



BESTWĀ

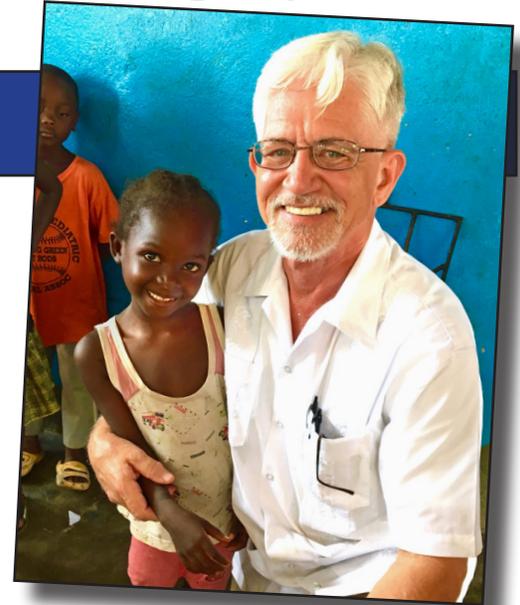
Building Liberia's Future - One child at a time

Spring 2017

Building a future for Agata

This bright young lady is Agata, an eight-year-old in the BESTWA feeding program. Agata's parents died when she was an infant and she was taken in by her auntie. When Agata came to the BESTWA feeding program in 2013 she had no energy. Her hair was turning tan and falling out. She was slowly starving. All of that changed when someone like you sponsored Agata. Within a few weeks of joining the BESTWA Feeding Program she was playing loudly with the other children.

In January 2017 Agata was struck with Cholera but recovered because of prayer and BESTWA health care. Early in the feeding program we lost dozens of children to disease. Because of your generosity things are very different now. The children receive the best health care available. We are grateful there have been no deaths from disease in the feeding program in three years!



Agata with Andy in November 2016.



Agata in January after her recovery from cholera.

Thanks to a generous sponsor, Agata is also in school. Only half the 927 children in the feeding program have education sponsors. We recently combined feeding and education sponsorships so every child gets food, medical care, and an education for \$28 per month. Because of the kindness of people like you Agata has the opportunity to create a good life for herself. You are building Liberia's future!

The Benefit Dinner on March 2 was a wonderful success! You gave nearly \$60,000 to help children just like Agata grow into strong leaders. Thank you!

Andy Perkins
Executive Director

2017 BESTWA Hero Award

While in Liberia in February 2016 I identified the body of Garlyee Baye, a beloved boy in the feeding program who was brutally murdered. On my return to the US I experienced the after effects of trauma and was referred to Lana Allen for therapy.

Lana spent months helping me deal with overwhelming emotional pain in all its manifestations. She lovingly cared for my wife, Teresa. She involved herself in the lives of the Liberian children. It is a privilege to honor Lana with the 2017 BESTWA Hero Award for her selfless service. She is an amazing blessing to BESTWA and the precious children in our care in Liberia.

Photo: Andy awards Lana Allen the "2017 BESTWA Hero Award" celebrating the value and virtue of her generous service to BESTWA and the people of Liberia.



Photo by Sally Owens

What's happening with the Dennis Birthing Clinic?

BESTWA scholarship student Youkpeh gave birth to a baby girl named Abella Victoria on December 26. A few days later Youkpeh developed a severe postpartum infection. The Doctors were not able to get a handle on it and expected her to die. We quickly reached out to medical contacts in Liberia and found strong antibiotics. Even then Youkpeh fought for her life all night. Finally, in the morning, she was strong enough to speak. Many of you prayed and rejoiced with us when Youkpeh recovered. Thank you!



Andy and Youkpeh in 2016.

In an area with no women's clinics, the Dennis Birthing Clinic is urgently needed. Together we can save the lives of mothers like Youkpeh and babies like Abella. The clinic will give effective care while serving as a training center for desperately needed midwives. When you keep a mother alive, you change life not just for a woman and her children, but for the entire country of Liberia. Will you change lives by helping finish and open the Dennis Birthing Clinic?

You can give at www.bestwa.org/#donate or via the enclosed envelope.

Baby Abella was nearly orphaned when her mother Youkpeh had a life-threatening postpartum infection.



Big changes for Monsemar

At only eight years old Monsemar was already severely underweight and at risk for exploitation. She went to bed each night with gnawing hunger in her belly and worry in her heart. Would she have food to eat tomorrow? Monsemar's parents are dead and her loving grandmother struggled to feed her.

That all changed last August when Monsemar was sponsored into the BESTWA feeding program by someone like you! Now Monsemar has hot daily food and dependable medical care. Monsemar goes to bed each night with a full belly, knowing tomorrow there will be food again. Will you change desperation to joy for a child like Monsemar? \$28 provides food, medical care, education, and hope!

Sponsor a child with the enclosed envelope or online at www.bestwa.org/#donate



Monsemar entered the feeding program in August 2016 (left). With Andy in November (right). Someone just like you changed Monsemar's life!



**Would you like Andy to speak to your church or civic group?
Please email andy@bestwa.org or call 214-316-0804**