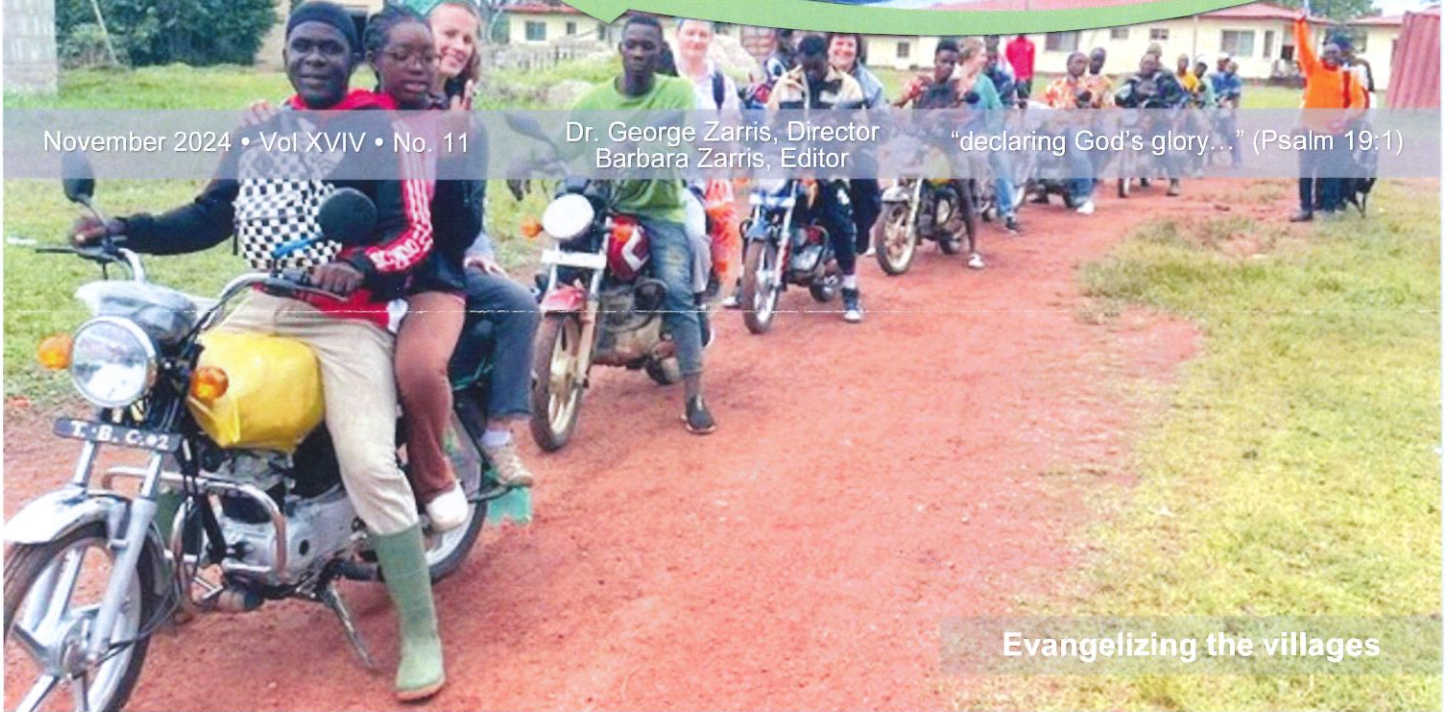


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Dr. George Zarris, Director
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“declaring God’s glory...” (Psalm 19:1)



Evangelizing the villages

WILLING TO TRUST

The year was 1930. Gordon Mellish, a member of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, and a 1926 graduate from Toronto Baptist College, and his wife set sail for the African continent to establish a mission in Liberia. Bypassing the capital city of Monrovia, they headed inland 225 miles to the sprawling savannahs and mist-shrouded mountains of Nimba County where they settled in Tappita in 1935 and began evangelizing. While the tumultuous years of the 1930s left millions in Canada hungry, homeless, and helpless, the subsistence farmers of the Liberian interior saw little change in their financial picture, but the gospel made great inroads into their hearts. That all changed in 1937 when lack of funds forced the Union of Regular Baptist Churches mission board to abandon the fledgling work in Liberia and instruct the missionaries to come home. Stunned by the lack of faith that his mission board was displaying, Gordon Mellish penned this courageous reply.

“Not for one moment would Mrs. Mellish and I suggest we are indispensable to this work, but we desire to re-affirm...that more and more we know the Lord has called us to serve Him in Liberia and not any Board...if we left Liberia now, left these people without any witness of the truth, and without expectation that the people of the interior as well should hear the Gospel, it would be on our conscience for life. So long as the Lord wants us in Liberia, we could not serve the Lord happily in any other place. Therefore, we are willing to trust the Lord completely for the supply of all our needs and that of the work. He will not fail!”



Pastor Dwanyen and wife Leamon

And God did not fail! Almost a century later, in a country of extreme poverty, Tappah Baptist Church has birthed dozens of churches in Liberia including 31 which still thrive in rural Nimba County. Attendance at a recent yearly Bible Conference was 600. The annual women’s conference (held in Ganta in March) draws 700 to 800. Vacation Bible School in

Tappita in March averages 1500 youth with 150 to 200 more in the villages. The Christian school (grades 1-12) has 500 students. The Bible college graduated 9 men in 2023.

These statistics sound like a mega church with an unlimited budget. The truth is—there are no hotels in Tappita. A lodging committee walks house to house, asking villagers to host one or two attendees (for free) during each conference. Transportation to the meetings consists of walking or riding a rented motorcycle loaded with people. Roads are rutted dirt paths which become mudholes in the rainy season. Only 43% of children attend school because the tuition of \$35-\$80 per year is prohibitive. In remote areas, most of the children never enter a classroom. Textbooks are rare and highly coveted. Although the official poverty level in Liberia is \$100 per month, very few in Tappita earn that amount. Christian school teachers earn \$30-\$75 per month. Many families do not even earn \$100 in a year. Their survival depends on what they can grow or find in the bush. What is thriving in Tappita is the Tappah Baptist Church founded by Gordon Mellish in 1935. Under the capable direction of Kerdoe Dwanyen, the third pastor in its ninety-year history, evangelism is emphasized. The church schedule is as follows: Sunday, worship; Wednesday, prayer meeting; Thursday, Bible study; Friday,

fast and pray; and Saturday, soul winning. An evangelistic team of four ride motorcycles three times per week to distant villages to hold meetings where an average of 200 have been saved; however, Pastor Dwanyen admits that discipling the converts who live so far away is difficult. That is why...

TAPPITA NEEDS A CHRISTIAN RADIO STATION!

1. Radio can reach hundreds in remote villages.
2. Radio can disciple thousands of new converts.
3. Radio can educate multitudes of non-readers.

LIBERIA Tappita

Ninety years ago Missionary Gordon Mellish decided to trust God to provide his needs while he evangelized the interior of Liberia. Today CRI is trusting God to provide the funds to evangelize the interior through a Christian radio station.

WILL YOU HELP US?

\$40,000 has been given to build the Tappita station.
\$35,000 is still needed.



Training Soul Winners

"We are willing to trust the Lord completely for the supply of all our needs and that of the work. He will not fail!"

Missionary Gordon Mellish

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Evangelizing Karyee