



January 28, 2006

From: Wilhelmina  
To: All Chapters' Heads/Members  
Subject: Progress from the school

*—Wilkins*

The Following is the report from Darren Walker during his visit to the school.

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is doing well and ready for the "New Year." As for me, I am fine. I returned on the 5th of January but had to undergo some medical treatment for a previous illness. Anyway all is well now, thanks to the Almighty.

During my visit to Monrovia, I met with both the Vice Principal (Mr. Cole) and Principal (Rev. Philips). I also had the opportunity of observing the Student Council elections especially the debate which I found very exciting. I was subsequently introduced to the entire student body and then given a tour of the school. Attached are some of the photos taken during the tour.

#### Discussion with the Principal

Reverend Philips explained to me that many of the projects (including the barb wire project) she had embarked on had been completed and that she was still in the process of completing other projects such as the painting of the school. She did inform me that the Library is in dire need of new books particularly elementary books, math books, and most importantly, a new dictionary for the Library. She also mentioned that the BWHEAA had committed to send some computers for the school but those computers have not been received hitherto the day we met.

#### Donation

The Class of "88" had earlier discussed with Rev. Phillips about the possibility of setting up a scholarship fund in memory of one of its Economics teachers (Mr. Nii Koteh Nikoi). Rev. Phillips had found a student who met the requirements for the scholarship. While there I did the following:

\*Presented the amount of \$120 USD on behalf of the Class of "88" as payment towards the student's first semester tuition.

\*Made a personal donation of a Palm Handheld Computing Device worth \$150 USD to be given to the student with the highest average in Science. I felt the need to do so since I too, on several occasions, received similar prizes for good grades while at the school.

Rev. Phillips thanked both the class and myself for the donations and said she anticipates similar generosity in future.

#### My assessment

##### The School

During the tour I noticed that the internal part of the school was well painted. All classrooms were in good shape and neatly painted. The Cafeteria is in excellent shape and so are the offices and auditorium. The barb-wired fence protects the school from outsider intrusion and from students escaping campus. The Library is in poor condition and needs help desperately. The external part of the school requires painting desperately as the photos attached illustrate. I am not sure it's part of Rev. Philips' projects since I forgot to ask about that.

##### Students

From what I saw during the elections debate, I'd say discipline is something that is taken very seriously. The morale of the student body seemed high. But then again, I was only there for a few hours. I did notice a student ask one of the candidates for Student Council a very interesting question. His question was; "What would the Student Council do to improve the relation between the student body and their principal?" I thought that was a bit of an interesting question. However, Rev. Philips later explained that the student was disgruntled because he had gone through a disciplinary process. I also spoke with student James Kiawon, an eleven year-old student who is currently in the 10th grade. An excellent student he is, Kiawon was one a candidate for the position of treasurer. He informed me that he has aspirations of attending college either in the U.S. of A. or at the University of Liberia.

##### Recommendations

##### The Library

The Library is in a dilapidated condition and needs new books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, globe, even computers. At least two computers with Internet connection will suffice for the Library. This will allow students to do research and perhaps engage in other educational activities on the Internet with students of other cultures/countries.

##### Science Lab

While I did not get a chance to visit or ask about a Science Laboratory, I believe the school will benefit by having one. Something that parallels the one we had while we were there or better. At the very least, one should be there for students.

## Computer Lab

We live in a time in which technology has changed our way of living. Our students, despite the use of cellular technology still do not know the fundamentals that are required to enter today's workforce. They have to attend computer schools to learn basic computer applications. Many of the jobs in Liberia today require some computer skill and most Liberians cannot afford the colossal costs of attending computer school which contributes to the high unemployment rate. Installing a small computer lab at the school with basic computer applications will not only give the school competitive advantage, but will also prepare our students for the workforce and college. The lab of which I speak could be a 10-computer lab with or without Internet connection, but must include word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and typing programs.

Hope this helps!

Good day,

darren