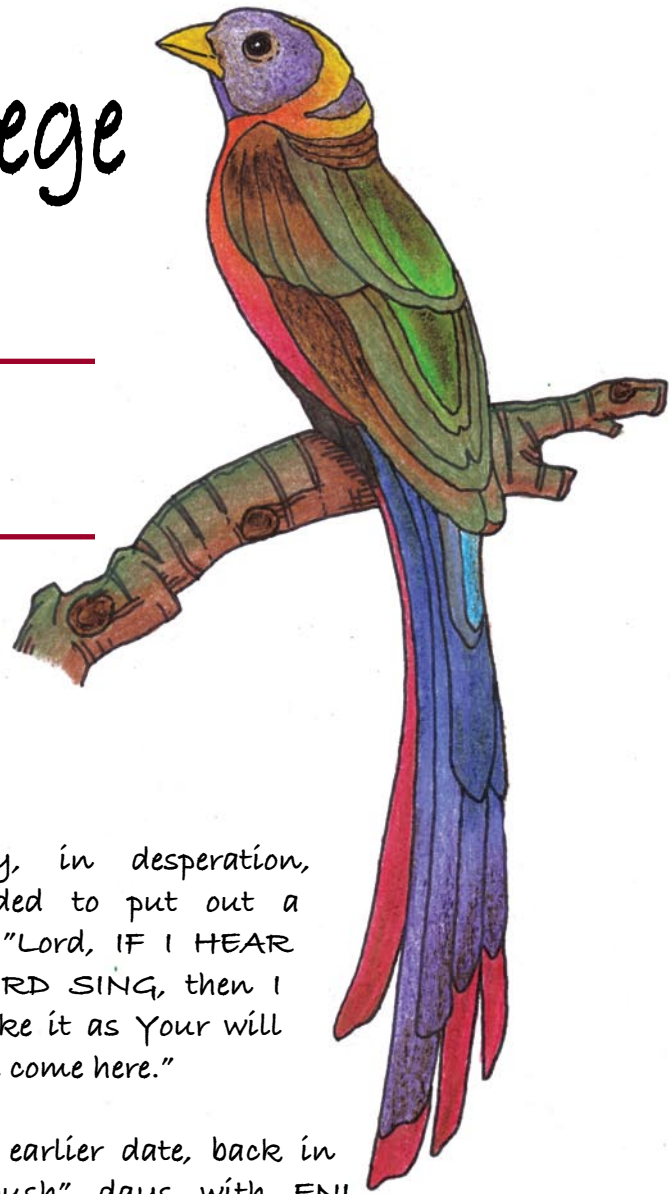


African Bible College

Yekepa, Liberia

THE "TOO-A-LOO" BIRD IS SINGING AGAIN!



BECAUSE of you...and BECAUSE God is a God who answers prayer...

THE "TOO-A-LOO" BIRD IS SINGING AGAIN!

It was in 1976 when we traveled to Yekepa to SEE if God wanted us to build a Bible College there.

I didn't want to leave ENI Mission. I loved the jungle...the thick bush...the tall trees...the birds that sang. And yet, I knew that God was calling us to something even more meaningful for His kingdom. Still, I wanted to be absolutely certain that we were going HIS WAY and that none of this was OUR IDEA.

I spent many hours on my knees weeping and pleading for some positive SIGN from Him.

The day we arrived in Yekepa to "see" if God was leading us to establish the Bible College there, I still did not have peace about leaving our work at ENI Mission. Lisa, Paul, Palmer, and Marion were with us where we were staying in the little guest house next to the beautiful Swedish-built Lutheran church. That next morning, Jack had gone down to the administrative office of Lamco to see about an appointment with the General Manager...and I was in our bedroom on my knees praying, weeping, and earnestly seeking God's perfect will.

Finally, in desperation, I decided to put out a fleece..."Lord, IF I HEAR MY BIRD SING, then I will take it as Your will that we come here."

At an earlier date, back in our "bush" days with ENI mission, "my bird" had become my friend and comforter during a bout with what was probably Lassa Fever. I was so sick that I could hardly lift my head from the pillow...my eyes were almost swollen shut, my gums were so swollen and bleeding that I could barely swallow liquids, and my throat was swollen and sore. But one day I heard a bird singing in the low bush near my window. It had the most unusual song! Actually, it sounded like the whistle of a human being with two distinct tunes, one cheerful and lilting and one very low and mournful. But the melody of that bird so lifted my spirits that when I felt better, I asked one of the natives what they called him. He said, "Oh, that's the Too-a-Loo bird! He's a beautiful bird, with feathers in every color of the rainbow!" And when I mentioned his unusual

song, he answered, "Oh, the people say he's happy because his father killed an elephant, but he's sad because his mother died!" So, that explained his "two tunes"!

I knew, even as I put out my fleece, that the possibility of hearing my bird sing in Yekepa was extremely unlikely. The Too-a -Loo bird lived in the low bush in the rain forests, and Yekepa had very little low bush, plus all the forest had been cut down to make room for this little community. I felt pretty safe!

Suddenly, from the next room, Lisa called out..."MOTHER, DID YOU HEAR YOUR BIRD SING?" I listened...and sure enough, there was that familiar whistle! Happy...yet sad.

That was just how I felt. Happy that the Lord was calling us to a new and exciting work, yet sad to be leaving the place I had come to love so much.

As God's providential circumstances began to unfold in the next few hours, it was confirmed without any doubt that the answer to my "fleece" had been revealed. In just one day, God opened door after door to provide the property, the perfect location, and the assurance that He not only wanted an African Bible College, but He wanted it in Yekepa, Liberia!

Years later, in 1990, Jack and I barely escaped over the Guinea border when the city of Yekepa fell to the rebels. Five years after that, the beautiful campus of African Bible College was decimated—the roofs and windows were all gone,

Committed to carrying the
Commission to the Continent of Africa,

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...and Jack and all those Chinchens who were raised in Liberia

and only the cement block walls remained. Within the next few years, the jungle had claimed what remained of the buildings, and we couldn't even find our house as we cut our way through the thick bush.

But, in 2005 with a new president and the reopening of the mine by Mittal Steel, there came the HOPE that African Bible College could once again open her doors to the multitude of young people who had waited 15 years for the opportunity to learn the "TREASURES OF GOD'S TRUTH."

And so, the RESTORATION has begun! One of our twins, Palmer, sent the first team from the church he pastors in Chandler, Arizona-Grove Bible Church. This team of 15 dedicated, hardworking men and women completely finished the first staff house, putting up ceilings, painting walls, adding electricity to the entire house, and even landscaping (Jack spent the whole time we were there planting grass!). They brought back so much enthusiasm to the church that they are ready to send out another team next summer!

Yes, the "TOO-A-LOO" BIRD IS SINGING AGAIN! And so am I...and a whole host of those prospective students of African Bible College.

Because of you...and because God is a God who answers prayer.

Thank you for being a part of THE KING CYRUS PLAN and for helping to RESTORE African Bible College...and Liberia.