



COVENANT LIFE

MINISTERIAL ORGANIZATION

“STEADFAST”

Pastor Gordon Peterson

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ‘steadfast’, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

In this verse, “steadfast” indicates what kind of person God considers to be necessary in His Kingdom family.

What does it mean to be steadfast? This word “steadfast” is a Greek word which has several meanings:

- ◆ It means to be stationary, such as something that sits in one place for a long, long time.
- ◆ It describes something that is firm and steady: Immovable!
- ◆ It was frequently used in connection with foundations or support structures in buildings.
- ◆ It portrays something that is strong, unbendable, unbreakable, and permanent, such as a well-built foundation for a large building or a strong column that holds up a roof or support walls or systems.

So, when Paul urges us to be steadfast, he’s calling on us to be totally reliable — not shaky or undependable. We should be stationary and strong in the purpose and roles God has called us to fulfill in the Body of Christ.

We shouldn’t be quickly shaken or easily lured to some other place or some other task. We must be like pillars, foundations, or supports in the Kingdom of God. **1 Corinthians 15:58** could be interpreted: “...Be reliable; dependable; not easily excited, shaken, or affected...”

What is the purpose of a huge stone pillar in a building? Its purpose is to support the roof or some other important section of the building.

What would happen if you suddenly jerked that pillar out of its place?

You would find out very quickly that the pillar was essential! Remove the pillar, and the entire building would collapse into a heap of rubble, creating a horrible, terrible mess! People could be hurt or killed!

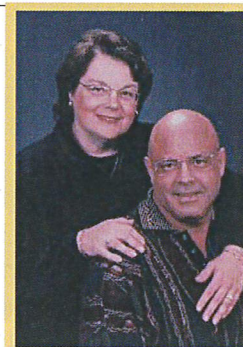
When God tells you to be “steadfast”, He is asking you to be a “rock” in His Kingdom - like a pillar that faithfully stands in its place and helps to hold things in their place.

He wants you to be so dependable that people lean on you, counting on the fact that you’ll always be there to help keep things together. And when events occur that shake up everyone’s world a bit, God wants people to look to you as one who isn’t easily excited, shaken, or affected: He wants you to be “steadfast”!

Don’t view yourself as small, insignificant or unimportant. God needs you, and other people are depending on you. It’s time for you to realize that God meant for you to be a part of the foundation of the Body of Christ! You can be steadfast in His family and a person on whom others can lean and depend. They can trust you!

Be steadfast ... be a “rock” ... be faithful ... be dependable ... be the type of person others can lean on.

Pastor Gordon Peterson



Pastors Gordon & Nancy Peterson

newsletter

Spiritual Life Bible School - Liberia Update

There is great news to report! Pastor Judy has been working to see a building built in Liberia that will house the SLC - Bible School and Seminary ... and her commitment to the project has been completed!

It's been a huge undertaking, but the Lord has brought the necessary personnel and finances for each step of the way! Praise His Name!

After the plans were drawn up, the Bible School students cleared the land so that a road could be built to get into the area of the property where the school was to be built. Once the road was finished, the foundation was laid and the outer and inner walls were erected. Next the wooden roof structure had to be built and the metal roofing panels were put in place. Each step of the construction took time, money and much effort to complete.

Once the roof was completed, heavy metal doors were installed along with metal grids on the windows, toilets were purchased and set in place, and the water and sewer were connected. This was Pastor Judy's commitment to the project, and the cost was approximately \$125,000 to complete.

July 15th through 21st, Pastor Joe and Judy went to Liberia to participate in the graduation ceremony for the Spiritual Life Seminary, as well as to see the progress of the new building. They were pleased with the results and thanked God for His faithfulness.

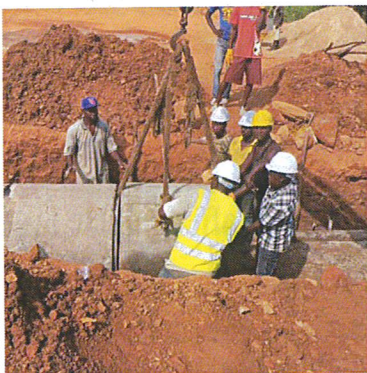
While they were in Liberia, they handed over the supervision of the building and the Bible College to Pastor Claudius Cooper of Providence Rhode Island. Pastor Cooper and his wife, Pastor Salome, originally came from Liberia and were graduates of the original SLC Bible School - Liberia. So, they know the inner workings of the school and the culture of Liberia.

The new Bible School building is in the capital city of Monrovia; in addition, there are two more Bible Schools in rural parts of the country.

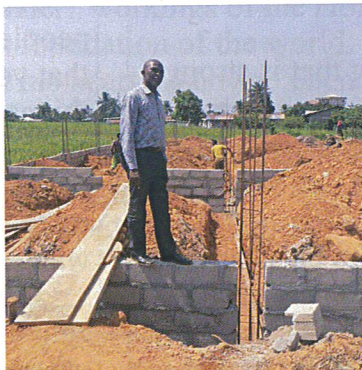
Everyone is thankful for the completion of this great vision! Many pastors are being trained in the Word of God, and we believe that this school will change the spiritual climate in the nation of Liberia.



Pastors Judy and Joe Fornara



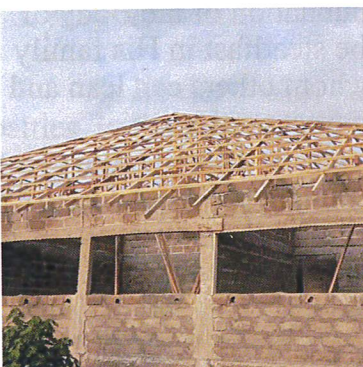
Building the road!



Foundation set!



Walls Up!



Roof structure built!



Roof completed!



Heavy steel doors placed!

Praise God! 27 Seminary students graduated in Liberia!

What a thrill for Pastors Joe and Judy to be present for the first SLC - Seminary graduation class in Liberia! There were 27 graduates from the SLC - Liberia Seminary class in Monrovia, which was led by Pastor Christian Dagadu. Among the graduates of the first Seminary class were four bishops and several pastors. Both the Bible School and the Seminary have been used greatly, by the Lord, to train pastors. Many of the pastors in Liberia have not had access to formal Bible education, so it is a real blessing for them to be able to attend SLC Bible School and/or Seminary.

This coming school year, there will be two SLC - Liberia Seminaries operating in the country: one school will be in Monrovia, and one in out-lying county of Bassa County, Liberia.

In addition to Pastors Joe and Judy, Pastor Claudius Cooper was present and officiated at the Baccalaureate Service. Pastor Claudius is the newly appointed president of the Spiritual Life Bible School. The school has recently been turned over to Pastor Cooper and his wife, Pastor Salome. The Coopers were among the graduates of the first SLC - Liberia Bible School class. They pastor a church in Providence, RI, and also one in Wooster, MA, as well as they have seven churches under their leadership in Liberia. Pastors Joe and Judy were featured speakers at both the Baccalaureate and Graduation Services.



Bible School Graduates from Monrovia, Liberia



Seminary Graduates from Monrovia, Liberia

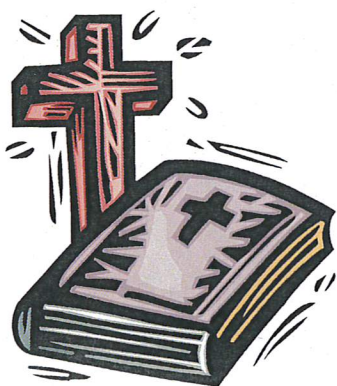
The students were so joyful in that they had finished two years of classes and were about to receive their Master's degrees. Following the graduation service, there was a beautiful dinner for all the graduates and their guests and families. It was a very happy occasion!

Plans have been made for the Monrovia Seminary to be "housed" in the new SLC Bible School/Seminary building which will be completed this fall.

Please remember to keep both Spiritual Life - Liberia Bible School and Spiritual Life - Liberia Seminary in your

prayers.

Next Chaplain's Meeting September 20, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.



The next Quarterly Chaplain's Meeting will be Friday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. We will be packing lunches for the ***In Word and Deed*** Outreach to the Homeless. The Outreach will be held the next day, Saturday, September 21, at First Baptist Church in downtown Minneapolis, MN.

Last year we invited the SLC Youth Group to participate with us, and it was such a joy to have the teens help with the lunches and also go with us to distribute the lunches and minister to the people at the outreach.

In addition to serving a hot meal, there is clothing distribution, a bag lunch to go and the opportunity to talk and pray with people.

Everyone is invited to help pack the lunches on Friday Evening from 7:00 to 8:30, and if you are able, join us for the Outreach on Saturday from 4:00 to 6:00.

Chaplain Spotlight: Chaplain Mark Davis

It was 1967, I was 5 years old and attended church with my Grandmother. As I sat in the pew with her, I would stay perfectly still so not to be reprimanded by her discreet but painful “pinch.” As we sat, we would sing songs, listen to the Minister deliver the message, give our offering and wait for the altar call to be over. On a certain Sunday, we came to church and sat as normal, sang songs as normal, listened to the Minister as normal, but on this Sunday instead of waiting for the altar call to be over, I was drawn to go up. Totally out of character, and without regard to my Grandmother or anyone else, I got up and went to the altar. She never came behind me to retrieve me, she let me go.

I stood perfectly still, with my head down waiting for the Minister to come. When he got there, he asked me, “Do you want to be saved young man?” I replied, “Yes.” Then he began to lead me in the sinner’s prayer, and I repeated what he said to me. After he was finished, I walked back to my seat with a bright smile on my face and a warm feeling in my heart.

As I grew older, I sensed God’s presence in my heart, but what I saw was my unwillingness to follow God’s direction. I became disheartened and confused. I thought that I had done my part having gone to the altar at 5 years old. Later, I learned that although I had confessed my sins and believed, I had never surrendered my (**will**) to God. In my (**mind**) I thought about my 5-year-old experience and how it felt (**emotions**), and I believed I was “rapture” ready, but I was deceived.

After we’ve confessed with our mouth, and believed in our hearts that God, (the Father), has raised Jesus from the dead, then the scripture says we, “**Shall** be saved” (*Rom. 10:9*). Yes, **shall** be saved because salvation is a **complete** work done by our triune (3 Part), God, in a triune creation (mankind). Our God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mankind, (with a corrupt nature), is a **spirit**, has a **soul** and lives in a **body**. The complete work of Christ transcends man’s spirit. It reaches man’s will, his emotions, his body, (undoing the control of its corruption), his past, his future, his household, his community, his city, his state, his country, etc.

All this happens through the “inner” workings of the Holy Spirit to produce the original created man that God made before the foundation of the world. A man’s spirit is “reborn” instantly when confession is made and belief in his heart is shown. Then he’s able to **hear** the (Holy Spirit) and **believe and receive** the (Word) of God for his life. His spirit is saved/reborn, yes, but there is more work to be done in the soul. To accomplish this work, our God has created the perfect individual walk, for every individual man. (*Jer. 29:11*) During this walk, our God will renew the mind, heal emotions, and help our “will” become willing.

Matthew 11:28,29 (NKJV)

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, For I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

As He deals with our souls there will be internal battles. In the above scripture, we see a remedy when we are in these battles. We see we have a place to “go to” when we experience the weariness of the battle. We see we must go to our “secret place” and “yoke up” with Jesus. Then we’ll learn the strategies that are already created for our victory. In my walk, the most powerful place to confront the battles is on my knees with a yielded heart, hungry for Gods answers for me.



Chaplain Mark Davis and Rev. Tracy Davis