

President's Message to the 2nd National Assembly

August 4-5, 2017, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LIMANA's BEGINNING

LIMANA is an organization for Christian leaders committed to the holistic development of Liberians and Liberia. The birth of LIMANA on the Memorial Day weekend of Saturday, May 28, 2016 was a direct result of the 2015-16 Ebola Epidemic. Key founding members of LIMANA assumed responsibilities for speaking for their respective communities in key US cities and led efforts at mobilizing relief items in response to the Ebola crisis. Our interactions with other leaders in communities and city officials moved us to the realization of our shared-need for a national body through which we can proactively work and be better prepared to respond to pressing needs of communities and country as Liberian Christian leaders. LIMANA is a fulfillment of the dreams earlier Christian leaders who directed their time, talents and treasures in establishing Liberian Ministerial Association major US cities with significant Liberian population, including the 1993

ACHIEVEMENTS

The May 28, 2016, East Lansdowne, PA consultation meeting that birthed LIMANA and our February 25, 2017, at the Bethel Outreach Church with Bishop Darlington Johnson in Onley, MD for our first National Assembly that elected current leadership are essential achievements made by LIMANA in the span of a year. LIMANA is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and will be filing with the Internal Revenue Service for 501 C3 status by January 2018. This August 4-5 second assembly of 2017 underscores our commitment to build credible and vibrant organization. We added the 2017 Liberia's presidential candidates/parties' platform presentation forum for serve as an indicator that we are concerned about Liberia's future. We believe that the Diaspora Community have a critical role to play in the rebuilding of Liberia's national image, sustainable peace/conflict resolution, and holistic development. HEAL Lib NOW- LIMANA 2017 Manifesto is our roadmap that is intended to guide our efforts to this end.

Let me pause and thank Rev. J. Orlando and Rev. Thomas Saifa for their wholehearted embrace and support in the early months of working with me to make the dream that was LIMANA the reality we are experiencing today. Please also join me to observe a moment of silence for the Late Rev. Fiam, former president of the Liberian Ministerial Association of Ohio and a founding member of LIMANA, who was called from labor to rest in 2016.

LIMANA goal is to become a 501 C3 non-profit organization and as such cannot and will not in any sharp or form support any political party or politician. Our commitment is to support efforts and causes that line-up with the values we uphold as Christian

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Leaders. We are also open to partnerships with individuals and institutions whose goals and objectives are directed at achieving what we desire for Liberians and Liberia. We will continue to actively reach-out to other Liberian ministers, ministerial associations and Christian organizations for membership into LIMANA in the months ahead.

LOOKING AHEAD

Psalms 133 declares:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, Even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirt of his garments; As dew of Hermon. And as the dew that descended upon Mount Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore”.

Unimaginable blessings are released when Christians unit for cause at any level. I strongly believe that Liberia’s forward march to achieving national unity and holistic development must be championed by Christian leaders at home and in the Diaspora. I like to think of those of us who have made it this far as the Esther’s’ and Nehemiah’s’ of our generation. We are positioned to do for Liberia what Biblical characters like Esther, Nehemiah and other exiled Israelites did for their people and nation in their time of desperation. We can do better working together in specific areas for Liberia more than anyone of us can do by working all ourselves. I urged all of us Liberian ministers and Christian leaders to be the voice of LIMANA in calling on other ministers and Christian leaders to join LIMANA and support the cause of LIMANA with our prayers, time, talents and treasures.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Create the position of an assistant secretary to assistant general with secretarial responsibilities of the organization.
2. That we continue active recruitment of new members in the US, Canada, the Caribbean and also seek to formalize working relationship with major ministerial organizations in Liberia and West Africa.
3. Commit financial resources to support the vision and mission in LIMANA as Christian Leaders and an organization committed to becoming a powerful voice for the Liberian Christians in the Diaspora.
4. Formalize the holding of our rotational annual assembly in strategy cities to the last weekend of February and hold quarterly conference call and special events

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(like conference, fundraising dinners, musical centers) to raise money for specific projects that we will embark upon in the future.

CONCLUSION

The African Proverbs has it that, ...if you want to fast, go alone, but if you want to far, go in the company of others. We have come this far by God's and we still have far way to go to go as Liberians. It is our time us Christian leaders to work together in ways we have not in the past to set an example for our political leaders and larger society to follow. Let's make LIMANA is that train that have already left the station and we won't stop till we see Liberia on the path that we desire for it. May God continue to bless the USA, Liberia and the work of LIMANA.

Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis, D. Min, President.