



The Episcopal High & Elementary Schools Alumni Association of USA

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Rebuilding Our Alma Mater: An Appeal

Fellow Alumni,

Greetings! The genesis of our beloved Alma Mater was a trip that Bishop Charles C. Penick, a missionary and visionary from the United States, made to Robertsport, Cape Mount in 1878 to establish an Episcopal Mission and School. During the intervening years, other missionaries like Lulu Higgins, Margaretta Ridgely, Marywood McKenzie, Eleanor Ten-Brooke, Bravid W. Harris, George W. Washington, Walter Derbyshire, Catherine C. Barnaby, E. Bolling Robertson, and Marilyn Robertson among many others journeyed to St. Johns and the House of Bethany with the singular purpose of advancing what Bishop Penick started. They were joined by an equally committed cadre of Liberians including Rev. C. Kei Kandakai, Arthur B. Abdullai, A. Tamu Diggs, T. Bai Sherman, Thomas Haines, Frederic & Ruth Seitua, Roland Dagoseh, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel P. Freeman, Sr., Reverend Varney Gray, ECB Jones, Martha Mamusu Fahnbulleh, James Kawah, Father J.D.K. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Wilson, Sr., Ethel Watson, Massa Seitua, Harriett M Perry, Sis Alice, Mr. & Mrs. James Kini Freeman, Mr. & Mrs. Philip T. Bowen, Sr. and others. Together, these stalwart individuals built a **Citadel** of learning in Robertsport that was the envy of the nation in terms of academic excellence and discipline. It attracted students from every region of Liberia that graduated and went on to become many of the nation's best agriculturalists, chemists, clergy, dentists, diplomats, engineers, educators, economists, entrepreneurs, geologists, lawyers, medical doctors, nurses, and politicians, etc. This is the history of our Alma Mater, indeed, quite **exemplary**. This is what was destroyed by a senseless and protracted civil war. For us, the Civil War was particularly devastating as it destroyed that shining Citadel on Cape Mount that quenched the academic thirst of Liberians for more than a century.

Heritage Rebuilding Through Collaboration

Ladies & Gentlemen, no generation can choose the challenge that it will confront, but once confronted, it must summon the will, expertise, experience, partnerships and, above all, divine intervention to overcome and succeed. In light of this, our challenge is to assist with the

rebuilding and restoration of our beloved Alma Mater. This is my fundamental appeal to you. The leadership of our association welcomes your suggestions, donations and presence at the Annual Reunions where we reminisce and strategize about the restoration of our venerable Alma Mater to its glorious past. This year's event is scheduled in Atlanta, Georgia over the Labor Day Weekend. Visit our website: ehsees.org for details and plan to attend. While there, review the projects that we have completed and others that are in progress including our Memorial Wall initiative. Further, peruse the information on the Regional Chapters, contact your Regional Vice Presidents as well as our National President and ask how you can become an integral part of our rebuilding initiative because while we have achieved much, much remains to be done. Together, let's collaborate with other stakeholders to rebuild our Alma Mater because Harvey Firestone reminded us that "you get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself." We owe it to the many men and women who empowered us to become successful alumni. Most especially, we owe it to current and future generations whose names and identities we may never know but who must say of us, that by our collective and self-less actions, we gave them the opportunity to succeed and become the next generation of Liberian professionals for as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King eloquently stated, "all that we send into the lives of others come back into our own." In the same vein, the Scripture, 1 Peter, 4:10 reads, ***Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift you have received.*** This is our Challenge.....let's do it. Let's give back to our beloved Alma Mater that laid the foundation for who we are today. If we do this, history will not only be kind to us, but our own lives will be enriched by the rebuilding and restoration of our historic Alma Mater "for it is in giving that we receive" as St. Francis of Assisi remarked.

If this message engenders any questions, I will avail myself to answer them. Better yet, please pass this document on to others and encourage them to join our crusade "because in union strong success is sure, we cannot fail" as our National Anthem aptly reminds us. Let's get going with rebuilding our **Heritage!**

Sincerely & God Bless,

Robert

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