



# Balama Project

*Transforming lives in rural Liberia.*

## E-news Update 1/22/08

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**Dear Partner in Mission,**

Happy New Year! I pray that 2008 greeted you with expectant hope and joy. We here in Liberia are surviving the Saharan winds. In January through March, West Africa gets coated in red dust from the wind that blows across the Saharan desert. The dust gets in your eyes and throat and stays for days and nights. Mosquitoes' feast in this weather causing the incidents of Malaria to go up during this time of year. The temperature hovers around 95° but usually with a cool wind that blows from the Atlantic ocean. During dry season it's not just the weather that is dry, EVERYTHING is dry from your skin to the local markets. The exchange rate is currently at \$64LD to \$1USD. As the rate goes up so does the price of goods. This is a challenge for everyone here in Liberia. Most people still live on less than \$1USD a day. The current rate makes it harder to come by that dollar. Please pray that the local economy will stabilize.

Our Christmas celebration in Balama was a great success. It was a joy to see the young people "tote their load" of school supplies, clothes, and toys home to show their parents. I will always remember the look of excitement on their faces. Because of your generosity we were able to touch hearts and draw lives to the Savior. Thank you. Please be on the lookout for our full length newsletter with stories, insights, and pictures in the coming weeks.

People often ask what items they can purchase or collect that would be needed here in Liberia. To that end, I've compiled a list of items that would be useful on our website: [www.balamaproject.org](http://www.balamaproject.org). We partner with a wonderful organization called, Service to Servants that handles shipment to Liberia for a nominal fee of \$7.04 per cubic foot. The next shipment is due to leave Murfreesboro, TN on February 22nd, so there is still time to prepare care packages.

We have a special request for the upcoming shipment. Due to the lack of infrastructure most families here use a personal generator to supply electricity for their home. Our previous housing provided us with 8 hours electricity a day but our current house is without running water or electricity. We have a small 2.0 KVA generator that provides lighting for both our home and the Jesus Film Project. For the past year, this small generator has worked overtime to supply 3 to 4 hours of lighting for our home at night and to run the projector for the Jesus Film. This has proven to be too much load on our machine and it recently broke down forcing us to use candles for two weeks until we could get it repaired. We desperately need a larger (6.5 kva or more) diesel generator to supply lighting for our home; freeing the smaller generator for village projects. To purchase a machine here in Liberia would cost between \$ 2,500 to \$4,000 and they often aren't as durable as those built in the US. Do you or someone you know have a standby generator that they wouldn't mind donating to us? Any lead on this will be of great help to us.

Thank you for your gifts and contributions that make ministry possible. We truly believe that this ministry is a partnership venture and we would like to know how we can pray for you. Please drop us a line at the e-mail listed below with your prayer requests. We would love to hear from you. Once again, Thank you and have a great 2008!

Sincerely,

*Calandra J. Togbadoya*

Please check out Calandra's Facebook for the latest blog and pictures:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=632894495>

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