

Report Summary

Prepared by Drs. Frank and Marsha Glover

Visit to Liberia

March 15-20, 2015



SHIELD in Africa, Inc.

"Strategic Healthcare Initiative Emphasizing Local Development"

www.shieldinafrica.org

**As Guests of the
Honorable Vice President Joseph N. Boakai
Republic of Liberia**



Monday, March 16, 2015

As we were traveling from Brussels to Monrovia, we had the good fortune of sitting next to Mr. Claude Langley, Deputy Minister for Technical Services of Liberia. I had the opportunity to share the project with him and he pledged full support in creating the necessary infrastructure for the project.

When we arrived in Monrovia at 8:30 PM, we were received by two special assistants to the Vice President, Rev. Dr. J. Luther Tarpeh and Mr. Lemuel Vah. They would be our handlers for the entire trip. We checked into the Golden Key Hotel in Paynesville, just outside of Monrovia.

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

We departed the hotel at 8:30 AM, making the two hour trip to Buchanan, the capitol city of the County Grand Bassa.







We met at the Grand Bassa County Administration Building. The meeting was chaired by Acting Superintendent, Mr. N.A. Bromfield Reeves, III. Also in attendance were Mr. Richard G. Jones, T/Ship Commissioner; Mr. Joseph M. Jacobs, District Superintendent; and Mr. James S. Harris, County Land Commissioner. We discussed the scope of the project and answered questions. The project was warmly received and the delegation accompanied us on a 45-minute drive to Tubmansville.







This township held a meeting of the Chiefs and Elders of the community as well as of the community at large. Those of note in attendance included: Payagar Weegar, Senior Elder; Solomon T. Banks, Youth Chairman; Dehyeatee Kormon, Woman Wing Head; and the Hon. Josiah Jacobs, General Secretary for the County of Grand Bassa. We presented the vision for the development of the medical center to the community. The township in turn expressed their gratitude for our willingness to bring such a project to their community. In keeping with their tradition, they presented us with Kola nuts, signifying the granting of their land for said development. We gave 2,000USD cash for processing of the tribal land documents and cold water (token) for the elders and citizens of Gbaywein for the land donated to SHIELD in Africa, Inc. The tribal deed to 300-500 acres was then presented on March 18, 2015 and is signed by Mr. Solomon T. Banks, Youth Chairman; Ms. Dehyeatee Kormon, Woman Wing Head; Mr. Payagar Weegar, Senior Elder; Mr. Richard G. Jones, T/Ship Commissioner; Mr. Joseph M. Jacobs, District Superintendent; Mr. James S. Harris, County Land Commissioner; and Mr. N.A. Bromfield Reeves, III, Acting Superintendent.

Land Agreement

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
GBAYWEIN SECTION
TUBMANVILLE TOWNSHIP
GRAND BASSA COUNTY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that we the Elders, Youth Wing, Women Wing and Citizens of Gbaywein Section in a well attended meeting unanimously agreed to grant a portion of our land to the SHIELD IN AFRICA, INC. to develop the community as per their own commitment by building doctor training centers, dormitories as well as other medical facilities for the citizens of Bassa yea, Liberia to meet up a modern and international health care delivery standards.

The quantity of land is in a tone of three to five hundred (300-500) acres of land that will stretch from the back of the Tubmanville Town Hall up toward the St. John River West Ward.

Said land donated is freed from private interest nor reserved tourist spot and is also unencumbered.

Therefore and in view of the foregoing, we, together with the district and County Authorities have affixed our signatures to this document, this 18 Day of March A.D. 2015 authorizing you and authenticating your sufficient authority and legality to construct these facilities as committed to and also to cultivate the land the soonest possible time.

Signed: S.T. Banks
Solomon T. Banks
Youth Chairman

" [Signature]
Dehyeatee Kormoh
Woman Wing Head

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

We had a meeting with Vice President His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai. The following staff members were present: Hon. Anthony Kesselly, Public Policy Advisor; Hon. Maurie Y. Nyuma, Special Assistant to the Vice President; Hon. Peter Stephens, Project and Youth Coordinator; and the Hon. George K. Saah, Director of Media.

Coordinator; and the Hon. George K. Saah, Director of Media.



The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Meeting with His Excellency Vice President Joseph N. Boakai Sr.

Vice President of Liberia

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Talking Points with Drs. Frank and Marsha Glover

- I. Land deeded to SHIELD in Africa, Inc. 500 acres to be kept indefinitely as long as the land is being used for the intended purpose.
- II. Memorandum of Understanding
 - A. Purpose: To increase Healthcare capacity by training professionals for all counties of Liberia and the West African Region.
 - B. Development Plan
 1. No up-front payment from the Liberian people or government
 2. No permit fees; duty free imports ; tax exempt status
 - C. Scope of Development
 1. Water, sewage, electricity and roads for the entire tract
 2. Done in phases:
 - Each school to have adequate dormitory space and faculty housing
 - Medical school and teaching hospital ☐
 - Research facility for basic science and clinical research
 - Nursing school
 - Dental school
 - Pharmacy school
 - School of social work
- III. Governance
 - A. SHIELD will manage funds and set policies for student admission and jobs to insure representation of all tribal groups
 - B. Schools will be private
 - C. Leadership will involve Liberians whenever qualified; ultimately the goal is to have the institutions run by Liberians.
- IV. Economic Impact Good paying jobs in construction, maintenance, and administrating the facility (will use as many Liberians as possible).
- V. Diplomatic Passports To facilitate consultations with Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal as well as other West African College of Surgeons and Physicians member states

We had dinner at the Vice President's home. Delegates at the dinner included: Senator Yonblee Karnga-Lawrence and Senator Jonathan Kaipay, both of Grand Bassa and Representative Byron Brown also of Grand Bassa; Hon. Anthony Kesselly, Public Policy Advisor to the Vice President; Dr. Tesser Utam, general surgeon, and the Rev. Luther Tarpeh, Vice President Special Envoy. There was overwhelming approval and consensus for the project.





Thursday, March 19, 2015

Departed hotel traveling to Cuttington University located in Bong County. This one hundred and twenty mile trip took over four hours due to the poor condition of the road which was under construction. We shared the vision with the students and toured the campus after having lunch. That evening I received an email from Benjamin Grazda to participate in the Senate Health Systems briefing. I will be on a panel with the Minister of Public Works, Mr. W. Gyude Moore discussing healthcare infrastructure in the three countries affected by Ebola: Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

Friday, March 20, 2015





I departed the hotel at 7:30 am to visit the Ministry of Public Works. I met with Deputy Minister Claude Langley who introduced me to the Minister of Public Works, Mr. W. Gyude Moore. WE had a discussion of the proposal. He was very excited that this project would dovetail nicely with their roads project as they are tempting to link the various health centers throughout the country to pave roads. He remarked that Buchanan, a coastal city forty-five minutes south of Monrovia, will be having its road continuing southeast all the way to the most eastern county of Maryland. This will allow the people living in the most underdeveloped portion of Liberia, mainly the southeast, to have access to a major health center.



He, then, called over to the Executive Office of the President and introduced me to Dr. Clarence K. Moniba who is the Deputy Chief of State and head of the President's delivery unit. I made a trip over to the Executive Mansion where I met with him and several of his staff including Ms. June R. Carey, Senior Program Officer and Czar of Health. I shared with him the vision of the project which they enthusiastically embraced. They promised to put together a memorandum of understanding between SHIELD and the government of Liberia and obtain Madame President's signature by March 23, 2015. They assured me that I would receive the full support of their government as this project is consistent with their goals of post-Ebola strengthening of the healthcare system in Liberia. I later attended a post Ebola workshop focusing on lessons learned thus far from the perspective of the traditional chiefs.



Later on that evening, I met with Mr. T. Nelson Williams, II, Managing Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company. He pledged support for providing scholarships for a minimum of ten of the medical students and assured me that many of his colleagues, who also own businesses, would gladly support the remaining students. He is from Grand Bassa and has a hotel in Buchanan. He believes that the growth in tourism and the attractiveness for other businesses will bring lots of foreign currency into the region. He is very excited about the project and asked that I keep him informed of its development.



