



2020 IM Palmer Grant Awardee

A “Smart Campus” for the Lott Carey Mission School in Liberia

The **Lott Carey Baptist Mission School** in Brewerville, Liberia, which was established in 1908 by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention USA, is planning to advance into the second decade of the 21st century by creating a “smart campus.” Not being satisfied with its century-old, well-deserved reputation in traditional education, this school for Kindergarten through twelfth-grade students plans to:

1. develop an interactive and engaging school website for accessing such information as educational materials and academic reports.
2. create an Information Communication Technology system for distance/remote learning and virtual conferences and meetings.

This will advance the Christian-based academic curriculum, which instills faith-based values necessary for leadership and world citizenship.

With the motto of Character, Industry, Scholarship the school currently has 376 students and 101 employees—including faculty, administrative personnel, and support staff. One of the key advantages of having a “smart campus” will be the capability for virtual, short-term mission experiences, faculty development/training workshops, intensive elective classes for students, and opportunities for participation in worship services and other campus events.

Toward the conclusion of the 2014 school year, as devastating as it was, the Ebola epidemic in Liberia resulted in students losing just two months of academic work. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, students lost eight months out of the academic year! The “smart campus,” which will include distance learning/virtual classes,

would lessen such consequential disruptions and improve the overall standard of school operations in the future. The effectiveness of the “smart campus” will be measured by the increased number of students that will benefit from the quality education provided by the school and the virtual communication available to faculty and staff.

It is important to note that Lott Carey was the first American Baptist missionary appointed to Africa (1821). The Rev. Dr. Charles Jones, International Ministries (IM's) Area Director for Europe, the Middle East, and Liberia states:

“Assisting the Lott Carey Baptist Mission School to fulfill this dream of creating a ‘smart campus’ is exciting! This will increase staff and faculty capacity in providing a progressive educational environment, and hopefully inspire students and their families to dream of brighter futures and a better world. We are very grateful and thankful to the Palmer Grant Committee of the Foundation for awarding this grant.”





2020 ABHMS Palmer Grant Awardee

Out-of-School Time Enrichment & Virtual Program

“If I can help somebody” was the life motto of the Rev. Robert Burdette (1947-1999). Bob was the Associate Pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston, West Virginia from 1986 until 1995 and the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sistersville until his death from cancer. Adopted as a child, Bob possessed a sensitivity to children in need. The fulfillment of his vision “to help somebody” was the establishment of a center for an after school program that offered a safe-haven where students could receive homework assistance, a snack, and a safe recreational environment away from the perils of their high-crime neighborhood.



The center, which now bears his name, provides out-of-school time programming at four sites to 170 children in Kindergarten through 12th grade. They live on the West Side of Charleston, an area whose population is composed of 47% white, 37% black, and 14% multi-racial. A majority of the students (82%) come from homes considered as low income, and 17% are in a special-education status.

When the governor of West Virginia issued a stay-at-home order in March 2020, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bob Burdette Center (BBC) responded by providing digital enrichment content on its Facebook page as well as virtual tutoring services. It also connected with students and families via telephone calls and letters.

Sam Sommerville, the President of BBC's Board, explains the steps to come:

“As a result of the Palmer Grant, which was awarded through the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), we plan to promote student social and emotional competencies through virtual programming as well as instruction, practice, and reflection using the Second Step Out-of-School Time curriculum. This resource is a research-based program that helps support youth development and build more positive communities through social-emotional learning. Moreover, it is proven that a sense of stability—resulting from relationships and social-emotional competencies—builds resilience and helps children thrive in challenging situations.”

Bob Burdette Center believes that adult-student relationships are important, particularly to children and youth who live in a community rife with broken and hurting families. Therefore, strategies are planned that will combine weekly in-person, digital, and virtual engagement with students in academic and enrichment programming provided both during the school year and the summer. BBC's inspiring goal is for the development of healthy futures for the students, based on the awareness that there is an adult present in their lives whom they can trust—a BBC staff member or mentor.



The **Virginia and Gordon Palmer Jr. Trust (VGPT)** of the American Baptist Foundation seeks to support priority ministries in partnership with our members: *American Baptist Home Missions Societies (ABHMS)*, the *Multi-Region Corporation (MRC)*, and *International Ministries (IM)*. The VGPT was created in 1999 as a permanent endowment to the *American Baptist Foundation (ABF)*. The Trust is to be administered by ABF in accordance with established guidelines and principles.



For 2020, ABF administered two grant cycles, with a total of 15 *International Ministries (IM)* and 44 *American Baptist Home Missions Societies (ABHMS)* grant awardees. The 2020 Palmer Grant Awardees are;

American Baptist Home Mission (ABHMS)

New Life Christian Fellowship

Connecting and Caring

Victory Hills Baptist Church

Community of Hope Assisted by Technology

Neighborhoods Focused On African-American Youth, Inc.

Community Study Hall - Network Of Connections

Somerset Academy Inc.

Study Circles

Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico

ConneCTED

Antioch in the Ville CDA

Food Stability

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Resiliency Initiative for Technology and Digital Infrastructure

Bob Burdette Center, Inc.

Bob Burdette Center Out-of-School Time Enrichment and Virtual Program

Praise Chapel World Outreach

PC Community Outreach Ministries

Salama Urban Ministries

Family Engagement Program

St. Paul's Baptist Church

Regaining Hope Through Collaboration/Project Hope

Chin Association of Maryland

Regaining Stability through Collaboration

Ottawa University

SilverLinings: Thought, Word, Deed

Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries MBMM

ACE Center COVID-19 Recovery Programs

Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches

Wholeness and Racial Reconciliation

Karen Baptist Churches in USA

Journey of Hope

Convent Avenue Baptist Church

YAs Advocating for Change

American Baptist Churches of LA, SW & HI

Youth Leadership Training Program

Shiloh Baptist Church

Tennis Rocks

Benedict College

BC Connects - BC Strong: Strengthening the Mind and Spirit

Friendship House of Christian Service

Friendship House of Christian Service Program for At-Risk Teens

JOYA Scholars

Junior High and High School College Readiness Programs

Detroit Friendship House

COVID Needs Assessment for Immigrant Population

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Building Resilience in a Time of Adversity

Bethel Neighborhood Center

The Bethel Refugees Crisis Intervention Program.

Bacone College

The Spiritual Circle of Sharing

Great Expectations Ministries

Great Expectations Music Project

Milwaukee Christian Center

MCC Older Adult Center: Wellness in the COVID era

First Baptist Church Middletown

Virtual Connections - "Helping Hearts Team"

Corporacion Milagros del Amor

Providing Stability to the homeless and undeserved

Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries

Super Kids Advance

CrossWalk Community Church

Kitchen Renovation

American Baptist Home Mission (ABHMS) continued

Markey Church

*Race, Faith, & Justice - A Joint Pilgrimage between
First Baptist Detroit and Markey Church*

Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University

*Renewing Hope Among Spiritual Care-Givers: A Collaborative
Praxis Approach Among Palmer Theological Seminary's Alumni*

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

*Consultation and Training with Grantees of
"COVID Recovery Through Christian Witness and Ministry"*

Virginia Union University

*Caring for the Caregivers: Fostering Renewed Hope through
Virtual Collaboration amid COVID-19*

Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology

*Deliberate Dialogues: Hearing Past Division and
Defensiveness to Healing*

Harrisena Community Church

God's Love Beyond the Walls

Eloheh/Eagle's Wings

Reconnect Indigenous Portland-Metro

American Baptist Seminary of the West

Maintaining Stability in the Midst of a Pandemic

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska

Ministry in the Midst of Crisis

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Creating Community Through Baseball/Softball

Bridges Puentes Prison Ministry

Beyond The Walls

Preston Taylor Ministries

PTM Connect

International Ministries (IM)

International Ministries (IM) & IM partners in India

From Everywhere to Everyone in Action

International Ministries (IM) & the Ao Baptist Church Association

*Prepare Asian churches to share the gospel contextually and
relevantly in the Post-COVID era*

Real Hope Church in Mongolia

Restore hope and dignity of life in Christ

India Mission Coordination Committee (IMCC)

*Unite Telugu Baptists to advance evangelism, discipleship, and
church planting*

International Ministries

Bachelor of Theology for vulnerable groups

Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary

Providing Electricity to the Seminary Campus

Mission Partnerships, European Baptist Federation

Church Planting in Europe, Middle East and Central Asia

Lott Carey Baptist Mission School

Creating a "Smart Campus"

Trees of Peace, Africa

*Empowering Vulnerable Women through Tailoring and
Micro-Enterprise*

Kingdom of Peace and Development

*Peace Building and Sharing the Gospel through
Radio Talk Show Broadcast*

United Baptist Church of Zimbabwe

*Christian Leadership and Governance Training for UBCZ
Board Members*

Baptist Biblical Institute of Togo (IBBT)

Scholarships for Students at the Baptist Biblical Institute of Togo

Thailand Karen Baptist Convention

"Casket Empty" Translation

Samaritana Transformation Ministries, Inc.

Women's Economic Development Project



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