd 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 pulses do not make it through the last conductor. (This prevents my heart from stopping.) 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. I experienced shortness of breath often. I am pleased to report that I am now experiencing far less PVC’s which is a great blessing. However, early in 2023, a CTSCAN showed that I have moderate to severe stenosis of the spine that has resulted in permanent nerve damage. 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. I now take along a walker when I go door to door.

Linda also has an electrical heart issue known as SVT. After a bad SVT episode this year, she scheduled an ablation to correct this issue. So far, it seems to be working. 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 continue to protect and provide for the material and educational needs of the Liberian orphans and poor children.

That God will cause the “Free” school to become an increasingly strong beacon of light that God uses to draw many to Christ. (And that He would protect it from scandals.)

That God will also give wisdom to Patience as she interacts with her half-brother Patrick Wright as he oversees the school operation. She hopes to make a trip back to Liberia within 2 years Lord willing.

That God will cause the Christian leaders 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.)

Dearborn Bible Fellowship (DBF):

That God will add more people that He 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 so they become established in the faith.

Year 2023 Financial summary:

About \$ 7,873. was donated to this ministry during 2023. (There was a beginning balance of \$ 705 carried over from 2022.) About \$ 8,205 was disbursed during the year 2023 leaving a balance in the bank of \$ 374. at the end of 2023.

Of the total money disbursed, 87% (\$ 7,700) 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.)

13% of the total income 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 been working with a local 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), 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 many 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 during 2023 totaled \$ 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.