

# The Dougbe River News

May 2016

## Farm expansion will provide more food, plus wood for projects on campus

An additional 10 acres of land is being cleared on the school farm and will be used to grow rice and yams, further reducing our reliance on food purchased in Zwedru, a five-hour drive from campus.

The hardwood trees felled during the clearing will be milled into planks, which will be used in several campus improvement projects. The lumber will be used to build new seats for our latrines, shelves and furniture for the student library, and small classroom chairs for our youngest students (an urgent request from our preschool and kindergarten teachers.) Any remaining materials will be used to construct a much-needed playground area for our students.

To ensure professional and timely completion of these and future projects, we recently hired a custodian/handyman, Victor Myers. Victor is certified in carpentry and has demonstrated his skills by constructing beautiful doors and furniture for Mary Hall's new home for girls at



*Executive director Isaac Monah, right, looks a little sleepy as he spends time with workers who are cutting down trees.*

the edge of our campus. With Victor's leadership and an investment in materials, hardware, and hand tools, we hope to complete these projects by the start of the school year.

If you would like to contribute to any of these projects, please

make your check payable to "DRS" and write the name of the project (Library, Little Chairs or Playground) in the notes field. Please send your donation to: **Dougbe River School, P.O. Box 18017, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.**



*Math is taught at all grade levels using the Liberian Ministry of Education's curriculum guidelines.*

### In Memoriam

We are grieving the death of one of our teachers, Henry Korsor, who passed away April 2 at the hospital in Tappita, Nimba County. Henry had been suffering from an abdominal ailment that was eventually diagnosed as liver cancer. He was a science teacher, director of the school choirs and coach of the girls' kickball team.



## Teachers open homes to students from distant village

Several students from Billibo, about a two-hour walk east of the school, are staying on campus overnight during the week. Our teachers are showing their commitment to educating these children by opening their homes to them.

This underscores the need for a permanent solution for children living in these remote villages. Our teachers and village leaders have requested that we consider student housing in our plans for the future. We'll share more information about these plans with you, our supporters, as it becomes available.



*Some of the students from Billibo enjoy free time after classes.*



## More people from Ohio make their first visits to Dougbe River School

Dougbe River School board member Laurie Moormann and Mary Hall, the founder of the home for young girls on the school grounds, made their first visit to the campus March 3-15. They were accompanied by executive director Isaac Monah and board member the Rev. Francis Miller.

The visit included quality time with our teachers and students, a party hosted by the leaders of the Twarbo and Glio regions, and productive meetings with mission partners including German Agro Action, Last Mile Health and the African Dream Academy. The board members also participated in a morning show broadcast on Zwedru's Smile Radio station to keep people in Zwedru (the capital of Grand Gedeh County) and the surrounding area informed about the school.

Laurie said observing the teachers during classes and seeing the engagement of the students at all levels were high points of the trip.

Isaac stayed in Liberia into April, to conduct interviews for teaching and administrative openings for the 2016-2017 school year.

## Featured student: Felfred B. Tarley

Felfred, 15, is named for her mother Felicity and her father Alfred. She has three sisters and two brothers. The family lives in Sayou, about a mile and a half from campus, and all of the Tarley children attend DRPSL.

Felfred started school in 2012, and is now in the sixth grade.

She is an active member of the DRPSL Choir, loves the weekly Bible class and attends church on campus every Sunday morning.

Felfred's dream is to become a lawyer. Her message to our supporters in the United States is "Tell them thank you so much for our school!"

## This year's Gala will happen on October 23

Be sure to hold the date — Sunday, October 23rd from 5:30 to 9 p.m. — for the DRS Gala. This year we will offer special pricing and reserved seating for groups of eight, the silent and live auctions, and the wine pull. We'll also offer some

fun new activities to support the school. If you would like to donate wine or an auction item for this event, please contact Laurie Moormann by phone at 440-339-6992 or by email at lauriemoormann@gmail.com.