



Jerry Cebulski
African Disability Foundation Inc.
"Disability does not mean inability"



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JMJ

"Year of St. Joseph"

Winter 2021

Dearly Beloved Co-Missionaries,



Please allow us to start off this newsletter with an update on Angie Cebulski, by her brother, Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop-Emeritus of Oklahoma City:

"Prayers are requested for Angie Cebulski, one of our co-presidents. Last summer Angie suffered a fall which required hospitalization. Later she came down with some infections and in October, a stroke.

After a series of hospital stays, she has returned to her own home where she is being cared for by her children and medical professionals.

Angie is now resting at home. Her spirit is joyful but she is very weak. Therefore we request prayers for Angie and her well-being. Thank you."

If anyone would like to send a note or card to Angie, please send them to Angie, care of her daughter Joann: [Angie Cebulski, c/o Joann Cebulski,](#)

[3378 E. Main Street, College Park, GA 30337.](#)

Even though most of us have been quarantined for almost one year now, time continues to fly by. Here we are, at the beginning of Lent. The sufferings of the world are so difficult to bear – persecution, malnutrition, violence and so many who have experienced great loss. Some days it is difficult to stay positive but we try to keep our faith alive and we are grateful to God for live streamed masses, stations and prayer services on the television.

All in our family in Liberia are early risers. They listen to the BBC most mornings and by 2am EST (Liberia is five hours ahead of EST), they give Kevin and I the world news of the day. They are all extremely concerned about the United States and as one of Sister's children told me the other day, "We have to pray for our own country and we all consider ourselves as an extension of America." So they continue to pray for all of us. They are grateful to all of you donors and pray for peace in our country.

Covid has invaded Liberia, but not quite to the degree it has affected us here in the U.S. Yah continues to sew and make masks and our team continues to educate their community about how to prevent Covid. They encourage their neighbors to socially distance themselves and wash their hands and wear masks. Although the

vaccine has slowly become available here in the U.S., there has been no mention of the vaccine arriving in Liberia. We imagine it will take many more months before that happens.

We have also just found out that many of the countries bordering Liberia (Guinea, Ghana, Sierra Leone) have just started showing new cases of Ebola and this has begun to spread to Liberia as well. To deal with Covid is a nightmare in itself, but to combine it now with Ebola presents a very difficult situation. We have already given orders for everyone to quarantine themselves within their own homes. Unfortunately the government did not close the borders or stop air traffic to/from the neighboring countries, guaranteeing that once again the U.S. may very well be seeing Ebola again. Needless to say, all of Sister's children are extremely frightened.

Let there be light! For the first time in more than 30 years when their civil war began, the main highway in Monrovia now has streetlights! President Weah presided over the official lighting ceremony on February 6. We pray that this will be a deterrent for criminals who gain access to the little mud huts in the areas through roofs, windows and even metal doors. The last time Monrovia saw any light was in 1999, when Sister Sponsa moved all her



children back from the Ivory Coast to the Rehab she built and had installed several street lights on the campus. Every evening, when she would turn on the lights, the people were shocked because she was the only one around that had any light. Now there is a large part of the Monrovia highway that is lit up like New York! Unfortunately, it is not too close to where we have our rented houses but hopefully soon they will extend this project to our area.



There have been more and more medical emergencies. The other day, messages from Sister's children were coming in at a rapid pace. Members of our team found a woman caring for a set of triplets. One baby girl looked to be about two pounds, while the other two babies were double her weight. The triplets were two months old and were temporarily being cared for by a woman who recently had her own baby. The triplets' mom was still in the hospital recovering from childbirth, so this woman volunteered to feed the triplets and her own newborn child all at the same time.

Lovetta, as per our instructions, took the three babies, Kebbeh, Deddeh and Fobay to the clinic and it was discovered that the smallest little girl, Fobay, was suffering from pneumonia. From there, Lovetta took them to St. Joseph's Hospital. After being examined, she was instructed to take them to a Doctors Without Borders hospital where they were better equipped to take care of their needs. The triplets remained there for two

weeks until we were able to rent a house with a septic system for the family. We had it disinfected, scrubbed and painted. This will be called St. Joseph's House.

Our team gathered bottles, specialized formula, beds and linens and set up a whole new home. The mother was discharged from the hospital and she and her sister and the three babies moved into their new house. I only wish you could have seen their faces when they saw what Sister Sponsa's kids had arranged. The mother was living in a mud hut overrun with mice and rodents. There was no way we could send these malnourished infants back to the squalor of the mud hut. So, they are now safe in their new clean home with their family.



Just the other day, Lovetta received another emergency phone call. This was from the mother of a little three year old boy named Charles. This past November 2020, Charles had developed what Liberians refer to as a "rising" above his left eye. A rising is generally a small pimple like mass on the skin that can grow very large if left untreated. Normally, many Liberians pop these growths in order to treat them, which is extremely dangerous. Charles' mom had let this rising grow for two months until it had invaded the eye socket and then decided to pop the mass. This had the unfortunate result of the poisonous contents of the

growth entering the boy's left eye. Within a few weeks, the flesh around his eye became severely discolored and the eye became more and more distended and now after two plus months with no treatment, the eye now protrudes from its socket and his vision has been destroyed. Lovetta and Henry brought Charles to a local eye hospital that opened in the last two years, where doctors are planning to operate on Charles to remove the damaged eye and to save the vision in his good right eye. Please pray for Charles and his mother as it will take time for this boy to recover from this terrible ordeal. The surgery is extremely expensive and will cost nearly \$1,000 but to save a child's eyesight in his right eye when he is only three years old, we could not turn him away and allow the child to go totally blind, as we were assured that the poisonous materials from the affected eye could easily spread to his good one.

Fighting has begun up on the Ivory Coast and shows no sign of letting up. In order to escape persecution, Ivorians are fleeing with their families into Liberia and every day more and more are dying of malnutrition. There are so many disabled and they are carried for miles in order to find half a cup of rice. You see, Sister Sponsa's name continues to be known throughout this entire country. They are always looking for Sister because they knew she would always help the poor and the needy. We are finding it more and more difficult to take care of Sister's children and the hundreds of disabled who come searching for a cup of clean water or a little food.

At Christmastime, there were so many people struggling in the community in which we are based in Liberia, many not having eaten anything for days. Our team decided to have another food giveaway. Bags of rice, eggs, milk and other food necessities were gathered and distributed to numerous impoverished children from Pipeline Community. This would most certainly be a Christmas they would never forget. All of our team and the boys from our Mission House helped distribute food bags to throngs of extremely grateful area children. Once again, this is all thanks to the generosity of each of you, our beloved donors who dare to sacrifice to help HIS Least.



Much to our surprise, we are going to have six weddings in 2021! We have encouraged many of our couples with children and those living together to get married. Sister Sponsa would be so happy to hear this good news. Of course, even modest weddings come with various expenses. We try to help out those disabled getting married with the cost of the marriage certificates (\$200), mandatory medical exams (\$150), clothing for the bride and groom and of course, their children also have to be dressed. This year, there will be no receptions because of Covid, but we hope to have a large celebration one day when Covid is no longer a threat. During such challenging times, it is nice to hear some good news for a change.



Recently, we had two graduations. Abraham, who lives in our Mission House, graduated from High School, and Yah, who is our mask maker and seamstress, received an Associate's degree in Language Arts. Without your assistance, this would never have been possible. They thank you from the bottom of their hearts!

Sadly, since the beginning of December, we have had many funerals. Some were for mothers who died in childbirth, parents who were hit by cars or motorbikes and others who have died from illness.

Steven, one of Sister's disabled sons and our resident wheelchair mechanic, has been keeping busy in his shop repairing many wheelchairs we have in storage as well as those that become damaged over time. Just recently, two of our disabled received newly repaired wheelchairs from him. Lorena and Alex and their mothers were ecstatic at their new mode of transport. Steven even fitted both chairs with seatbelts to prevent the children from falling out. Thanks Steven for your great work!!

We want to thank you all for your support over the past year. In the past, many of you have received personal notes of thanks from us as we received your donations. Prior to her fall last summer, Angie would write each of these notes out with individual care. Since then, we have been



struggling to keep up with these thank you notes while Angie recovers. If you send us a donation, we will now send out a simple thank you note expressing our gratitude. We apologize if we have missed anyone who has donated and please know we appreciate each of you enormously and you are all in our prayers and in the prayers of Sister Sponsa's disabled and the entire JCADF Family. For those of you who may normally send your donations directly to Angie, we ask that you please send them to us at the address at the end of this newsletter as between unreliable mails and Angie not being physically able to forward these to us, this will ensure that your donation is received.

2020 tax letters have been sent out to all who have donated in the last year. Please know that if you do not receive your letter from us within 2 weeks, please contact us and we will immediately send another copy out to you via snail mail or email.

Covid has taken a tremendous toll on every non-profit. War has broken out in the Ivory Coast and every day, more and more disabled show up seeking assistance. Prices in Liberia are outrageous, especially food and hospital care, and yet we are trying the best we can to keep everyone alive and safe. We have tried to cut down on daily essentials but with the loss of so many donors and the increase in so many who have not eaten for days, it is now costing us almost \$7,000 a month just to feed those that we have in our program. Every penny you donate goes back into the program. No one receives a salary. These are trying, stressful times. When we see soup kitchens here filled with people begging for food, we know the times are really tough. The generosity that each of you has shown has saved so many lives. We trust in God and we pray that things do not get any worse on either side of the ocean. We are so grateful to each of you for helping us to feed and care for so many.

One of our team members, Chris Kyne would like to say a word of thanks to all of you:



"My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a long time since I last wrote to you. I want to use this time to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of you for the years of support of the disabled of Liberia. You are all the source of our energy. Without you, we are nothing. God comes first and all of you are second in our lives.

We are on our knees every day and night praying for you for God's protection. We pray that God protects you from the bad weather conditions and from the political uprising and destruction in the United States. We also pray that God will save and protect you from all diseases affecting the whole world today.

Please do not forget us.

Love you all, but God loves you best! " - Chris Kyne

Once you have read this newsletter, we ask that you please pass it along to your friends and family members who may be interested in supporting our important work. We wish you all a Blessed Lenten season and we hope you stay safe and healthy. God Bless each of you. Once again thank you for sharing and caring for His least.

In His Merciful Name,

Angie Cebulski

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We Need Help !!

