

Operation Classroom

Chairperson/Leader: John Shettle
Information only

Operation Classroom is a missional program of the Indiana area to provide local churches and individuals the opportunity to be personally involved in hands-on experiences to:

- Upgrade United Methodist schools, provide youth with education opportunities
- Assist in establishing a viable vocational in Liberia and Sierra Leone program in each of the Operation Classroom schools
- Train pastors and teachers and church leaders in techniques of counseling to help those suffering from the trauma of war
- Upgrade the medical services in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

For Operation Classroom, 2007 was a special year as we celebrated our 20th year of continual ministry in Liberia and Sierra Leone. A Celebration dinner and program was held on Sunday, October 28 with nearly 400 persons attending from West Africa, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Tennessee, Ohio, New York and Indiana. Six bishops participated in the celebration. Bishop Coyner presided over the evening. The focus of the evening was the scholarship program of Operation Classroom. There were 448 scholarships given at the celebration from individuals and churches.

We provided a connection for Ministry by:

1. Assisting the Marion District (NIC) in a rally which raised \$38,000 to renovate buildings at the Koidu School and provide scholarships for the students.
2. Sending four work teams to Sierra Leone and a counseling team to Liberia.
3. Sending three persons to Sierra Leone to begin the development of a long range planning meeting for Kissy Hospital. They brought a report which assisted a special meeting with representatives from Indiana, GBGM and the Kissy Eye Hospital.
4. Shipped five containers containing 2,689 boxes of supplies and equipment, at an estimated value of \$97,000.
5. There were 240 persons volunteering a total of 8,220 hours in programs and activities of Operation Classroom.
6. 262 churches in the Indiana area gave to the advance for Operation Classroom in 2007.
7. Provided over 2500 boxes of milk to the Kissy Hospital for the nutrition program by the United Methodist Women in Indiana. This milk will be made into yogurt for the malnourished children. Over 2,000 children were cared for in 2007.
8. Providing United Methodists the opportunity of hands-on experiences of purchasing and packing supplies and gathering books for the schools.

What ministries are you planning in the new year that will "equip the local church" or provide a connection for ministry?

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- 1 1. Continue to work with the GBGM to improve the medical services at Kissy General
2 Hospital and Ganta Hospital. We will utilize volunteers to help plan and go on VIM
3 teams.
- 4 2. Continue to provide United Methodists the opportunity to be involved in hands on
5 projects of gathering and packing materials. We will recommend each district have at
6 least one packing party each year.
- 7 3. Continue to ship 4 to 6 containers per year to West Africa. Volunteers will assist in
8 loading the containers.
- 9 4. Continue to expand our support base by providing persons and churches the opportunity
10 to become more involved in Operation Classroom.
- 11 5. Plan two WATTS seminars and five work teams.
- 12 6. Continue the scholarship programs in all the OC schools.
- 13 7. Continue the refurbishment of school buildings.
- 14 8. Assist with further development of vocational programs in the schools.
- 15 9. Have an ingathering at Annual Conference.
- 16 10. Find substantial funding for the WATTS program.

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18 For more information, please visit our website at www.operationclassroom.org or call
19 765.436.2805