

JUST FOR THE NEWS



Eternal Love Winning Africa
Radio - Health Care - Education - Services



July 2021

a ministry of  **SIM**
By Prayer



Meet the ELWA Executive Director

In September 2020, the search for an Executive Director for ELWA Ministries culminated in the hiring of Mrs. Millicent O. Gargli. Mrs. Gargli and her husband have been

connected to SIM for decades, as part of the Monrovia Evangelical Church since the 80's and attending JETS Seminary in Nigeria. She comes with outstanding executive experience in the Government of Liberia and Monrovia City Corporation.

At her installation program, Mrs. Gargli addressed the ELWA staff with passion for the work. She feels ELWA Ministries has "a compelling vision that capitalizes on [the] great capabilities," of its leaders and staff. She called the staff to strive for individual excellence in the quality of their work to represent themselves, the ministry, and the Lord Jesus in the best light.

It was a challenging time to step into the position, as the ELWA Ministries is facing a dire financial situation. The past few years of inflation, growth of the hospital, currency shortages and exchange rate volatility, and contraction of income in the Covid pandemic put the ministries in difficulty. SIM and ELWA are working closely to put things in order, but it is a daily battle to control expenses and generate the income needed. Keep Mrs. Gargli and the ELWA Department leaders in prayer as they face this challenge, while they keep their mission for the Lord in the forefront.

Give to the projects in this newsletter by starting at www.sim.org/donate and find the SIM office in your country. Use the project numbers to designate your gift.

ELWA Ministries, Liberia
is a ministry of SIM-Liberia
Robertsfield Highway, Paynesville, Liberia
<https://www.elwaministries.com/>

 SIM-Liberia

Covid surges in 2021

In March 2020, as the rest of the world faced the first wave of Covid-19, ELWA Hospital prepared as best they could. Considering that better equipped hospitals were being overwhelmed, the staff and administration braced for the worst. Thankfully, the outbreak in Liberia was limited in 2020. Then, in May 2021, people began to experience 2-week bouts of a pneumonia-like illness, fatigue, and slow recoveries: it sounded like Covid. In June, the country was shocked by a sudden rise in acute illness and deaths. The number of deaths from suspected Covid at ELWA Hospital jumped from one or two, to 10, to 29, in two weeks!

With oxygen being the most essential treatment for these patients, every day was a race to ensure the supply would meet the need. The ER became the Covid ward, with its direct hook-ups to the oxygen plant. The hospital truck often made two trips a day across town to exchange empty tanks. Thankfully, the electricity supply from LEC was very reliable in June to keep the oxygen flowing and the lights on for this round-the-clock work.

The compassionate care of ELWA Hospital nurses has been appreciated by patients. Some refused transfer to a free bed at the government facility because they were so well cared for at ELWA. The ER supervisor Patience testifies that God has taken away the fear that they felt last year (in part due to vaccinations), and helped them focus on calming the patients and their families, telling them to trust God to get them through.

Donations of PPE, oxygen, drugs and fuel given by the UN, Sethi Brothers, government officials, and the Gbowe foundation are greatly appreciated, but they will subside. In the meantime, the hospital must keep its guard up and reserve the ER beds for Covid patients. Please help ELWA Hospital continue full operations and its other ministries in this time by giving to project **95214 ELWA Hospital Covid-19 Relief** at sim.org/donate.





Pediatric and Malnutrition programs save lives

When Mikey and Beth Bryant first came to ELWA Hospital in 2019, they wondered why the pediatric service wasn't busier. Surely, the need for children's healthcare was greater than we were seeing. With assistance from colleagues in Swansea Bay, Wales, they launched a discounted outpatient clinic for children under 5 years. They soon added a malnutrition service, both inpatient and outpatient. Very quickly, the clinic had to expand from 3 days a week to every day.

This special service is rescuing children from the brink of death. Some parents don't even recognize their children's symptoms of malnutrition: they misinterpret bloating as "fat" and the child's lethargy as laziness. The nurses in the service have been trained to recognize urgent, acute illness in kids and admit them to the pediatric ward. Drugs and bed fees are subsidized so families can afford the hospitalization.

One of the babies they saved is Ernest. He arrived at 8 months old, with the complaint of fainting and losing breath. Doctors determined he had a heart defect. Because he needed constant oxygen, he and his momma lived on the peds ward until funds were raised through SIM and other partners to send Ernest to India for a unique heart surgery. Just as he and his mom arrived there, Covid surged! But he got the surgery and recently arrived home. He is happy and healthy now!!

Thanks to all those who prayed and donated for Ernest! Every month, ELWA Hospital waives more than \$12,000 in charges to people who cannot afford to pay for their urgent medical care. You can give to the **Benevolence project (LR 82876)** can help offset these waivers, so the hospital can continue to extend benevolence to those in need.



A major milestone for Technical Services

On March 6, the generators at ELWA went silent, but the lights stayed on! After years of retooling, the campus was hooked up the Liberian Electric Company (LEC), which provided over 90% of our power needs in May and June. Completion of this project came just in time. After running nearly non-stop since December 2019, two Cummins engines were showing signs of exhaustion. First one machine needed fuel injectors, then the other suffered a cracked cylinder. With only one generator online when LEC was off, campus residents went without power in the daytime to prioritize the hospital. At least one day, there was no power at all, a worst-case scenario.

Now the cylinder has been replaced, and the entire campus can run on the generators. Huge thanks go to powerhouse team, for the long days and nights they put in.

The next challenge is to overhaul the third Cummins machine sitting dormant—the backup for our backup. Right now, ELWA does not have the cash on hand to fund this overhaul. The **Campus Upgrade project (LR 95348)** has just been renewed to provide for the overhaul and other improvements to the Technical Services and Security operations.

PLEASE PRAY!!

- ◆ In spite of the recent surge, pray Liberia will continue to be spared from a rampant outbreak of Covid-19
- ◆ For ELWA leaders to have wisdom and discipline to correct the financial condition of the ministries.
- ◆ For Liberia's school children to have their schedule return to normal for learning's sake.
- ◆ For God's provision for our staff, who are dedicated to serving God and their fellow Liberians through ELWA Ministries.
- ◆ For the gospel to always be clearly spoken in our ministries