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## Life After Ebola



**Church staff and volunteers in Liberia work with local health workers to distribute supplies and information.**

More than a year after the initial outbreak of Ebola, the epidemic is mostly contained in Liberia and the number of new cases has plummeted in Sierra Leone and Guinea. While it's still vitally important to prevent new infections and treat the sick, the greatest challenge now facing these nations is how to recover from the human and economic devastation caused by this horrific disease.

As we always do when responding to disasters, Episcopal Relief & Development is focusing on long-term development in Liberia and Sierra Leone. We stay after the crisis period has ended and other relief groups leave to do the hands-on, painstaking work of rebuilding communities, economies and people's lives.

Fortunately, in both countries, we are anything but strangers. Episcopal Relief & Development has been partnering with the Episcopal Church of Liberia for more than a

decade and with the Anglican Diocese of Bo in Sierra Leone for five years to address civil conflict, disease, hunger and poverty. So when the Ebola crisis hit, we were already there as a trusted, well established institution.

While government and large international responders focused on the highest population areas, Episcopal Relief & Development and our partners worked in villages literally beyond the end of the road — communities that would otherwise have been forgotten. We mobilized our Accra, Ghana office and provided medicine, protective equipment, food and other needed resources at lightning speed.

Most notably, our church partners were able to utilize existing networks, including women's groups, farm cooperatives and community development groups, to deliver services and supplies and to educate people about how to avoid Ebola.

Today, the after-effects of Ebola cast a pall on these communities in a myriad of ways. Hunger is a chronic problem. During the crisis, few people could conduct their normal agricultural activities and an entire year's harvest was mostly lost. Families under quarantine could not work and lost their incomes, increasing the crushing burden of poverty.

Another huge challenge is reintegrating survivor families into their communities in ways that keep them from being stigmatized and ostracized. Plus, many had to sell all of their assets to get treatment, leaving them nothing to return to.

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President's Column:

## In It for the Long Haul



While Episcopal Relief & Development has evolved and changed since its founding in 1940, one common thread that runs throughout the past 75 years is our commitment to serve for as long as it takes to achieve our mission.

We don't cut and run when the television cameras leave or the giant relief organizations pull up stakes. That's why our disaster preparedness efforts continue 10 years after Katrina, we're still in Haiti five years after the earthquake, and — as you'll read about in this issue of Seek & Serve — in Liberia and Sierra Leone one year after the Ebola outbreak first took hold.

Just as Heaven and Earth were not created in one day, rebuilding devastated communities cannot be constrained by arbitrary timelines — especially in places where people were suffering from poverty, hunger, disease and other ills even before disaster struck.

Of course, food, shelter, health care, clean water and other essentials are critical in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. But making farmland productive again, helping women revive or launch small businesses, preventing and preparing for future disasters and building health care infrastructures take a huge investment not only of resources but of time. We are there for the long haul. Because our goal isn't just to get people back on their feet — it's to empower them to thrive, to achieve their dreams and to make life better than it ever was.

That's a big reason why Episcopal Relief & Development counts on generous, devoted members of our Sustainers Circle whose monthly donations provide a steady stream of reliable funds. From a resource standpoint, predictability and certainty are great blessings in a field where the whims of nature, disease and political and economic upheaval make the unexpected a constant reality. You can learn more about this important program in this issue.

Our accomplishments around the world — and the dedication of our members — are a source of great pride for me. But rather than leaving me satisfied in this anniversary year, they only strengthen my drive to see that we reach even higher levels of service in the years to come.

Indeed, this time of celebration is also a time of challenge. Even as our work together helps connect millions of “the least of these” with the abundant life, many more are added to their ranks every day. Like it or not, mother nature, mutating microbes and human foibles all have their own designs. And for the next 75 years as with the last 75, Episcopal Relief & Development must be there to heal a hurting world. And thanks to our dedicated supporters, we're ready for the long haul.



Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. W. Radtke'.

Robert W. Radtke  
President

## Looking Back: What's in a Name?

For its first 60 years of existence, Episcopal Relief & Development was known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief. But as the Millennium approached, and with it the 2000 General Convention, change was in the air.

The Convention's theme was Jubilee, the ancient call to care for the poor, hungry, the oppressed and all those in need.

The Church's instrument to heed this call — the Presiding Bishop's Fund — was expanding rapidly as its focus evolved

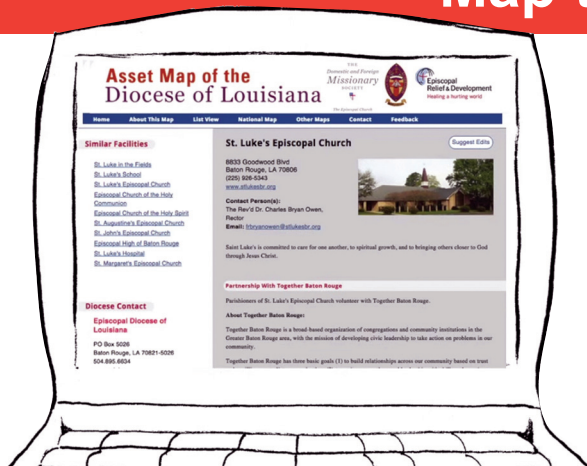
beyond disaster and crisis relief with new programs emphasizing long-term development and rehabilitation.

For this reason, delegates passed a resolution stating:

*That this General Convention, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, rejoice in the adoption of the new name of "Episcopal Relief and Development" under which this great work will continue and grow in response to human need in the service of Jesus Christ*

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# Map to Prevention



With decades of experience responding to disasters in the United States, from Hurricane Katrina to Superstorm Sandy, Episcopal Relief & Development has made U.S. disaster preparedness a priority for the past five years. Now, these efforts have taken a leap forward thanks to a new tool that will prove invaluable to parishes and dioceses the next time catastrophe strikes — the Episcopal Asset Map.

The Map enables anyone to instantly see what nearby ministries and facilities can be mobilized to help the moment a tornado touches down, an earthquake strikes or a flood occurs. It can show where the closest food pantries and shelter ministries are located. In short, it makes possible quicker and more effective disaster response than ever before.

Equally important, it provides a foundation for disaster preparedness, because cataloguing what assets are available is essential to developing a comprehensive response strategy before disaster strikes.

While the Map is off to a great start, its success depends on the level of participation, because it is up to dioceses and parishes to log on and list their assets. So far, approximately 25 dioceses have signed on and over 100 parishes have added information; there is much left to do.

The project began as an initiative of two dioceses with ample experience dealing with disasters — the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and the Diocese of New York. Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program worked with leaders in both dioceses to build an online platform to catalog and celebrate the ministries and facilities in their dioceses. The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society has since partnered on the project to bolster the mapping effort.

Now, these maps serve as models for other dioceses to get involved and share critical information.

To learn more about how to get your Church involved, please visit [www.episcopalassetmap.org](http://www.episcopalassetmap.org) or contact us at 855.312.HEAL (4325).

## Celebrating 75 Years of Service

Episcopal Relief & Development Sustainers Circle: *Make a Difference Every Day...*

A business owner from Covington, Virginia, Nick Moga has been an Episcopal Relief & Development Coordinator for the Southwest Virginia Diocese since 2000. As part of his responsibilities, he and his wife Nancy (an unofficial and passionate co-coordinator) regularly visit local congregations to share the work and mission of Episcopal Relief & Development.

"It's such an easy sell once we tell people what we do and how we do it," Nick stated. "It's living how Jesus told us to. The stories of success and impact in communities are really remarkable."

When Nick and Nancy were looking for a way to celebrate Episcopal Relief's 75th Anniversary, becoming a Sustainers Circle Monthly Donor seemed like the right choice. They'd been thinking about how monthly giving was so important to extending that commitment to Episcopal Relief & Development was the natural next step. Now they have deepened their commitment to our work by contributing \$75 each month to heal a hurting world. But no matter the amount — whether \$7, \$10 or even \$75 — monthly gifts, when multiplied over a year, go a long way toward helping us meet our goals.

Monthly giving is so important because it provides a dependable stream of income to support our work, which means we can be ready to respond where and when we're needed. But monthly giving also makes sense for donors, because it's easy to budget and allows you to spread out the giving that's right for you throughout the year. To learn more about our Sustainers Circle and whether it's right for you, please contact us at 1.855.312.HEAL (4325) or visit our website at [episcopalrelief.org/sustainers](http://episcopalrelief.org/sustainers).





# Life After Ebola *(Continued from cover)*

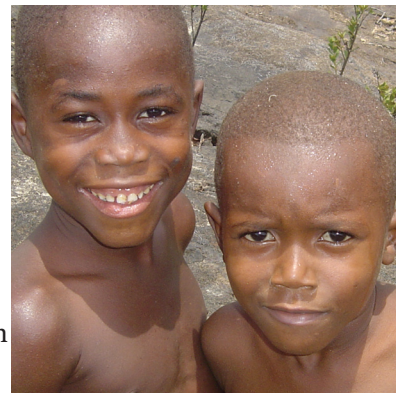
Making matters worse, the epidemic has orphaned thousands of children in the region. We are using Church resources and facilities as transition centers, providing food and clothing and covering school fees. There are also orphan families, where both parents died and one orphan is taking care of three or four siblings. Here again, the Church is the best-placed institution to ensure that they receive the care, counseling and education they need.

To address these and other issues, including the post-traumatic stress afflicting so many, Episcopal Relief & Development and our partners are integrating our work with Ebola survivors and orphans into all of our existing long-term development projects. For example, families that farmed prior to the outbreak are being incorporated into our farming groups. Those who sold goods at markets are being incorporated into our micro-finance groups. The point is not only to involve them in efforts that have a long track record of success, but also to integrate them into ongoing activities so that they once again become part of the community.

Equally important, we are training more than 100 members of the clergy in how to provide counseling, guidance and other forms of psychosocial support to their parishioners and fellow community members as they deal with grief and emotional scarring.

In addition, we are establishing community-level disaster risk reduction committees with clergy, village elders and other residents. They are working to build surveillance networks, so that a future outbreak of Ebola, or any other disease, can be identified and responded to swiftly, before it gets out of hand. They are also identifying community assets and developing plans to deploy them to prevent, mitigate and respond to future disasters.

In undertaking this important responsibility, committee members are aided by our Pastors and Disasters Toolkit, a comprehensive guide developed by a working group of 12 global Church partners who worked tirelessly over the past three years. Utilizing the wisdom and hard-earned experience of our partners, the Toolkit provides strategies, advice and tips on how to mobilize communities, conduct risk assessments, implement disaster risk reduction and respond effectively if a disaster occurs.



**The children of Sierra Leone face continued hardships as their communities struggle to recover from the epidemic.**

In both Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Church is now rightly seen as a leader in responding to and recovering from crises and disasters, not only among Episcopalians and Anglicans but throughout all faith communities. The Church is actively networking with other denominations, including Muslim clergy in Sierra Leone, sharing our wisdom and strategies and promoting comprehensive recovery efforts throughout the two countries.

While life after Ebola can initially seem bleak and dispiriting, Episcopal Relief & Development and our partners are bringing faith, hope and opportunity as we empower survivors to build a better, brighter future for themselves and their children.

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## Looking Back: What's in a Name? *(Continued from inside)*



**The familiar logo of the Presiding Bishop's Fund was a welcomed sight to those in need.**

While symbolic, the name change presented a much clearer statement about the organization's mission. It also set the stage for Episcopal Relief & Development's establishment the following year as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization technically separate from — though still just as closely affiliated with — The Episcopal Church.

This decision enabled Episcopal Relief & Development to raise funds from individuals, corporations and foundations prevented from supporting agencies directly tied to churches, to strengthen its accountability mechanisms, to ensure proper Board oversight and to build its capacity to run projects internally.

With the new name and new status, Episcopal Relief & Development shifted from administering relatively small grants to implementing long-term development partnerships worldwide. We then adopted an integrated community development model, based on taking a holistic approach — rather than just tackling one specific need in a vacuum — and driven by the priorities of the community being served, rather than being imposed from high.

In short, this pivotal moment in our history made it possible for Episcopal Relief & Development to be the world class development agency it is today.