



# **MHA FAMILY MEMBERS TESTIMONIALS, JANUARY 2012**

My Heart's Appeal, Inc.



# Isaiah Washington, 9yrs

As a parent to Isaiah, I feel down hearted when I see people who live with disability, like the experience I have with my son. When my son was born, he was looking good in the body until he was four years old. On his birthday he got sick and I took him to the hospital. The doctor gave us some medicine and we came home. After few days the sickness got worst, from that day, he has been going with this sickness, seizure.

I feel too bad to see my son in this kind of condition. I have been praying that God send someone who will help my son and others who are in this kind of condition. If the government was giving help to people like my son, they will be in better conditions. But, I am thankful to God to send someone to help people like this. May God bless the works of their hands.





# Kulah Varney, 9yrs

I have a child with a disability diagnosis of Speech or Language Impairment and Mental Retardation. I feel very down hearted about the way in which people feel about children with disability. In a country like Liberia, others feel that these types of children are not accountable to even have equal education or skill learning.

With this unjust heart, I the parent have been displeased to keep my child with this disability. Society even sometimes always calls people by names: mad or crazy person. So we really need help for these types of people in Africa.





# Thomas Zain, 18yrs

As a parent, I feel very bad when I see disability in my country Liberia that can not service our needs.

The government can not help our children to be part of society.

I love to see our children be part of the learning process and in good living condition.





# Konah Yarwala, 9yrs

Kona Yarwala was born into the union of Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Weah at a hospital in Kolahum, Lofa County. During her birth, she came out of the womb foaming, jerking, eye twisted and conversing. After the mid-wife treated her mother, her mother later said, I am not carrying this cripple thing anywhere(referring to the baby). Then, I the grandmother Sona Kpoto, took the baby and have been taking care of her since June 15, 2003 up to this present time.

As her grandmother, I have carried her to so many doctors, including doctors on Mercy Ship. They told me she has two brains and she will walk and talk, but it will take time.





# Princess Alpha, 5yrs

As a parent, I felt discouraged when it was time for my child to sit and it came and passed. I started running around to find help.

When I hear of church and any doctor, I go there to see if I can get help, but no way for me yet. People are telling me to take her to a country doctor, but I say no, because I know God will bring someone one day to help.

Today I heard of My Heart's Appeal and I came and I hope God will help us all.





# Alex Johnson, 10yrs

As a person with disability, it is difficult to live in a country that cannot provide the necessary care. This makes life unbearable and hopeless for me. Alex, born in Ganta City, Nimba County, his parents both died during the Liberian civil war. Since then, I his aunt, Marie Dahn and husband Alex Ray Johnson have been taking care within the limitation of available means of livelihood.

At age three years of age, little Alex Ray Johnson was brought to Monrovia and has been provided various kind of attention, including medical, social and rehabilitation on Mercy Ship. It is the guardian prayer that Big Ma's Care will be of help through God's grace.





# Clara Doe, 3yrs

As a mother, I am very sad to see me child in this condition. I pray to God everyday to help my child.





# Garlead Tebbs, 15yrs

Some experiences I had with my child since she was born was that she almost went blind from measles and also paralyze. I really struggled from these sicknesses when my child was a little smaller, but at least now she is trying to see and to walk in her weak way.





# Fatu Teakpor, 13yrs

I was pregnant in 1993 and after a few months, I could not feel the movement of the child for a few days. I went to the hospital for treatment and after that everything was okay. When I gave birth the child was very weak.

When my child reached four month, she could not sit by herself. After about two years, she started gaining strength little by little until now. She can walk by herself, but cannot talk.





# Edwin Kollie, 14yrs

I feel very bad to see this my grandchild with no school in the community to help him.

I will be happy to see him using his hands to learn how to read and write.





# Momo Utah, 10yrs

I have carried the child to many herbalist for cure to no avail. I find it difficult to supply the needs of myself and my son. We cannot easily get medicine and sometimes no funds to prepare food.

I sometimes try to give up. It is difficult for me to travel. I can hardly get help from my family members, especially my brother.

My son gets frequent diarrhoea and dysentery. He eats frequently but no growth. He does not understand and follow instructions. He frequently sucks his fingers.





# Lovetor Thompson, 8yrs

I feel it very difficult to meet the needs of my children and myself due to the illness of my daughter. This is because no one takes care of her to allow me to do anything that I could get money. For this reason we know it is not easy to live with a disability in our country Liberia.





# Ruth Nimene, 26yrs

I feel bad sometimes, because I cannot get help. I want to send her to school like anybody else. I do not like for people to laugh at her. She just wants to be loved. I hope this program will be successful for her. As a grandmother, I have been working with her very hard.





# Lawrence Sayeh, 17yrs

It is very important that this organization be brought in Liberia, because so many children are unable to do things on their own. They are disabled in the country so it is necessary that they help our children in Liberia.

Sometimes I go to work as a father and my son moves from place to place. My mother is very old, she do not have the strength to take care of him. He has problems. At the end people beat on him and that alone plays on his mind. So I deem it necessary for the organization to come to my aid.





# Comfort Davis, 34yrs

My experience as an individual and a family member with disabilities is very bad. In the first place my government of Liberia has never provided the right institutions that should look out for the interest of its citizens with these disabilities. Because of this, their fellow citizens look upon them as an outcast and less human in society. They mock them, laugh and make fun of them in public.

If the government was during something to help these children, their fellow men would have more respect for them and their well being. There are other areas of disability in our country that the government support. They do not support the area of mental disability.





# Rita Menwon, 13yrs

As a parent, I feel bad that my daughter feel so bad and rejected in the community. It is a hopeless situation.





# Bill Hney, 14yrs

My experience with Bill when he was born was very sad. While growing up to 4-5 years old, he still use to act like a baby. In a country where there is no services, some parents care for their children and some neglect their children.





# Eliona M'lawa, 12yrs

I feel so bad when there is no development for disability children. Because when there is no attention, it leads to early death.

I feel so bad when my son got affected when he was 7 months old. He was diagnosed with meningitis affection in the brain and spinal cord. Through the grace of God, he over came it and he started to walk and sit again. Thank God for my child, Amen.





# Titema Telewoda, 31yrs

The Bible says in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:18 “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you.” Children are gift from God and we should be thankful and receive them as such. It is a terrible and bitter feeling however, for a mother to experience the humiliation, negative expression and odd names made and called by people in the community.

This is something the child has no control over nor is responsible for. Worst of all, the Education Ministry that is responsible for education in the country Liberia do not have the required institution to help these children. A focus point for me in this situation was always 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:18.

As the years went by, the truth of the meaning of this verse became very clear to me and I learned why God had given it to me. A sibling of Titema, became interested in Special Education with emphasis on the mild, moderate or severe disabled. Here God had not only provided for Titema only, but for the future of the West African sub-region and who knows, from other countries of the world.

Giving thanks to God in all circumstances, certainly paid off for me. My encouragement to mothers like me and families with children with intellectual disabilities, is to accept your gift from God whatever the situation. Give thanks for that gift. Be patient with that gift. Do not compare it with other gifts. Finally pray for those who hurt you and your child by their negative expressions. God who is our final judge will reward us for all our role played. Thank God for My Heart's Appeal. God Bless.

