Liberia is located on the shore of West Africa. Freed U.S. slaves began settling in Liberia in 1822, and in 1847, established the republic of Liberia. In fact, Monrovia, the nation’s capital, was named in homage to U.S. President James Monroe. With its capital a mere 436 miles north of the equator, Liberia’s climate is tropical and its temperatures remain steady throughout the year. It is home to the pygmy hippopotamus and the second-largest tropical rainforest in West Africa.

Liberia’s population of 4.7 million is very young—64 percent are younger than 25 years old. The country is abundant in iron, rubber, diamonds, and gold, which serve as its primary exports. However, years of civil war and government mismanagement have rendered Liberia among the poorest nations in the world.

Lutheran Hour Ministries began work in Liberia in 2013, as the nation emerged from 14 years of devastating civil war, one which separated families and sent inhabitants fleeing for refuge in nearby countries. We conduct outreach through mass media, technology, and interpersonal channels, in a nation where less than half the population can read and write.

**Ministry Response**

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Liberia. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Liberia) responds to the spiritual hunger across this African country through a variety of strategies:

**RADIO.** Our radio program, Words of Hope, broadcasts weekly by way of the Liberia Broadcasting System network. The program shares the Gospel and serves the needs of Christians and non-Christians of all ages. Listeners are encouraged to contact the LHM–Liberia office, who can refer them to local congregations or enroll them in Bible Correspondence Courses so they can explore Christianity.

**LIVE EVENTS.** When the music starts, it attracts curious souls! Ministry staff partners with local schools and congregations to hold concerts, film screenings, and drama performances for the public. These events are a compelling way to introduce the Gospel to people who do not know Jesus. When individuals have questions about Jesus, staff and volunteers stand ready to answer questions one-on-one. Our local partners help advertise the events in advance.

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EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. LHM–Liberia staff and volunteers partner with local pastors to conduct Equipping the Saints workshops. Each session provides Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities. After attending the workshops, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES. LHM–Liberia offers Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) to introduce the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus, and to reinforce a biblical understanding for people who do. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Liberia will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are offered in English, Bassa, and Kpelle, the three most widely spoken languages in Liberia.

YOUTH MINISTRY. Today’s younger generations will become tomorrow’s church leaders. We equip Christian youth between the ages of 12 and 20 for Kingdom building through youth activities and discipleship training. We build their capacity for peer-to-peer evangelism and help sharpen their skills for sharing the Gospel with their friends and others in their social circles.

AUTOMATED MESSAGING. We use text messaging to deliver inspiring, biblical messages and to create awareness of upcoming ministry events. Individuals subscribe to receive these messages. When they reply, our staff can provide resources or connect them with a congregation where they live. This makes automated messaging a cost-effective way to reach a vast, willing audience with the Gospel.

Impact

A TEACHER NEVER STOPS LEARNING: How God Used Lutheran Hour Ministries’ Programs to Strengthen a Woman’s Faith

Tonia is 53 years old. She lives in Liberia, where she grew up in a traditional African family. Christianity was foreign to her until her teenage years, when she attended an evangelistic outreach event and the Holy Spirit brought her to faith in Jesus. Tonia joined the choir at a small church, but she continued to struggle in her newfound faith. Even as an adult, she hesitated when it came to God’s call upon her life as His follower. Instead of yielding to His plans, she followed her own plans.

Tonia heard about LHM–Liberia while on the job. One day, LHM conducted a youth program where she teaches school. After watching the ministry’s impact on the students, Tonia contacted LHM—and continued to do so. As the relationship developed, ministry staff provided guidance and resources to help Tonia in her faith journey.

Tonia discovered she was not alone. Many other ladies in her congregation wanted to grow in their faith, too. So LHM worked with Tonia and her pastor to conduct LHM–Liberia’s first-ever Equipping the Saints workshop oriented toward women. Equipping the Saints is an evangelism training program, whereby LHM partners with local congregations to help Christians grow confident sharing their faith in their local communities.