

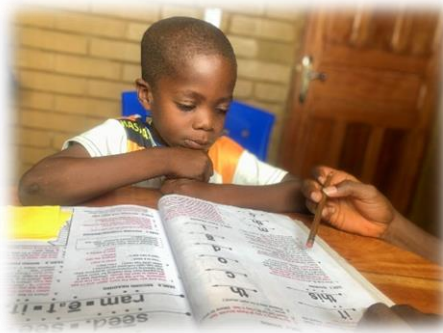
Legacy Learning Center Newsletter

By Missionaries Drew and Jessica Welch and family to Liberia.

It's hard to believe that Legacy Learning Center is nearing the end its third year of providing literacy education to students and adults in Liberia, West Africa. It seems like just yesterday that we opened our doors and launched the journey of implementing what was a theoretical approach to teaching literacy in a vastly different educational environment compared than what we experience in the United States.



About halfway through that initial year, we witnessed a metamorphosis of the students' educational skills, which gave us confidence that we would achieve success by the end of the year, and indeed we did! Many of our students arrive unable to recognize individual letters or write their own names. However, after a year at Legacy, we see them flourish into individuals who experience success in both reading and writing. They transition from being intellectually self-aware to academically confident. Upon graduating from Legacy, they can read paragraphs and compose sentences independently.



Children Learning to read.



Learning sight words.

Witnessing this transformation in our students is an incredibly humbling experience. When they reach the milestone of completing 100 successful reading lessons, they receive a certificate and their very own Bible. For most of these children, this is the first book their family owns ever. We are grateful that they can discover God's Word for themselves for the first time.



Learning to write.

Receiving a Bible

This surprising change has not only occurred in their education, but we have also witnessed the remarkable change in their behavior. Growing up in a community rife with violence (where mob justice prevails, domestic abuse is common, and suspicions of witchcraft lead to disappearances), these students lack a moral foundation aligned with biblical principles. Upon entering our program, these students often resort to physical confrontation and harsh language to resolve conflicts. Throughout the academic year, we inundate them with Scripture, engage in Bible songs, and share Bible stories that emphasize love and compassion. At the end of the year, we witness a profound evolution: these students begin to collaborate to solve problems and express themselves with more patience and understanding.



Current Legacy Learning Class

If the transformation we witnessed was all there was, it would be extraordinary, but our Heavenly Father has revealed to us that Legacy is more than just ministering to His students. We are witnessing a transformation that extends to the entire community. In 2021, when Legacy Learning Center opened its doors, so did Open Bible Fellowship, a church plant. Through the ministry activities conducted during the week at Open Bible Fellowship and the employment of community members on our campus, we have observed a shift in the community's attitude. In recent years, they have witnessed our love for their children, for them, and our sharing of the message of Jesus. This has led to more receptive hearts within the community. We praise God for His work in the small community served by Legacy Learning Center and Open Bible Fellowship. It fills us with even greater anticipation for what is to come.



Open Bible Fellowship Members



To learn more about the Welch Family Ministry or to become a one-time or monthly donor, please visit www.bit.ly.MVPwelch.

Related Mission Ventures:

[Liberia Legacy Learning Center Projects](#)

[Liberian Benevolence Fund](#)

[Liberia Student Sponsorship Fund](#)

[Liberia Student Health & Education Program](#)

If you would like to donate by check, please mail it to:
Open Bible Churches
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Des Moines, IA 50315
Memo: Mission Venture is it for?

To see our most recent **video** of our ministry, please visit: <https://vimeo.com/897030959?>



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