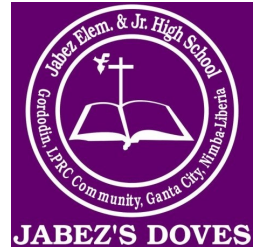




# JABEZ NEWS



February 2020

A Publication of the Jabez Board of Directors-USA

Vol. 4 Issue 1

## SPREAD KINDNESS

Spread deeds of kindness  
whenever you can,  
Help a frail person who  
needs water in a pan.

A smile or a thank you  
from your heart,  
Will make your parents  
pleased which is a good  
start.

When angry do not be quick  
to curse and fight.  
Making peace is a heart-  
warming sight.

Try to be the best person  
that you can be,  
Believe me one day the re-  
sult of this you'll see.

*Jolietta McIntosh*

*05.02.2018*



## TEACH THEM TO FISH...

## MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE!



While on the boat with Simon, Jesus said to Simon, “Launch into the Deep!” Simon hesitated for a while, but when he did, he caught such a very large number of fish that his net started breaking! (Luke 5: 4-10). Similar to this biblical teaching is the following Chinese adage: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime!” (Chinese Philosopher-Lao Tzu).

My friends, permit me to remind all of Jabez School’s Motto: “BLESSED TO BE a blessing!” (Gen. 12: 2; 1Chron. 4:9-10). “Blessed to Be a Blessing” is not just an empty motto, but the driving force behind our desire to reach out, shape lives and transform the future for every person we encounter at Jabez School and Post Trauma Counseling Center in the Gompa Community and its environs in the name of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to make Jabez School **Number One** in all aspects of the Christ-centered- life by offering these challenging opportunities: high quality academics, hands on skills for economic empowerment, and make spiritual formation available to all our students and staff members. Over the last six years of Jabez School’s existence we have accomplished many milestones and continue to do so.

Permit me to highlight the most recent milestones accomplished for which we are deeply grateful to God and all those through whom accomplishments were made possible. The recent milestones are as follow:



- ◆ The “Basic Computer Skill lesson.” This program has been improved with the addition of five desktop computers and a delegated staff person to teach computer skills.



- ◆ Jabez School’s 2019 Closing Program was held in the beautifully furnished auditorium. The new auditorium has a capacity for more

than one hundred-fifty people. This is a huge blessing as the previous one did not hold fifty people.



- ◆ The Staff Development Program is in line with Board policy to provide quality education for our students. We provide an opportunity for teachers who have not had formal Teacher’s training to upgrade their skills through a government approved and a certification institution. Pictured are three of our teachers who benefited from this staff development. On the left is Rev. Nelson Tiawan who graduated with both C-Certificate & AA Degree in Education. Also in the same photo are Mr. P. Mark Voker, who earned a C-Certificate and Mr. Abel Zewon who graduated with a C-Certificate and AA Degree in



Education. Abel once served as an interim principal at Jabez School, he is now the vice principal. We have a total of four teachers that have benefited from our staff Development Program. Con-

gratulations ladies and gentlemen! Thanks to all whose contributions continue to make this program possible for our teaching staff.

- ◆ The Oil Palm Project is another milestone. The Board of Directors approved a fund expenditure to purchase six acres of land for the purpose of investing in an Oil Palm Project. The project is well on course as the process of purchasing the land, the needed quantity of palm kernel, poly-thene bags, initial tools and clearing of the portion of land for the nursery are all being worked on simultaneously. We have instructed the business Manager to open a separate account for the Oil Palm Funds for easy monitoring of expenses. We are thankful for the extravagant generosity of the Buhler Family Foundation for their continuing support of the school and this project.



- ◆ We have a committee comprised of four people: Mr. Menyen- Chair of the Local Board, Mr. Fredrick Gbardeh -Agriculture Teacher, Victoria Zogbay- Local Board Member and Jesco Gontee-Jabez Business Manager to oversee the project locally. It is our hope and prayer that within the period of three to five years of maturity, this oil palm will generate local income for our school. Thanks to the BODs for accepting to invest in the future of this life-long ministry/mission project.

- ◆ Fifty new sewing machines were donated in 2019 by the “Brothers Company” located in New Jersey. These machines have been stored in the basement of Racine 1st United Methodist Church. These machines are scheduled to be part of the Cargo Container shipment to Liberia in October 2020.



Yes, “Blessed to be Blessing,” is not a mere slogan, we are truly living out our motto and impacting lives! There is no doubt that as we provide skill trainings alongside the academic curriculum, as well as offering opportunities for our teachers to improve their skills, we are definitely equipping everyone in ways that they certainly will become self-sufficient in the near future. Let’s not be tempted to focus only on giving them fish but continue to teach them to fish for an ever-transformed life and living in the name of Jesus Christ!

Deepest gratitude to you all, for who you are and all you do because of your faith in Jesus Christ and love of your neighbors in obedience and honor to our God’s command. May you continue to be blessed and be a Blessing!

Blessings, Rev. Jakes



## Interested in Being a Jabez Board Member?

Jabez Board of Directors is looking for a couple more people who would be interested in serving on the Board.

Present Board members are educators, business people, pastors, homemakers, researchers, retired, working men, women, owners and employees. Board members have traveled extensively and others have traveled much less. Some are United Methodists and some are not. Some have been to Liberia to see the school and others have not.

So you can see, we all have different backgrounds, different interests, different kinds of education, different faiths, different experiences. We have one thing in common, We have all been blessed by God and want to be a blessing to others. And we have decided that one way we can be a blessing is through the work at Jabez School.

Have you been blessed? Are you looking for a way to be a blessing? Please give us a call. We would love to talk to you about the possibilities!

Contact Board Chair:

Rev. Jakes @ 262-497-4370.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hi Rev Jakes and members of the International Board,  
Please see below the information of the activities from  
the first semester 2019/2020 academic year.

The activities below were planned and carried out by  
the administration during the Fall.

1. The school garden was planted with cassava which covers about half of an acre.
2. The student physical education T- shirt was bought and printed.
3. Six acres of land were engaged by the administration to be bought for Agriculture activities for the school for which the International Board is aware.
4. The sporting department in the school participated in a class league and the 8th class emerged as the winner. The sports played include kickball, football (soccer game) and other sports as well.
5. The administration is also developing a code of conducts for the school administration, teachers and staff to be released to the International Board.

There are so many schools in the community where Jabez is located that compete with Jabez. Those schools offer handsome salaries to their teachers which post serious problem for us in terms of getting trained teachers employed in our school. Therefore we recommending that there be rise in salary structure before we reopen for next academic year.

Thanks, J. Marshall Solo, Principal



**The Parent Teacher Organization**



**2019-2020 Staff**

### The Board of Directors

#### Officers

Rev. Jakes Voker, Chair  
Patsy McDonald, Vice-chair  
Jerry Andersen, Treasurer  
Vernita Green, Secretary

#### Board Members

Jolieth McIntosh  
Maureen Beck  
Steve Limbach  
Bill Hutchison

#### Supporting Board Members

Gwen Beck  
Maurice Beck  
Austin Freest  
August Grulich  
Kenneth Walanski's Family



The GPS coordinates for the Jabez School and

GUMC Mission House are:

Jabez School

(7.1982217,-8.9791855)

GUMC Guest House

(7.2334649,-8.9772242)

Type the coordinates into Google Maps

### To Contact Us

**Jabez Elementary and Junior High School  
and Trauma Counseling Center**

**Rev. Jakes Voker**

**First Racine United Methodist Church**

**745 Main Street**

**Racine, WI 53403**

**261 497 4370**

# Jabez: The Possibilities

## The Agriculture and Feeding Program

A large percentage of the students don't have enough food, which directly impacts learning and attendance. The Board understands the need and the advantages of providing a basic, but healthy lunch at school. We are investigating the costs and logistics. One option is to serve Power Gari, a fortified and flavored hot cereal, which is grown and produced locally. The initial cost estimate to provide a meal, 5 times per week, for all students and teachers is approximately \$500.00 per month for the Power Gari. The Local School Administration is investigating the possibility of starting an agriculture and garden program to help feed students as well as provide local revenue for operating expenses.

### Cargo Container

Brothers International donated 50 new sewing machines to Jabez School. The Board has accepted other large material donations for the school. However, the Board is responsible for shipping the donations to Liberia. The Board is working on a collaboration with Friendship International and other groups working in Liberia to arrange a shipment in late 2020. The cost for a 40 foot shipping container is approximately \$7,000.00. The container and cost would be shared with the other groups working in Liberia.

**Your donations are welcome to help support these projects!**

Donations to support any of the Jabez Projects funds can be made by sending the filled out coupon and a check to the address on the coupon.

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**I bless you to be a blessing. Gen. 12:2**

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### Jabez Elementary and Junior High School and Trauma Counseling Center

Contributions for:

Restricted:

General \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Investment: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeding \_\_\_\_\_

Palm Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Unused restricted contributions not used within two years may be used for the General Fund.**

Make checks payable to: Sherman Ave. United Methodist Church

Please note "Jabez School" on the memo line and

Mail to: Sherman Avenue UMC, 3705 N. Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704

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