

Nurturing New Generations of Leaders Defines Lott Carey's Youth Initiatives

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

“Find God’s will for your life and stay in it” was the advice one of my elder colleagues in Jamaica received from her pastor in the 1950s. That is still great wisdom today for youth.

By the time I met my sister, she was more than 70 years old and directing a preschool. She loved her work—her ministry—and could not wait to get to school in the morning to learn from her three-, four-, and five-year-olds, and to help them learn something new about themselves and the world. When I commented on her energy and passion, she told me her story.

Her pastor had found a scholarship opportunity for her to go to another country for nursing school. She was intelligent and independent, and her pastor was sure that she would be a great nurse. This was also an opportunity for her to build a secure life for herself and to make important contributions to her community and country. She was grateful for the support, but she never could generate passion for the possibility. The day before she was to leave, she told her pastor

that she did not want to go to school to be a nurse. She tearfully apologized and asked to be forgiven for failing to be honest sooner. Her pastor commended her for her honesty and said, “Find God’s will for your life and stay in it.”

This is the guidance that we offer to all young people who participate in the Lott Carey International Youth Development (IYD) ministries.

Helping churches nurture new generations of leaders for the world is the purpose of Lott Carey’s International Youth Development ministries. The work of making Disciples of Jesus is the work of the church, and making Disciples among children and adolescents should be a priority. While Lott Carey could never (nor would want to) be a substitute for the disciple-making responsibilities of local churches, Lott Carey helps churches to amplify their impact. Lott Carey’s Annual Youth Seminar is our signature program for helping churches nurture new genera-

tions of Christian leaders. During a week on a college campus beginning the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in June, hundreds of youth and their advisors gather for service, learning, worship, and fellowship. We help young people expand their missional vision for their Christian walks. We offer similar opportunities during the Lott Carey Annual Session each August. And we are helping churches launch age appropriate missions mobilization for children ages 6–13. Further, we are launching peer leadership groups for emerging leaders ages 18–25 and building a youth ministers network to strengthen capacities for them. Finally, we have been providing scholarship support for students to build their vocational capacities globally.

Lott Carey is committed to helping churches nurture new generations of leaders for the world. We hope this edition of the *Lott Carey Herald* will ignite your passion to invest in the future.



David

‘Youth and young adults truly want to change the world for the better’

By TaNikka Sheppard

It is a pleasure serving on the leadership team of the International Youth Development Department (IYD) where we engage youth and young adults in the international and domestic missional endeavors of Lott Carey. We seek to close the age gap and help young people to understand the prolific history and legacy of Lott Carey, while joining with their peers to extend the mission and outreach of our organization domestically and around the world.

We are wholeheartedly convinced that youth and young adults truly want to change the world for the better, and will do so when given the opportunity, encouragement and proper training. During the 2013 Youth Seminar at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Va. the IYD Leadership Team coordinated a weeklong service-learning experience that included dynamic worship, impactful outreaches, spiritual education, enjoyable recreation, and memorable fellow-

ship, all under the theme of “Sharing the Life of Christ”. By studying issues of poverty and intentionally providing corresponding outreach opportunities we gave participants the chance to live out their faith and change lives at the same time.

Our overall goal with the 2013 trips and conferences, including the Youth Seminar, the 16th Baptist Youth World Conference in Singapore and the Annual Session in Washington, D.C., was to help each young person involved to grow spiritually and commit to live missionally on a regular basis. We have also initiated four international IYD projects as powerful and collective ways for young people in Lott Carey churches to positively impact the lives of entire communities by building a well in Zimbabwe, funding a maize grinding machine for women in Mozambique, building



a house in Haiti, and sponsoring education for students in Liberia.

In the International Youth Development Department we are not only seeking ways to impact the lives of young people, we have also developed an International Youth Ministry Network to support, edify and share resources with persons that are engaged and committed to the Christian discipleship of youth and young adults. Throughout 2014 there will be many advantageous

opportunities for interested persons to get involved with this network.

Finally, our passion in IYD is to continuously develop young leaders that want to use their gifts, genius and talents for the glory of God and to help others. Therefore, we have developed the “Emerging Leaders” International Peer Leadership Program for persons ages 18-24. Applications for this program are

Continued on Page 4