



Pillar Missions > Liberia

OCEANVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ABOUT OCEANVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Location: Buchanan, Liberia
Grades: K-12
Students: 250
Teachers and Staff: 25
Founded: 1990



EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN LIBERIA

The Liberian education system was destroyed during the country's 14-year civil war (1989-2003). In 2003, a study by the Liberian Ministry of Education and UNICEF found that 20% of schools had been destroyed, and many of the remaining are in urgent need of repair. In addition, many education managers and teachers left the country during the conflict and have been replaced by teachers without formal qualifications or experience. Currently, an estimated 62% of teachers in Liberia are unqualified. As a result, enrollment plummeted in the years directly after the war. It is estimated that half a million children do not attend school. The election of President Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson has brought signs of hope; between 2006 and 2007, enrollment rates have increased but at a cost to quality, given already strained systems and infrastructure.

WHAT SETS OCEANVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL APART

Oceanview Christian School is a beacon of hope for the families in the Buchanan community, as it is well known and highly respected for its academic programs, and commitment to excellence. In 2006, all of the senior high students passed the standardized West African high school exam, a prerequisite for college enrollment. This major achievement for both the students and the reputation of the school was reported by Liberia's news media.

CURRENT NEEDS

New High School Building: Project Buchanan

The elementary school classes are currently meeting in the former home of Jacob Tequah, the former General Superintendent of Pillar of Fire operations in Liberia. He gave up his home so that the children would have a place to learn, but as the home was not made to house a school, the conditions are inadequate at best. The small rooms are very overcrowded and in need of repairs.



Current Location of Elementary School



Back and side view of current high school building

Plans are currently underway to build a new school on a plot of land a short distance from the existing school. When complete, the elementary school classes will meet in the building currently used by the high school, and the high school will be relocated to the new school. The ground for the school has been purchased and is in the process of being cleared. Architectural drawings for the building are likewise being developed to fully meet the needs of the school and its students.