

Dearborn Bible Fellowship (DBF) and Stones Cry Out Annual Report for the year 2024

(Published January 9, 2025)

Brief takeaways for 2024:

God continues to show Himself faithful and powerful on four 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 4) He continues His sanctification work in us, especially using various health afflictions.

Our physical health decline is diminishing the amount and type of evangelism we are doing. But by God's grace, we will strive to continue evangelizing and look to God to increase its fruitfulness in spite of our infirmities. 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.)

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 2023, 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 2024 than we did in 2023, 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.

Training ministry:

Tom is currently developing a series of three short videos intended to help Christians gain greater confidence in the Bible. The exact wording of the Bible has been questioned during the past several decades. As a result, the faith of Christians is being undermined by deistic messaging both from outside and inside the church. Christians who prayerfully watch the new videos will be encouraged by the many claims the Bible makes about itself. They will see for themselves that contrary to what they may have been told, God has indeed preserved every single word of the Greek New Testament. They will realize that there is no reason to doubt that God has indeed fulfilled His promise to preserve His Words. This is a difficult subject to communicate in very simple terms. Also, the progress has been slower than anticipated due to the various health afflictions that we have been experiencing. Please pray that God directs and empowers these videos for the sake of His beloved Church.

2024 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: Several improvements have been made to the school building and property. More improvements are planned for 2025. The parents of the students are encouraged to see the improvements and that the education of their children is taken very seriously by the school staff. Patience's brother continues to help oversee the operation.

Bear family updates:

Our children

During the past few years, God has been drawing our adult children back to Himself. Most significantly, our youngest daughter Leah has begun to follow Jesus and is displaying fruits of repentance that is wonderful to behold. Though she lives nearly an hour away, she tries to attend the meetings. When that is not feasible, she attends via Zoom. Our oldest daughter Shawna attends the meetings. Our oldest son Brian professes Christ and attends a church in Ohio where he lives.

Our health

My heart seems to be functioning okay of late. But my legs are growing very weak. I now rely upon walking sticks or a walker to walk more than 100 feet at a time. I also have been experiencing urinary tract issues lately. Corrective surgery is scheduled for March 4th (2025). I believe that all this takes an emotional toll on both of us. But we believe God is using all of these afflictions to produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness....teaching us to set our minds on things above and not on things on the earth.

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 Liberian 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 \$ 10,147 was donated to this ministry during 2024. About \$ 9,915 was disbursed during the year 2024 leaving a balance in the bank of \$ 232 at the end of 2024.

Of the total money disbursed, 87% (\$ 8,630) 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.)

12% 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. 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 2024 totaled about \$500 U.S. per month. Also, there are other projects on the school and property that will require funding.

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.