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ICBM Newsletter

ICBM Team Ministers to Blind in Liberia, Africa



By Tommy Bleemel, Executive Director

This was my first trip to Liberia, Africa. I was nervous leading up to it but felt God has been pushing me and leading me to go for a few years now. Most of that influence was at the encouragement of Mike Smith and Steve Hoyt, who have both been to Liberia numerous times. It was a great and encouraging experience I will never forget and would encourage anyone that is willing and able to go, to do so.

While in Africa, I witnessed and was involved with many things that really get your attention or as I like to say, "hit me like a ton of bricks." Everyday there was something that God put in front of me to get my attention. The simple reality is that they don't have many material possessions like we have in America. What they lack in material items they increase in their praise and worship to God. Their worship is something I have never seen or experienced before. No flashy lights or stages, not big sound systems, not many instruments, Just the joyful noise raised by a multitude of voices singing with all their might to God. They praise Him and thank him for the blessings they do have. We had the pleasure to experience praise and share scripture on a daily basis. They sing so loudly and beautifully that they don't need a sound system to be heard, because when one starts a song, the rest join in and

multiply the joyful praise. Some don't even know where their next meal might come from and they still praise God for the day they have been given.

Before I went on this trip, I had the inclination that we were going to assist them with material possessions, food, and other things that money can buy, along with some biblical teaching and knowledge. I didn't know that I was the one that needed their assistance in this way... praise, being humble, and grate-fulness. They taught me a heartfelt praise and humbleness in my actions and a gratefulness for the blessings that God has given me. I helped them with material needs, where they helped me with spiritual needs. I would ask, who would you say helped the other with the more important matter at hand?

Now don't get me wrong we did go to share the gospel of Jesus and try to bring knowledge and understanding of God's word. But they had hearts full of love and joy for the Lord. I learned that knowledge and wisdom of scripture does not always equal a servants heart for the Lord. The Liberians have and express a heart for the Lord, it was contagious. Each day, in my heart, I could feel and experience the heart of worship connecting my praise back to God the father.

See page reverse side for additional highlights from other team members.

Support Our Mission

ICBM is able to operate and provide our services to the blind community free of charge because of the generosity of our supporters. We invite you, if you are able and willing, to be a part of helping ICBM reach the Blind community with God's Love, his Scripture, and If they accept it, His gift of Salvation. Our prayers are to share this Good News with anyone we talk with.

Please consider sending a donation by mail or by using the QR code to PayPal to help us spread the gospel.



By Mike Smith, ICBM Founder

In my fourth trip to Liberia, I taught about the New Testament Church, its birth, and development of leadership. Our group also witnessed the food delivery at the school for the blind in Buchannon and at the blind village, which ICBM funds by paying Psalm 82:3 mission to distribute. We also gave brailers and some toys for the children at both the school for the blind in Buchannon and the village of the blind. Steve Hoyt gave lessons on using the white cane. We also helped Psalm 82:3 in distributing food at villages during some of the times that we weren't busy at the blind school or the blind village. It was one of our best trips. Please continue to pray for this ministry and for other opportunities that we may have in reaching the blind around the world.



Both ICBM and Psalm 82:3 shared in paying the hospital bill for Moses to have eye surgery. My thanks go out to the whole team, both ICBM and Psalm 82:3, for helping Moses in his time of need. They removed the eye and sewed his eye-lid shut, since an artificial eye is either unavailable or very expensive in Liberia. I am really amazed at the tolerance of pain that Moses was able to exhibit. I have a friend in the United States who had the same thing happen and she passed out after vomiting because of the pain. They had to use morphine for the pain killer at the hospital. Yet, Moses spent from Saturday night to Monday morning in that condition. He was also able to use his white cane that we had given him even though he was in such pain. Please keep Moses in your prayers for comfort and healing during his recovery.



You can also visit ICBM's Facebook page to see a slideshow of pictures and descriptions of each day in Africa.

Visit Our Newly Redesigned Website

We have been working over the past four months to redesign our website (www.icbminc.org) to create a clean looking site with a lot of information, sharing about what ICBM does, the history of ICBM, and many other topics. This upgrade will make our website easily accessible with screen readers for the blind community. We would like to invite you to visit our updated website and offer any feedback, ask questions, send additional information, or provide photos.

Upcoming Visits:

National Church Conference of the Blind (NCCB)
Nashville, Tennessee
August 1-7, 2026

ICOM at KCU
Grayson, Kentucky
September 8-10, 2026

Mission Sunday
Cornerstone Christian Church
Brownsburg, Indiana
November 1, 2026

International Conference on Missions (ICOM) Booth #606
St. Louis, Missouri
November 11-14, 2026

By Steve Hoyt

I was blessed a million times in Africa! I was blessed by the Psalm 82:3 staff, the USA staff, the kids devotions, the food distribution to the villages nearby, and visiting and working with Grand Bassa School



for the Blind. Other highlights included visiting and working with the Blind Village, the Old Folks Home, and working with the Monrovia School for the Blind. We also encountered two people in Buchannon who were deaf while signing to them!

During the first week we were there at Psalm 82:3, Thomas and I were notified there were two blind people, Amos and Moses, sitting outside the Mission that were blind. We gave them an audio bible and white cane. On Monday, of the second week, we were notified there was someone sitting just outside Psalm 82:3 Mission who was blind. It was Moses and as I got closer to him, I noticed his left eye was hanging out of his eye socket. He was in much pain.

Moses walked with his white cane about 30 feet and went back to his seat. Moses said this happened Saturday and his eye was hanging out of his socket for two days. I speculated that his eye ruptured due to the closed angle Glaucoma. I held his hand with my right hand and told him to squeeze my hand for the pain if he needed to, however he just held it. Moses had a rag with him to dry the blood and sweat from his eye that was hanging. After a little bit of time, I noticed that Moses felt the sweat on my right forearm and he used his rag to dry the sweat from my forearm. The emotions poured out from me at that moment. I started crying profusely, because Moses cared about me! Moses, with the predicament he was in, was more concerned for me, not himself! He acted like Jesus!

Readers Needed

Are you an expressive, fluent reader and willing to help ICBM with their mission?

Readers are needed to record Christian materials that are not otherwise available to the blind. ICBM sends out recordings of Sunday School lesson books, daily devotionals, *Christian Standard/Lookout* magazine, and other materials to all visually impaired people who request them.

To read for ICBM, you must have access to a computer with a microphone, and a quiet time and place in which to record. If you live near Grayson, you can come to the ICBM office and record in one of our dedicated recording rooms.

Readers may work on their own schedule, reading as much or as little as they are able. Support is available for installing and using the free software that is used for recording. If you are willing to read for ICBM, please contact Thomas Bleemel at 606-474-3411.

STAY IN TOUCH

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