

**“Your people will rebuild long-deserted ruins, building anew on foundations laid long before you. You will be known as Repairers of the Cities and Restorers of Communities.” - Isaiah 58:12 (TPT)**

Dear Prayer Partners and Supporters,

We cannot believe that 2020 has come and gone with COVID-19 still lingering among us. Not to mention, the many lives that have been lost and the looming fear for our loved ones contracting the virus. That being said, we are deeply grateful for God’s protective hand and mercy upon our students, teachers, and our entire PHI team in Liberia.

### **UPDATE ON PHI GIRLS ACADEMEY**

“PHI 1,” as it is now referred to, has officially resumed classes and the 2021 school year is in full swing. Our student population has increased substantially with the new year. We believe that news of the high academic achievements of our current students is quickly spreading within the community and beyond. As a result, we are completely out of classroom space for the next school year. We currently have over 100 admitted students and countless others that are being added to a waitlist for admissions. We see this lack of space as a new hurdle but also a huge blessing and testament to God’s work within PHI. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to each and every one of you who continue to stand with us in providing support for our students, teachers, and other ministries within the Petals of Hope Organization. We could not have gotten to this point without your partnership.

### **PHI 2: WHY A SECOND CAMPUS?**

The R-2 community which is about 30-40 miles from Monrovia, the capital, is our newest school location. This area is extremely lacking in adequate and higher educational training facilities. The earmarked location in this community is situated along the highway of the Robert’s International Airport of Liberia, which makes it a centralized point with easy access to other communities. The R-2 community has a young and growing population, including school-age children.

According to a 2018 education and literacy report by UNESCO Institute of statistics, Liberia had a literacy rate of 48.3% in the year, 2017, with 62.7% for males and 34.09% for females. This means that more than 50% of the Liberian population is illiterate. According to UNICEF, Liberia has the highest levels of out of school children, with an estimated 15 to 20 percent of 6 to 14-year-olds not in school. Over a third of preschoolers have access to early childhood learning programs and only 54% of children complete primary education (UNICEF, 2020, para. 5). These findings show the extent to which the Liberian Civil War (1989-2003), Ebola (2014-2016), and CV-19 (2019-2020) situations have challenged the country’s educational sector; depriving thousands of children of the privilege to be in school.

Distance is also one of the major contributing factors of some children not completing their education in Liberia. Due to the lack of transportation, children are forced to walk to and from school which can take anywhere from 1-2 hours daily in the mornings and evenings each week. Rape has been declared a national emergency in recent months by the Liberian government. These long walks leave children extremely vulnerable to potential sexual or violent predators. Constructing PHI-2 at this centralized location within the R-2 community would give hundreds of children ease of access to our excellent Christian education. This location would also make for a comfortable learning environment that would be managed by our trained teachers and staff. This new project will help eliminate the fear instilled in these parents as they send their children off on a treacherous journey to school each day. PHI-2 will welcome both boys and girls. The decision to be gender inclusive with this new school was not an easy one. Our commitment to educating young girls in a society that has deprioritized female education has not changed. We will continue to empower these young females and give them with the tools needed to be successful in a culture that has told them they are “less than”. That being said, we have received an abundance of requests from the parents of young men pleading for school admission for their sons. We are opening our doors to this new opportunity to serve and cultivate the minds of both the young women and men of Liberia. The school will also provide opportunities for adult members of area to serve their community as they work alongside PHI staff at our school.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEW NEEDS**

We would like to take this time to announce that the outside building structure has been completed. The remaining items awaiting completion are the building doors, class windows, wired electricity, and tile installation. We are also awaiting classroom desks, chairs, and other necessary school supplies. With all of these major milestones and blessings, also come a few major hurdles. With the increased enrollment of our students, the need for a bigger more reliable form of transportation has also increased. Our school bus, which was purchased 3 years ago, is an eighteen-seater bus that is no longer large enough to transport the number of students we have. Our driver is now forced to make several trips back-and-forth to get our students to school and back home. This has resulted in late school attendance as well as late arrivals back home for a lot of our students. Our staff has been searching for a

bigger and more reliable school bus in Liberia and they recently located one. The asking price for it is \$22,360. A bus that can adequately and safely hold our growing number of students is a huge need at this present time. Our second biggest need is teachers' salaries. Petals of Hope International school currently does not require any form of tuition for incoming students due to the difficult financial needs of the communities in which we serve. Our teachers and staff fully rely on us for their monthly salaries which is currently \$2,875.00/month. As our schools continue to grow, so will the needs.

### **CHANGES TO YOUR GIVING**

Since the birth of Petals of Hope International Organization, your gifts and donations have been going through Advancing Native Missions. However, they have recently changed their overhead cut from 10% to 15% of every dollar we are given. After long consideration and prayers, we have decided to halt support and donations through them. Going forward, we ask that every donation, gift, or support please be sent to **2414 WORLD, PO BOX 6160 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22906.**

To donate online, please visit 2414world.com and click on the 3 lines located on the upper left corner of the page – this will give you various menu options. Select “Ministries we serve”, and Petals of Hope International is the first ministry on the page. You can read about our ministry and projects in Liberia. To donate, return to the first page and click on the “donate” button on the upper right corner. There, you will fill out a form and click “donate”. Please be sure to write “Petals of Hope” on the line that says “your message” if not - your donation will be sent to the general poll and not to PHI. Your online giving through this website will be secure and your tax-deductible receipts will be sent directly to you. By eliminating the overhead cut, all of your generous donations will be going to PHI, thus, making an even bigger difference in meeting the needs of our students. Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of the students and staff of PHI for your continued support and prayers. We will say it once, and say it million more times, we would not be here without you and without our GOD who provides.

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

- *Pray for the monthly salaries of our teachers and staff*
- *Pray for a safe and reliable transportation for our students*
- *Pray for funding of the expansion of PHI 1 as we have completely run out of space*
- *Pray that the gospel message will be preached clearly by teachers and administration to our students.*



Figure 1 Morning Devotion at PHI-1.



Figure 2 First Field Trip since CoV-19-2021

Beth Weedor, for the ministry  
Founder & Executive Director/ Author/Speaker  
Petals of Hope International [www.petalsofhopeinternational.org](http://www.petalsofhopeinternational.org)



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Rescue - Reach - Restore - Prevent - Educate

