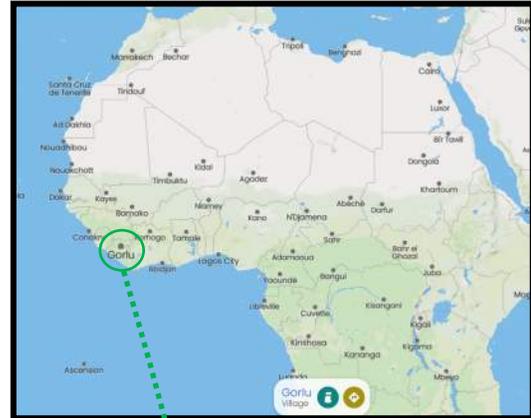


Liberia Mission Opportunity



Rev. Dr. Samuel Sumo Payne is a native from the Republic of Liberia, West Africa. He was adopted by a family in Nebraska and brought to the United States to be given opportunity in life. Rev. Payne was born in a village called New Town and attended the Gorlu Public School before moving to the United States. He graduated from Midland University in Nebraska, Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota and received a Doctor of Divinity from Winebrenner Theological Seminary in Findlay, Ohio. Rev. Payne also studied to become a Board-Certified Chaplain in Hospital Ministry. Rev. Payne works at St. Rita's Medical Center as a chaplain and serves as part-time pastor at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Lima.

In 2008, Rev. Payne traveled to Liberia to bury his grandmother in the village of Gorlu where he attended the Gorlu Elementary School years back. Rev. Payne was shocked by the condition he saw the churches and the school in. "Everything was broken down and things looked very hopeless," Rev. Payne said. God spoke to his heart to come back and share the story with his American Lutheran friends to help bring life and hope to the people in the villages of Gorlu and New Town by helping renovate the schools and churches.

Completed Projects



New roof on Gorlu Public School



New clean water pump

In the past three years, St. Matthews Lutheran Church Lima, Trinity Lutheran Church in Galion, Zion Lutheran Church in Lima and several friends of Rev. Payne have provided resources to renovate the schools and school supplies for the students and teachers.

The congregations and partners have built a clean water pump on the campus of Gorlu Public School. They have refurbished the floors, replaced old doors and windows, and provided a new roof for the two school buildings in Gorlu.

New Projects

Gorlu Public School



Painting needed at School



Concrete needed to protect foundation at School



“God is truly up to something big as we establish the Lutheran faith and tradition among the Kpelle Tribe!”

New Projects

Community Lutheran Church — Gorlu



Two new front doors for church



New side door for church



Interior improvements for church:

- Resurface the floor
- Tiles for floor
- Paint inside and outside of the building

Future plans:

Assist with repairs for New Lutheran Church in nearby Village of New Town