For two weeks prior to my trip to Liberia, I became nostalgic. I was dreaming and longing to be in a place I call home. I was thinking about all I would do and the people I would see and the Liberian people who speak in a way that no other group of people speak.

When I arrived in Liberia, I was met with the heat of the country’s December air. There were more lights in the Robertsfield area this time around and it felt good to be home again. With all its problems, Liberia is and always will be home. Our goal on this trip was to get Liberians fully acquainted with the Ward Fund and its work. We accomplished this goal in a very big way. We want to thank our friend, Robtel Pailey, for her assistance in this endeavor.

It was the perfect opportunity to tell the story of the Victor E. Ward Educational Fund’s journey for the last 10 years: at the Homecoming Reception for Diaspora Liberians at the Foreign Ministry. The Ward Fund Chairperson told those in attendance that the Fund was born out of grief over the death of her father; however, the organization has taken on a life of its own and now it is about helping young Liberians who want to study in the field of science.
Ward Fund Interviews with UNMIL Radio Station

Delano Ward, Executive member of the Ward Educational Fund Board of Directors secured a spot for the Ward Fund on the Liberia UNMIL Radio Station’s Dateline News on Dec 27th. Robin Togba, the news reporter interviewed Vickie Ward, Vivian Ward-Worjloh and Delano Ward about the role the Ward Fund is playing in Liberia’s growth and development. Below is the Ward Team and the UNMIL Radio team:

The Ward Educational Fund Adopts a Liberian Orphanage

The Ward Educational Fund met with the Director of the Bishop Judith Cray United Methodist Church Orphanage on the day after Christmas. Vickie Ward, the Chairperson of the Fund told the Director, Mr. Fred Logan that the Ward Fund will provide books, computers and musical equipment for the orphanage to enhance its educational programs. The Ward Family members are long-time, staunch Methodists. The once patriarch of the family, Rev. Dr. T. Ebenezer Ward, was Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Monrovia for several years. The delegation from the Ward Fund delivered cold soft drinks, cookies and several packs of cream of wheat for the children.
Vickie Ward was a special guest of the President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Emmet A. Dennis, and was invited to sit on the dais with the President of Liberia, Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; the Guest Speaker, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Liberia, Zhou Yuxiao; officials of the Liberian government and other foreign dignitaries at the 89th Commencement Program of the State University. The commencement was held at the S.K.D. Stadium, where over 2,000 graduates, including 5 Ward Fund beneficiaries: Mike Nepay, Prince Quayeson, Prince Dehnue, Kleeker jukor-yan, and Roland Kaykay in the field of Chemistry received a 4-year diploma. The Ward Fund provides scholarships to UL students pursuing a degree in science, particularly in Chemistry.
Vickie Ward told the students and guests at the grand opening of the Victor E. Ward Science Center that her dream of a Center to commemorate the life work of her late father had finally come to fruition after a long 5 years. The Resource Center will be a quiet place where chemistry and other students in the field of science can retreat for study, use tutorial computer software, attend chemistry lecture series and view chemistry films on DVD for years to come. The Ward Fund presented a projector, a Dell laptop and speakers, along with lab supplies, chemistry textbooks and lab manuals and lab equipment, including a triple beam balance, an analytic balance and a chromatograph. Students watched a chemistry lecture on DVD, enjoyed refreshments and the movie Akeelah and the Bee. Major donors to this project include, Dr. James Elliott, Dr. Thomas Gbatu, Dr. Zwannah Dukuly, Dr. Albert Schuleter, and Dr. Amy Howell, UCONN.

2010 Chemistry Department graduates display Ward Fund T-shirts at the Grand Opening and Dedication of the Resource Center.

Delano Ward, son of the late Professor Ward, leafs through an Organic Chemistry textbook at the Center. The Ward Fund announced the arrival of a 40 foot container, which has 3,000 chemistry books and journals, along with computers for the Center. The long-term goal for the Center is to host videoconferencing and distance learning programs.
What a blessing it was for me to serve as a guest lecturer at the youth convention of the Global Mission, Inc.! We underestimated the distance from Monrovia to Bomi Hills, so we arrived two hours late for the program. Traffic going across the bridge was not friendly at all, so we knew we had to deliver the best lecture to appease the young people. Our assigned topic was Dealing with Anger in Post-War Liberia, and rightfully so, one of the young women told me, she was angry at me for being 2 hours late. She said she had to wait in the hot church for 2 hours. I agreed with her and told her that she had handled her anger in the best way by being vocal about it in a calm manner. The young people sang from their hearts upon my arrival and although I was exhausted from the long ride and physically drained from the heat, my spirits were lifted to see a vibrant youth ministry. The young people could have been anywhere else that morning doing the things that most young people do, but the youth of Global Missions, Inc. chose to spend their morning and afternoon with God.

Written By Vickie E. Ward
MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR DECEMBER 2010 TRIP TO LIBERIA

Dr. Emmet Dennis and Dr. Mardia Stone
PHOTOS CONTINUED

We even found some time for friends, fun and Relaxation
On December 30th, the Ward Fund held its Crystal Appreciation Dinner at the P.A’s Ribhouse in Lakpazee to recognize those Liberians who reside in Liberia and have provided assistance to the Ward Fund in the last 10 years. They were: Mrs. Theresa Leigh Sherman, Mr. Wynslow Reeves, Mrs. Diana Draper Allen, Mr. Leon Banks, Professor Alexander George, and Mr. Franklin Bundoo. The guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal and listened to jazz music. The Ward Fund premiered its 2010 Video presentation, which showcased all of its contributions to the University of Liberia and the country.

Ward Fund beneficiaries gave testimonials during the evening’s festivities. Dr. Emmet A. Dennis was our Guest Speaker.

2010 PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Photos FROM THE CRYSTAL APPRECIATION DINNER