



Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

LIBERIA

2011 Rural Festival Report

preparation



March 4th – 12th 2011, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association along with Samaritan's Purse Liberia, held the "All Liberia Life Festival" featuring evangelist RV Brown held in the Foya, Zwedru, and Ganta areas of Liberia. It was the first time in history that BGEA partnered with Samaritan's Purse to organize rural BGEA festivals. SPL was able to provide managerial backstopping, movement of staff and stage materials through aviation and logistics departments, key ministry staff and SPL photo-journalist, and equip volunteers for co-labor and counseling. The BGEA and SPL partnership has been mutually encouraging, and by working together a wider platform has been built for God's truth to be communicated with conviction.

God moved mountains each and every rural festival day in Liberia! Though Liberia is often considered a Christian nation, the country is still heavily saturated with African Traditional Religion (ATR), including ancestral worship and secret society activity. In fact, during recent SP assessments, 90% of those asked said that ATR involvement has increased over the last 5 years rather than decrease. Also, resettlement of displaced Liberians has brought Islamic groups into the country from Ivory Coast, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The BGEA festival has come to Liberia at a critical time for the church, "It's time to come together, go deeper, and win souls for Christ," said a pastor in Foya.

In each of these rural areas, festival preparation began months ago, with representatives from BGEA and Samaritan's Purse casting vision over pastors and other church leaders. Many rural pastors and church leaders were trained. Everyone involved in the festival completed the Christian Life and Witness course, including counselors and ushers.

Before the war, the church in Liberia was segregated by tribal lines as well as by denominational lines. One result of SP work over the last 5 years has been the unification and mobilization of the church, especially in Foya. "Over the last 4 years, we have seen SP build churches both physically and spiritually, and make them a team," said a Muslim Imam, Lofa County. In Foya, preparation for the BGEA festival was the first time the church network had organized an interdenominational evangelistic outreach. Praise the Lord for the continued unity the BGEA festivals have promoted among rural churches!

**"It's time to come together, go deeper, and win souls for Christ."
- Foya Pastor**

proclamation

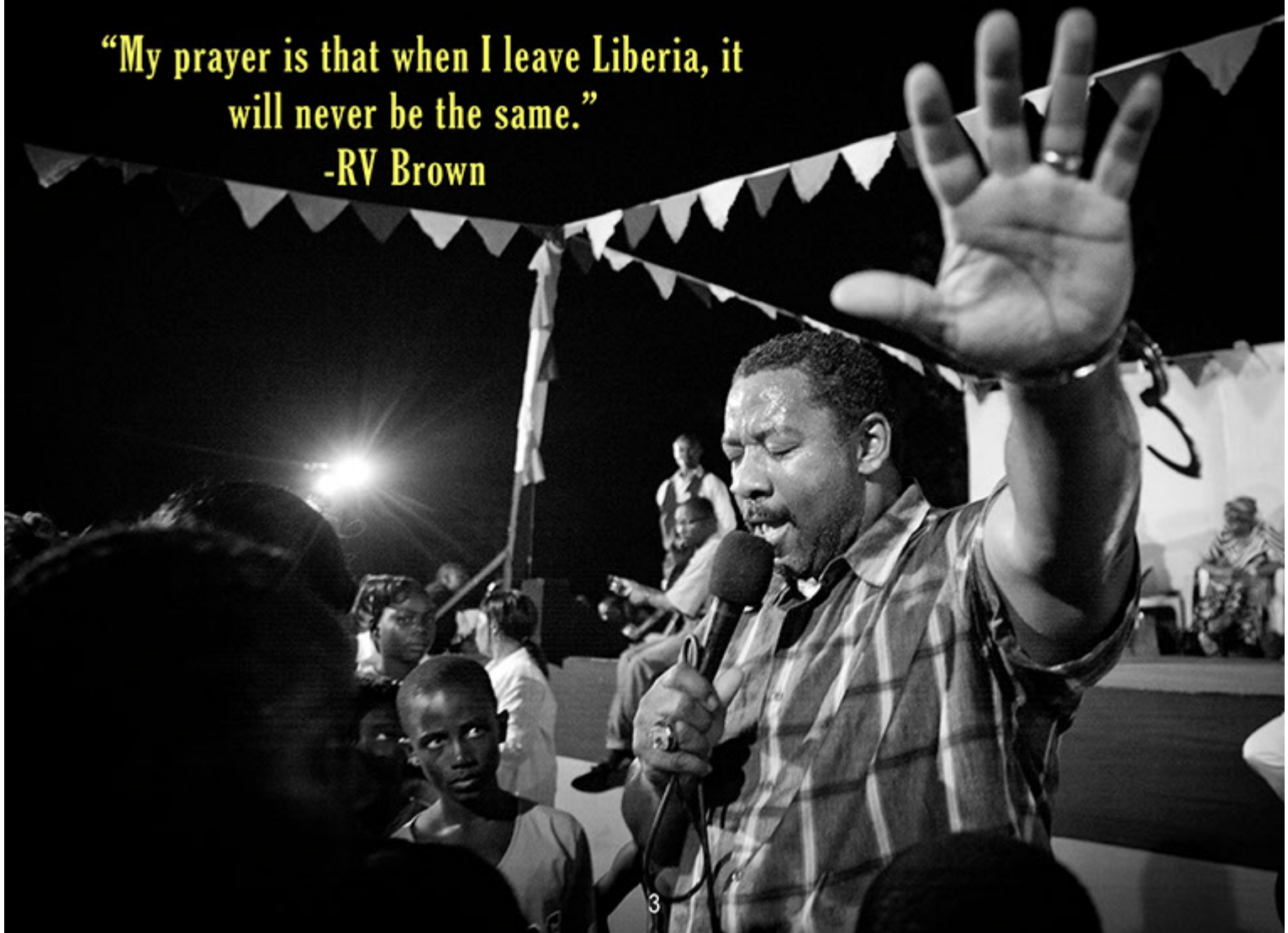
When RV Brown first came to Liberia, he said: "My prayer is that when I leave Liberia, it will never be the same." God heard RV's prayer. Over the course of 6 festival days, over 31,000 people heard the gospel, and around 2200 made formal commitments to Jesus Christ!

"The influence of the evil one 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air' was evident," RV said of his experience. "When I purpose to do good, evil abounds more. We couldn't have expected the enemy to give up any territory without raising Cain! We were met with opposition... the wind and the rain was evidence of that." Both nights in Foya, around 7:00pm, black clouds surrounded the festival site. The second night in Zwedru, heavy rain lasting from 7:00 to 7:45 (the exact time which RV was scheduled to preach) caused festival cancellation. However, though the festival experienced opposition, God's word was spoken, and souls were saved! In Foya, the Lord held the rain back until just after the invitation both nights. In Ganta, skies were clear of rain until the helicopter lifted off to take Brown back to Monrovia.

On the second festival night in Foya, just as the invitation and registration were ending, a woman who had been tormented by a demonic spirit was brought to RV for prayer. As RV casted out the demon in Jesus' name, a wild sand-storm kicked up. People fled, and debris scattered in all directions. (One woman was injured by a falling light pole, taken to the hospital, and released the next day.) While RV was praying for the woman, sand filled his eyes. He was led to shelter by a local pastor. "The enemy blinded me with sand- he threw dirt in my face and caused a light pole to fall on a woman's head! I told the enemy to leave, and he did, but not without raising Cain first. (Luke 11:24) We have authority over him. but he won't just sit back."

**"My prayer is that when I leave Liberia, it
will never be the same."**

-RV Brown



After the dust storm came heavy rain. A group of people took shelter under the stage. While all were in awe at the power of the storm and the surrounding chaos, a wet and shivering young man said: "I accepted Jesus tonight. I did it. I want to follow Jesus!" So the counseling, prayer, and book distribution continued... right there under the stage! The enemy may win some battles, but God will always win the war.

RV Brown's passion for evangelism is not confined to the stage which has been built, or to the time in which he has been given to preach. As soon as RV entered Foya, he hit the ground running. He walked through town to meet people and invite them to the festival. He was able to develop a relationship with a group of ex-combatants called "The Invincibles"-- a group of young men known to have committed terrible atrocities during the war in the Foya area. Community members still harbor a lot of unforgiveness towards this group of men. RV pursued them each day, and during the last night of the Foya festival they gave their lives to Christ! The day before RV left Foya, he went to the soccer field where they were playing and gathered them together to follow up. He prayed for them, and committed them to a Liberian church leader.

In Zwedru, the rain canceled the second night out, but that doesn't cancel out what God accomplished each day. While there, RV met with the Zwedru city council and local police chiefs, and shared the gospel with them that day. Most of them who were there had committed to come to the festival the second night. "Satan distracted us with the rain, but the word still went forth," said RV. RV also met with 25 pastors in Zwedru. "It was the most powerful time! After preaching, I gave every pastor a chain link, and made them lock arms. They made individual commitments to deeper walks with Christ, and made a unified commitment to reach Zwedru. The preachers were on fire," he said, "Good God Almighty!"

"We don't get encouragement. We aren't trained and we rarely receive resources or refreshment. I needed this today. I've been down, and I needed something to lift me up. The night has been long, but the day won," said a pastor in Zwedru.

"The day was not lost in Zwedru. Satan may have caused rain, but gains were made!! I saw the way the Holy Ghost moved on the community and the leaders—and when the two work together there is power. Good God Almighty!"



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The church network and festival was the most organized in Ganta. "The power of God came upon me before the first festival night in Ganta. I was exhausted. But in my room I stood up, opened my arms, and Jesus said to me: 'Remember my arms were nailed to the cross. Take'm the blood. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can change Liberia—and the world. Take'm the blood.' I was ready to go to work. And when we approached the stage, and I saw the wave of people and clear skies, I thought: the Ganta festival has been bathed in prayer! And over 700 got saved each night. God reminded me of what he said to me on my first trip—'You were born to do this'".

In Ganta, three radio stations covered the festival! In rural areas where 39% depend on radios (only 1% own TVs), exponential numbers of people heard the gospel message. "I can't know who heard, but someone out there was listening to a radio under a tree and was saved... I didn't see him, but I'll see him in heaven. Good God Almighty!"

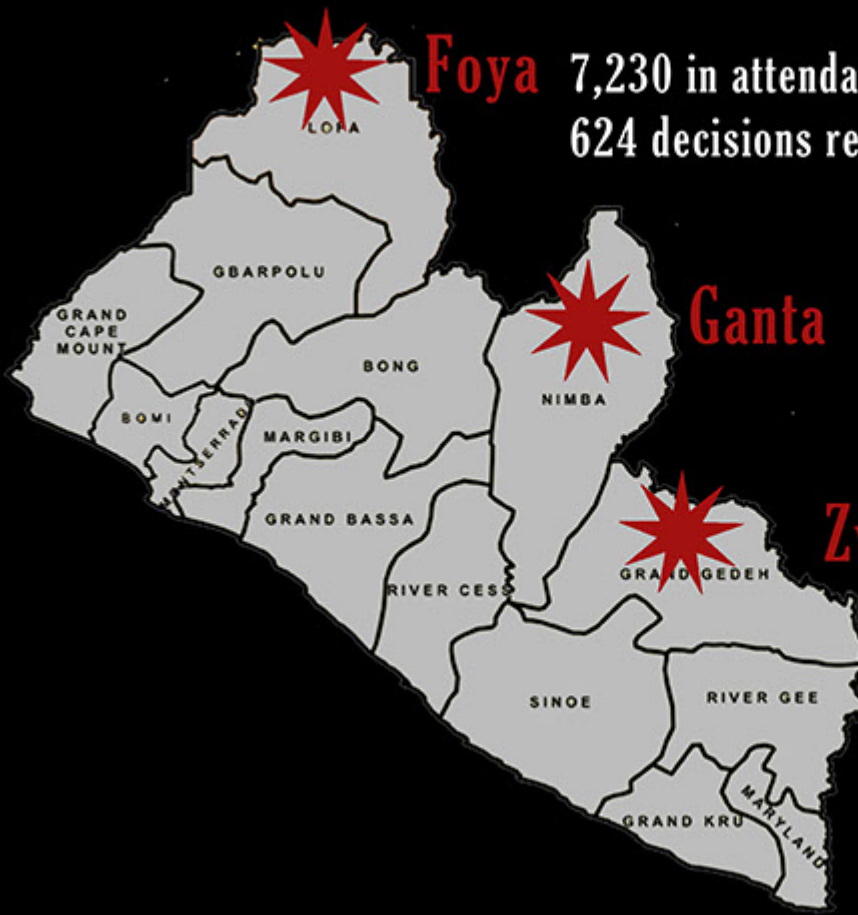
RV met with church and community male leadership in each region. RV challenged them to deeper walks with Christ, to Godly parenting and spiritual leadership. "When men have 1, knowledge; 2, spiritual growth; 3, maturity; then communities change because families and children follow. If Christian men can see and grab hold of the power that lies in them, they will be able to change this generation for Jesus Christ."

RV Brown encouraged new believers each night. One night in Foya during the invitation, RV held a baby high so that everyone could see it. "Each one of you are now like this baby... new creations! If you follow Jesus, you will become full grown, mature Christians. The babies are saying, "Come... help our generation." This generation doesn't know war, they don't know corruption... they need someone to stand up for them now." (Psalm 71:18)

"God, raise up a generation that will NOT be afraid to serve a living God," RV Brown.

**"Nothing but the blood
of Jesus Christ
can change Liberia"
-RV Brown**





Foya 7,230 in attendance
624 decisions registered

Ganta 23,157 in attendance
1,463 decisions registered

Zwedru
761 in attendance
181 decisions registered

31,158 in total attendance
2,268 decisions registered

