

# CONNECTING THE CHURCH IN MISSION



A vegetable nursery in Klay, Bomi County of Liberia



## 4th Missionary Newsletter-2020: Farmers in Liberia share their sustained successes in organic farming .

Nothing beats a thankful heart and thanksgiving is the perfect occasion to let your heart speak for all the things that you are grateful for. We should all remain grateful to God for His mercies in spite of the pandemic, an urgent crisis that has made us all feel powerless. But perhaps feeling small is the best reminder to pray. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we "let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns" (Phil.4:6-7,). Prayer is never the last resort of God's people. It is our first point of action. As we have prayed over this extraordinary period of pain and distress, we have remembered farmers in Liberia who received UMCOR's training in integrated pest management several years ago (more than 12 years ago). In a rare surprise, these farmers have told great stories of how the knowledge they gained during the trainings offered by UMCOR in the early 2000s have stayed with them ever since. The purpose of this short newsletter is to bring to you three of such stories of the multiplier effect of UMCOR trainings. In spite of the pain of food insecurity in the US, caused by the pandemic there are 3 stories to lift up your hearts as you dine this Thanksgiving even without all your family.

Jenneh Gobolo is a 51-year old widow with 3 children aged 16, 21 and 25. She also has benefited indirectly from various trainings organized by UMCOR in soil, crops and pest management. In fact, she was a business woman, buying agricultural products from local farmers and then selling these on the local market. However, the profit was not enough to support her and family. Jenneh therefore decided to join the group that was formed after UMCOR's training and learned basic sustainable farming methods. As a result she has been able to adequately care for her family as a single parent. She has used her business ideas to her advantage and manages her sales of vegetables very well with good profits.

## Please pray for me and family:

We need to pray to our Lord, our God who is our shelter and strength and always ready to help in times of trouble. We all need God's protection in these difficult times. Toni is in his final semester of coursework at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada and will soon begin his final examinations. Please hold him up in prayer to the finishing line. Selma has been successful with the first clinical year and will move on to the second clinical year next January when schools have been recalled. We are grateful to all for your continued prayers and support. Selma passed her exams in this unprecedented year of challenges.

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Johnson Harris' organic cabbage

Sanoe Ketty is a 44-year old female with 5 children. Sanoe along with her husband have been trained in organic farming methods by other farmers who benefitted from the first trainings conducted by UMCOR. This has helped the family to continue in vegetable production and to adequately care for their own children and children of relatives. The couple currently has purchased a piece of land and constructed their own house. They say the quality of their lives has improved in ways they could not imagine. They now have the capacity to support their children in school. They have been food secure and have had good harvests even in this unprecedented year. They say thanks to all who have supported the initial UMCOR trainings in Liberia and for which they too have benefitted.

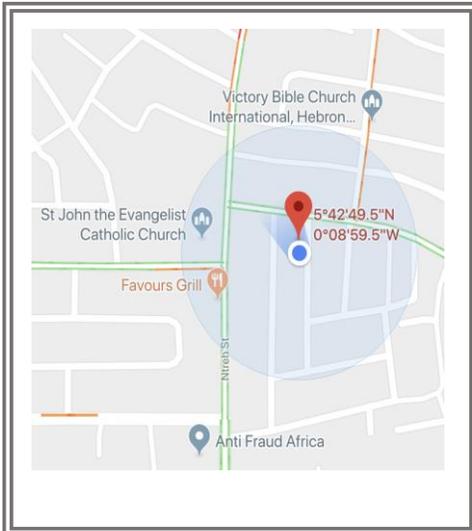
Johnson Harris is a 31-year old single male with a 2-year old child and three adult dependants. Johnson is son of Korvah Harris who led the first group formed in Liberia after the first training in Integrated Pest Management in 2005. Johnson benefitted from training led by his father Korvah and has since taken keen interest in organic vegetable farming. Johnson is currently one of the lead vegetable farmers in Klay, Bomi County of Liberia. He is able to support his fiancé, young child and three dependants. At present he is working with a number of youth, training them to understand and practice sustainable agriculture initiatives.

UMCOR's trainings are long lasting and sustainable. These trainings have led to food security in several communities and have helped transform the lives of tens of thousands of families across Africa where UMCOR's presence has been felt. All these families, with grateful hearts, wish all the supporters of UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture program a blessed Thanksgiving. They have wished they could give back to the food banks in the US at this time when some millions of people are out of work and unable to fend for their families. Unable to give back in the way they have thought, they are committed to sharing in their successes with the millions of unfortunate and destitute families in Africa and have committed to sharing in their knowledge in Sustainable Agriculture and applying ecological principles to sustain the environment and contribute positively to offsetting climate change.



Johnson Harris' organic mixed vegetable garden

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