

## Liberty in Liberia

“The love of liberty brought us here” was the motto of the freed American and Caribbean slaves who founded modern Liberia in 1822. This West African nation enjoyed relative peace until 1980 when food riots sparked the overthrow of the government. Unfortunately, since then, Liberia, “the land of the free,” has been largely destroyed by civil war (1989-1996 and 2002-2003).

Liberia is a religiously and ethnically diverse country made up of sixteen principal tribes. Many Muslims living in the capital, Monrovia, have come to Liberia from other countries. Their presence is highly visible with many mosques, Islamic schools and people wearing traditional Islamic clothing. Islam is definitely growing in Liberia.

The country is under-developed and the ethnic or inter-tribal struggles which led to civil war are still very present.

The church is in its embryonic stages, both in terms of its size and its depth of Christian experience. Many Liberian Christians know little or nothing about Islam. Paganism is at an all time high.

*“To maintain Christianity ... as an influence in Liberian society, the Liberian Christian community has to do a better job in attending to the needs of the poor, fighting against the systemic corrupt practices in government, condemning ritual killings, and above all fighting for economic and social justice for all. Failure to appropriately address these social ills will result in Islam filling the void and Christianity becoming the marginalized religion.”*

—J. Patrick Flomo, *The Perspective*.



### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ A large number of foreign missionary groups work in the country. Pray that the seeds of truth they have sown will bear fruit.
- ▶ The Poro and Sande secret societies teach young men and women to seek “supernatural power.” Pray for those locked into these societies to be freed from the chains of darkness.
- ▶ The beginning and ending dates of Ramadan cause conflict every year. Pray that the conflict would instead turn to a time to present the Gospel.
- ▶ The churches are not prepared adequately to reach out to Muslims nor to train new believers. Pray for practical training for Christians and for those coming to the faith.

#### Liberia statistics

40% Christian  
40% Animist  
20% Muslim

#### Also pray for ...

- ▶ There is a great need for medical and humanitarian work in the Darfur region of Sudan. Pray for the security of such workers. Poverty, corruption, and competition for natural resources encourage hopelessness and banditry.