



Contributed / Tim Burchill

Christine Burchill, center, visits with children at the Living is Giving farm in Liberia.

Living is Giving making progress in Liberia

Christine and Tim Burchill say the needs continue in west African nation

BY KATHY STEINER
The Jamestown Sun

JAMESTOWN — Tim and Christine Burchill say their nonprofit has come a long way in three years, but there are still challenges along with new goals to help improve the lives of people in Liberia, West Africa. “We’ve made a lot of progress,” Tim said.

In 2022, the couple formed Living is Giving to help people in Liberia with food insecurity after learning about their plight through Liberians living in Jamestown. Living is Giving, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is registered with the Liberian government as an international non-government organization (NGO), a term used for privately funded foreign groups and organizations doing humanitarian projects there, The Jamestown Sun reported in 2023.

Following a military coup and two civil wars between 1989 and 2003, most of Liberia’s economy and infrastructure were destroyed, Tim said. Although Liberia now has a democratically elected government, the government is embedded with corruption and little progress has been made to rebuild, he said. Poverty is rampant.

While education is free, there are few qualified teachers or adequate school facilities and few students attend school because their families can’t afford to feed them and pay for school uniforms and supplies, the Burchills said.

They decided to help people in Liberia by reducing food insecurity, giving them more disposable income to pay for school fees. Living is Giving purchased 1 acre of land for a farm in Liberia.

After Christine spoke about the nonprofit at a Jamestown Kiwanis meeting, Si and Martha Liechty and their grandson and his wife, Ryan and Amanda Kingsriter, along with others also wanted to help financially. With their support, more land was purchased, bringing the farm to a total of 6 acres. The farm is located in

“The bush takes over again if you don’t keep after it. In two years, if we left that land idle, bush would take over again and it would be all shrubs and new growth. You have to keep at it all the time.”

TIM BURCHILL

Careysburg City, about 20 miles from the capital of Monrovia. All 6 acres of the farm have been cleared, Christine said. But it’s an ongoing effort, Tim said.

“The bush takes over again if you don’t keep after it,” Tim said. “In two years, if we left that land idle, bush would take over again and it would be all shrubs and new growth. You have to keep at it all the time.”

Within the Careysburg City boundaries are small villages including Frank Town, which is located near the farm, Tim said. Fifteen women who live at Frank Town work at the farm, which is overseen by Executive Director Bill Woyah. The women are divided into three teams and each team has total control of a section of land, Christine said.

“We still own it but they farm it as they choose and then they can do as they choose with the produce off of it,” she said.

They also help with labor on other plots outside of their own sections, Tim said, and share in some of that produce as well. Others in need also benefit from the produce.

Living is Giving provides the inputs such as seed, equipment and other things needed to operate the farm, Tim said.

“We even give them food while they’re working,” Christine said. “The day laborers, like for



Contributed / Christine Burchill

Tim Burchill, left, visits with Sam Menworleh, accountant and technical assistant for the Living is Giving farm near Frank Town, Liberia.

heavy stuff, clearing bush, things like that, they come in and we pay them.”

Those farming the land use Farming God’s Ways practices, which are conservation methods that lead to greater productivity, Tim said. Mulching is important for the crops to keep the weeds down and save moisture. All the work is done by hand, and the only tool used is a hoe.

“We don’t do any cultivation,” Tim said. “When you come to the land, if you’re expecting to see a plowed field with nice straight furrows like I love to see in North Dakota, that’s not what you see. It’s a no-till situation. Because if you till in Liberia in the rainy season, the topsoil just washes away. And that’s the way a lot of them were farming. People in Africa, they just don’t know that there are other ways to do it until you teach them.”

There are two growing seasons, so there are two harvests each year. The dry season is from November to about March, and the wet season is the remainder of the year.

Cassava (kuh saa vuh)

is still the main crop but they are diversifying into others such as plantains, cucumbers and corn, Tim said. They’ve grown carrots, okra and peanuts.

“We’ve got some palm trees that produce palm oil and those grow and produce for many years,” Tim added. “So it’s really a variety of crops ...”

Cassava is a root crop used primarily to make flour, Tim previously told The Jamestown Sun. The leaves can also be eaten.

“And then they keep the branches because they can cut them up and that’s what they plant,” Christine said. “So we’re self-sufficient on the cassava now plus they’re giving some of the cassava away, like the sticks ... to other people who choose to grow them.”

Raw cassava has a short shelf life, Christine said, so they are looking into getting a little processing equipment to produce dried cassava.

Cassava is a staple in the Liberian diet and rice is the main diet, Christine said. Tim said it’s a challenge to get away from that because rice is a key part of the culture. Rice has little nutritional value and must be imported to the country,

leaving them at the mercy of international rice markets, he said.

Living is Giving plans to add goats by the fall, Tim said. Goat meat is popular in Liberia.

“They reproduce fast and the market for them

is very strong,” he said.

Bible Talk Organization also benefits from LIG

The farm’s executive director, Bill Woyah, a minister, founded the

LIBERIA on B10

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 4, 2025, 5:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
102 3RD AVE SE, JAMESTOWN, ND 58401

- 1 CALL TO ORDER
- 2 PUBLIC HEARING
- 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- 4 BIDS
- 5 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
- 6 RESOLUTIONS
- 7 COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 8 ORDINANCES
- 9 APPOINTMENTS
- 10 MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT
- 11 OTHER BUSINESS
- 12 ADJOURN

Full agenda and minutes at
www.JamestownND.gov or contact us at
Info@JamestownND.gov or 701-252-5900.

Access the meeting remotely through Microsoft Teams
Phone 701-566-9575, Conference ID: 169 957 098 #
Remember to mute yourself.

We do not automatically mute participants.

Contact Info@JamestownND.gov or 701-252-5900 for the video link at least two hours prior to the meeting.

