

## Break the Cycle: *Send a Liberian Child to School for a Year*

Moses is ten years old. Six years ago, his father was arrested and taken away. After he spent time sleeping on the streets, Moses was able to attend school with help of a program run by the Prison Fellowship of Liberia, and completed the first grade. But when a grant from the US Embassy for the program concluded, he was not able to continue his education. He lives near his former school with his aunt Hawa and plays with his former classmates. Hawa says that Moses misses going to school and he would like to return. “It was really good for his growth,” she said.

Moses is not alone. Nearly half (48%) of Liberia’s population is under age 15, and this group has a high rate of illiteracy. The number of children living and working on the streets in Liberia is growing, and many of them have parents in prison, leaving them to fend for themselves. These boys and girls are vulnerable to sex trafficking or prostitution, and they may follow their parent’s footsteps into a life of violence and crime. “We



Rev. Kollie distributing school supplies.

started this program when we saw a lot of these children end up in prison with their parents, who are already helpless and marginalized,” explained the Reverend Francis Kollie, Executive Director of Prison Fellowships Liberia.

These vulnerable children cannot afford to go to school, and without an education, the future for Moses and others like him is grim. In Liberia, 80% of the population falls below the international poverty line of \$1 a day. Liberia has a high crime rate, a large prison population, a high rate of sexual violence, a high rate of teen pregnancy and growing numbers of people with HIV/AIDS.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP BREAK THE CYCLE

You can help Moses and other boys and girls with parents in prison to finish primary school and junior high school, by ensuring that these children have access to the education and support they need to break the cycle of violence. Your tax deductible donation to the East-West Management Institute (EWMI) will provide school fees, uniforms and school supplies for these vulnerable children.

Working in partnership with Prison Fellowships Liberia, a non-profit organization based in Monrovia, EWMI’s Break the Cycle project seeks to send 200 children to school in Liberia. Some of these children have had no formal education whatsoever, others are behind their peers in their grade level. The project also provides counseling, mentoring and recreation opportunities to help these children develop their values and their interpersonal skills—and to prevent a recurrence of violence.

*Working in partnership with grass roots groups, local governments and international organizations to build just, prosperous and democratic societies.*



*Praise, when she entered the program in second grade.*

This holistic approach has a proven track record. Rev. Kollie reports “great improvement” in the lives of these children, and notes that monitoring efforts show that “their academic performance exceeds expectations.” Parents observe that their children’s lives are “transformed.” One parent said that her son’s life had improved dramatically as a result of the program: “He is now serious and obedient and willing to teach his peers the dangers of criminal life,” Rev. Kollie said.

Praise is 14 years old and in the fifth grade. She has been in this program for three years. Her father was in prison for four years, but he died a year after being released. Praise’s mother Dekonte believes in education, she herself was able to complete high school. “This program is like an extra pair of hands,” she says. “Not for Praise alone—this program helps all of our children have a better life than their parents.” Praise enjoys social studies, and hopes to work in an office someday.

Here is how your donation can help:

- \$300 will provide counseling, a school uniform, a daily meal, and tuition for a child to attend kindergarten, elementary or high school for one year at a school.
- \$6,000 will provide education and these basic services for 20 children in one of the project areas in the counties of Margibi, Bong and Bassa, where prisons are overcrowded.
- \$30,000 will assist all the children in one of the three counties in the project area.
- \$60,000 will enroll all 200 children in the upcoming school year – and give these children hope for a better future.

Your contribution will come at a hopeful juncture in Liberia. Following 15 years of civil disorder, the last five years have seen relative calm in the country under the leadership of Africa’s first and only female president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. EWMI will not retain any of these funds. All donations to EWMI for this project will be sent directly to the project in Liberia. If you would like more information about supporting the Break the Cycle Project, please contact Nikita Umnov at numnov@ewmi.org or 212-843-7660.

#### CONTACT:

**Project Manager:**

Nikita Umnov

**Main Office:**

575 Madison Avenue, 25th Fl.  
New York, NY 10022  
Tel (212) 843-7660  
Fax. (212) 843-1485  
info@ewmi.org

**Washington, DC Office:**

110 Maryland Avenue NE  
Suite 511  
Washington, DC 20002  
Tel. (202) 544-9345  
Fax. (202) 544-9348  
info@ewmi.org

**Website:** [www.ewmi.org](http://www.ewmi.org)

#### A WORD ABOUT EWMI

Founded in 1988 as an independent, not-for-profit organization, EWMI promotes the rule of law, civil society and free market systems globally. EWMI became involved in the Breaking the Cycle project as an outgrowth of its work on community outreach and mediation with Prison Fellowships Liberia. The mediation program focuses on three key areas that have emerged as being of vital concern in Liberia’s reconstruction: land disputes, gender based violence (GBV), and integration of returning soldiers and incorporates PFL’s on-going work to facilitate the release of pre-trial detainees who have been held in detention for periods beyond the legal limit from prisons. PFL’s comprehensive approach to serving the prison population and combating the culture of violence furthers EWMI’s mission to work with partners in creative ways to build just, prosperous and democratic societies.

*The East-West Management Institute, Inc. qualifies as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code as amended.*