



# The Liberia Project

## **Computer Donation and Training Program.**

Undertaken by:

**GOFA Foundation.**

Location: Monrovia, Liberia

Dates: 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.



**Chukwudi Aanu ADEPOJU.**

*Trainer.*

# The Liberia Project

## *Intro*

Conceived by the President of GOFA Foundation, Mr. Billy Azigbo, “The Liberia Project” is a humanitarian effort geared towards helping to rebuild the war-ravished nation of Liberia, by contributing to its human capacity in the area of Information Technology, especially for schools in relatively impoverished neighborhoods.

## *Strategy.*

Working with The Life Tabernacle Churches, located on Benson Street, Monrovia, a total of seven (7) high schools (five private- and two government- funded) were identified for the donation of a total of 12 (twelve) new HP Computers. They were also asked to nominate two representatives each, to receive basic computer training, which will then be passed along to the students in their respective schools.

A seasoned IT trainer was to be sent from Nigeria for the week-long project.

The training was scheduled to run from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August till Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August. The PCs to be presented were to be received from Nigeria, and used for the training. It was also planned that a representative of the Government of Liberia be around for the handing over of the Computers.

## *Implementation.*

### 1. Logistics:

I arrived in Monrovia on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August, and was promptly picked at the airport by the Mr. Darlo Jones, the Special Assistant to the Senior Pastor of Life Tabernacle Churches, Pastor S. Oliver Kpaan.

Mr. Jones also doubles as Head of Administration for Life International Schools, owned and run by the Life Tabernacle Church. The Life International School was one of the recipients of the Computers, and was also the venue of the trainings, at their Logan Town Campus.



Pastor Oliver Kpaan and his family were kind enough to host me throughout my stay in Liberia, and their hospitality is highly commendable. They also provided a vehicle to ensure my movements were stress-free. Mr. Jones was my chaperon throughout.

There was however some delay in receiving the PCs, which were to have arrived in Liberia on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August. They were finally picked up on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

## 2. Training Curriculum and Materials

GOFA Foundation has adopted the ECDL/ICDL (European/International Computer Driving License) Syllabus, and this is what was used for the first part of the training – Computer Essentials. The material for the second part, Microsoft Word 2007 – Foundation, was provided by SoftQuest Systems Ltd, Abuja.

Production Cost:

	Item Produced/Bought	Number	Cost (US \$)
1	LaserJet Printer Toner Cartridge	1	50.00
2	A4 Printing Paper (Rims)	4	20.00
3	Binding of printed materials	24	32.00
4	Internet Access while in Liberia	1 MTN bundle	45.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 147.00</b>

### 3. Training and Handing Over of PCs



**Training Day 2**

The training started on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August as scheduled, but with laptops which Mr. Jones was able loan from sundry places.

The whole training actually happened with the laptops, but as soon as the PCs received, the participants received a soft copy of the instruction texts and sample exercises so they could replicate this on their respective school-PCs.

There was a brief ceremony on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August, where the speech of Mr. Azigbo, the GOFA Foundation President, was read by me, following a proper introduction by Pastor Oliver Kpaan. Forms were handed out, capturing the details of the PCs being handed over to the schools, with their respective serial numbers.

A response was given by the participants, thanking GOFA Foundation for the kind gesture, and also committing to making the best use of the PCs for the



**Delivery Day**

## *Recommendations*

1. The cost of the project can be further reduced by buying the computers locally. Due to the corruption in a lot of third-world nations, some unnecessary hurdles were placed before us, like the demand of exorbitant Customs duties. If the PCs are slightly more expensive in Liberia (which was not the case), the cost of shipping and extra payments would have wiped out the difference.
2. It was discovered in conversation with some of the participants that the government owned schools had more than enough computers (donations from international bodies like USAID).



In fact, one of the schools had about 23 computers in their school. It is recommended that one sticks to the smaller private schools which are more in number, and less funded. Continued partnership with local bodies like the one headed by Pastor Kpaan will help in screening the more favorable recipients.

## *Conclusion*

The Liberia Project was a good success, and all the objectives were met.



**(l - r) Pastor Oliver Kpaan, Aanu Adepoju (trainer) and one of the representatives of a recipient school.**