

***Bong Mines Central High School***

Camp Zaweata  
Lower Bong County

**Submitted by: Mrs. Margaret J. Stewart**

***To: The BEC Family USA***

Joyous greetings to our BEC family of the United States of America. As we end the third quarter of academic 2006 / 2007, I must puse to forward you some information of how we fare on this side of the world.

### **News In Brief:**

1) Deaths and tributes. We again regret to inform you of the tragic deaths of another student and a teacher. The student was a female student of grade one. She and her girl friend decided to go swimming at the old CBR swimming pool in Bong town. This pool is no longer in use. What motivated them to go there, we do not know. They both got drowned.

The teacher was Mr. John F. Giddeh – a graduate of the University of Liberia. He was serving as the Vice – Principal of Instruction as well as a teacher in the senior high division. He was not ill. He went to work on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, after which he attended computer class that evening from 5: pm to 6: pm. He was seen with some friends later that evening and by midnight the community was awaken and told that his body was found in a small well near his residence. Teachers, students and parents were transported to Monrovia to join in the home going ceremony of Mr. Giddeh.

May their souls rest in perfect peace. We pray that God almighty should put a stop to these suspicious types of deaths.

### **Good News:**

2) Graduation from computer school: the first phase of the computer school has ended and the first set of graduates will be receiving their certificates on May 26, 2007. Taking away the dropped – out, a number of 36 will be graduating. The school is owned by a private – Local NGO from Monrovia.

Before this academic year ends the Government of Liberia – through Senator Jewel H. Taylor – is setting up another computer Laboratory strictly for our school for the teachers and the senior high students (grades 10 – 12)

(3) The unexpected arrival of one of the BEC administrative staff- Mr. Benedict Philips - was pleasing to us the administrators of the school. Unfortunately, school was over for the day so all students had left the campus. However, the administrative staff heartily greeted and received Mr. Philips and his T.V. Crew. How delight we were for the gifts (a basket ball, a football and a pump) which Mr. Philips presented on behalf of the BEC Family. The students were very happy for these gifts and they extend much appreciation for them as well as your thoughtfulness, dear BEC. A very big thank you for the Laptop Computer. It helps me with my report.

### **Students:**

Returning from the mid – year break the enrollment of students increased from eight hundred plus to nine hundred plus. By the middle of the month of April we noticed a considerable drop in enrollment. This was attributed to digging and collection of scrap iron for sale. A group of people moved in the community and began to buy scrap iron from the dwellers of the community. This caused many men, women, boys and girls to get out searching for USD. The government stopped them from carrying on this illegal act. Then students began to return to school.

The students that remained in school were able to do their first semester examination. They performed quite well as compared to those that left for the scrap iron business.

On April 30, 2007 to May 4, 2007 the West African Examination council was administered to the 12<sup>th</sup> graders through out Liberia. But it was discovered that some unfair play was done. Therefore, the education minister along with the Government of Liberia declared the test invalid and canceled throughout the nation. It has been redrawn to be re-administered starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, 2007. This was indeed embarrassing to all Liberians because it give a bad reflection on the Liberian educational standard and system.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE, FACULTY AND SUPPORT STAFF:**

We are still short of teachers. As stated in the news briefing, we lost one Administrator and senior high instructor. He needs to be replaced.

Effective, June 1<sup>st</sup> the security staff has been reduced from four to two due to insufficient funds and negligence on the job.

Although more teachers' names now appear on the Government payroll, we still have serious problem getting pay checks because the pay team from the ministry of Finance does not reach us. Teachers and other civil servants must pay their way to travel to and from Gbarnga for their pay. This poses another problem because sometimes the students are neglected for two or three days while teachers are traveling to and from Gbarnga.

Another problem is that 50% or more of the salary received is spent on transportation to and from Gbarnga. As a result, what is left is inadequate to sustain one's family for the month.

The KG – 1 teacher has been replaced by Miss Esther Dorbor. Mr. Giddeh has been replaced by Mr. Zawu Dorwolo. He takes only one of the subjects Mr. Giddeh was teaching. Another teacher already in the system has offered to do one of the courses Mr. Giddeh was teaching. He has to be compensated for his extra work load.

We ask that you join us in our continues prays for God to send us more qualified teaches.

#### **SCHOOL PROJECTS:**

Out of the fourteen points listed under the school projects forward to you, only six of these points have been touched and ~~not~~<sup>ed</sup> completely accomplished. They are:

- 1) The reading room
- 2) Repair of desks
- 3) Repair of back and front gates
- 4) Educational and instructional material as well as stationary were brought
- 5) Computer Laboratory set up
- 6) Basketball and volleyball facilities in pretty good shape.

As previously stated, we are unable to accomplish all this year.

#### **P.T.A:**

Over the last three to four years the Parent – Teacher – Association has been non-functional due to the reluctance of parents attending meeting when cited. They were moved to come to meeting last year November when teachers decided to lay down their chalk due to lack of payment from the government. They rallied around and paid \$25.LD (twenty –five

Liberian dollars) per. Child to give a purse to the teachers for food and appealed to the teachers to return to class to work with their children while they awaited their pay from the government. The teachers listened to their appeal and returned to class.

After this the P.T.A had their election of officers and they are deciding to be inducted into office pretty soon.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

We continue to face financial problems. Never – the – less, we give thanks to God almighty for His continuous provision through the helping hands of people like you (BEC) and others. As stated in the second quarter report, the administration has decided to share the stipend sent us by you according to qualifications, positions, and merit of teachers and support staff. With regards to merit, we will be giving special consideration to the volunteer teachers who are not on government payroll, that they should get a bit more than those being paid by government. Some of these volunteer teachers are full time while others are part-time. The part –time come for only a few periods (2-3) a day while the full – time spend the whole school day 6 -7 periods a day with us. So the full – time volunteer must be given more consideration. The part- time are working at other schools and are being paid there also.

Considering several factors, we have decided to used \$190.00USD = \$11,400.LD as operational funds and \$ 410.USD = \$24,600LD as stipend. Total = 60 x 600USD = \$36,000LD. A few of these several factors are:

- 1) death of teachers, students and immediate relative of teachers- contribution toward such
- 2) Sickness of teachers- one of our teachers has to undergo surgery soon. Other who fall sick and are admitted we visit them and share a small purse with them
- 3) Continuous purchase of instructional, educational materials and stationary plus repaired and general maintenance. These things, especially stationary, do not last.
- 4) Some was used on some of the school projects.

Following is the distribution of stipend for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of this academic year 2006- 2007.

<b>Names – Teacher</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>BEC/School Stipend</b>	<b>Government Salary</b>
1. Margaret J. Stewart	Principal/ Full time teacher	\$35.USD	\$1,800.D
2. Orantee Kennedy	Vice- Principal / Register	\$25.USD	\$1,800.D
3. John F. Giddeh	VPI / Full time teacher	\$25.USD	\$1,800.D
4. James Jallah	Sch. Secretary/Warehouse Manger	\$25.USD	\$1,800.LD/
5. Roland Cooper	Dean of Students Affairs	\$20.USD	\$1,800.LD
6. Morgan Kolonight	Program Chairman / part time	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
7. Lasanna Sesay	Part time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
8. Alfred P.Q. Tarwoe	Disciple Com. Chair person	\$15.USD	\$1,800.LD
9. Mark Berry	Part time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
10. Elizabeth Browme	Part time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
11. Jonathan Ngebai	Full time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
12. John Nyumah	Full time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
13. Ezekiel Momo	Full time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD

14. Sarah Jamison	Full time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
15. Suah Carter	Full time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
16. Andrews Massa	Part time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
17. Mulbah Dennis	Full time teacher	\$10.USD	\$1,800.LD
18. Lorpu S. Harris	Ass. Dean of Student Affair	\$20.USD	\$1,800.LD
19. Emmanuel Taylor	Full time teacher	\$20.USD	\$1,800.LD
20. Luke Paul	Full time teacher	\$15.USD	\$1,500.LD
21. Esther Dorbor	Full time volunteer	\$10.USD	\$900.LD
22. Dorbor Jallah	Part time volunteer	\$10.USD	\$1,200.LD
23. Henry Juasemai	Part time volunteer	\$10.USD	\$1,200.LD
24. Dai Wolo Zuwu	Full time volunteer	\$15.USD	\$1,500.LD

School stipend  
Non-G  
Paid

Name of Support Staff	Position	Amount BEC	SCHOOL STIPEND
1. James Cooper	Chief Security	\$5.USD	\$1,350.LD
2. Philip Hamilton	Security	\$5.USD	\$1,200.LD
3. Abraham S. Barclay	Security	\$5.USD	\$1,200.LD
4. David Tarwoe	Security	\$5.USD	\$1,200.LD
5. Sunday George	Chief Janitor	\$5.USD	\$1050.LD
6. David Kumasu	Janitor	\$5.USD	\$750.LD
7. Bendu Touray	Chief cook	\$4.USD	\$1050.LD
8. Hawa Johnson	Cook	\$5.USD	\$1050.LD
8. Gbeteh Lepole	Cook	\$5.USD	\$1050.LD
9. Korpo Barclay	Cook	\$5.USD	\$1,050
10. Gbeteh Lepole	Cook	\$5.USD	\$1050.LD
11. Mary Sackie	Cook	\$5.USD	\$1050.LD

Non-Gov  
Paid

Non – Government paid teachers (strictly volunteers)

1. 600 x 3 months = 1,800
2. 600 x 3 months = 1,800
3. 500 x 3 months = 1,500
4. 500 x 3 months = 1,500
5. 400 x 3 months = 1,200
6. 400 x 3 months = 1,200
7. 300 x 3 months = 900

OVER ALL EXPENDITURE:

BEC = \$36,000.LD

SCHOOL = \$21,900.LD

GOVERNMENT = \$91,800.LD

As can be seen, the government input is stepping up greatly. We praise God for that. But we have serious problem getting this pay check from Gbranga. If this problem could be solved things would be much better in the operational aspect of school.

May the Lord be praised for His continuous goodness to the Bong Mines Central High School. Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to you our BEC Family which serves as a very great helping hand or back bone for us. We pray that God showers his blessing upon you each day that you live.

Thank you.

