

## MOTHER'S DAY & LOVE FOR LIBERIA – SCHOOL KITS

By Patricia Walker Murphy  
New Hope UMC, staff writer



On the left of the picture you can see that some of the men left the pews, took over for the ladies, and sang in the choir for Mother's Day. Pastor Ed Rutenkroger, standing in the pulpit, is watching as the children get flowers from Lindsay Chambers, head of the Children's Ministry. In front of the pulpit are the School Kits for the children of Liberia.

Sunday May 8th was a very special day at New Hope UMC located in Hertford, NC. In honor of Mother's Day the men of the Church sat in for the ladies and sang in the choir. The children handed out flowers to each of the wonderful ladies of the church. But the special day didn't end there, in conjunction with Mother's Day the Love for Liberia School Kits were finished and ready to send off. Pastor Ed Rutenkroger asked the children to help him out by coming forward and placing their hands on the Kits. He then said the following Blessing:



The children handing out flowers to Mothers, Grandmothers, and to anyone who helped a child of God.

"Let us pray."

"Loving God, you have gathered us together and blessed us in amazing ways. We thank you for your many blessings. We place our hands on these school kits and ask you to use them to convey a blessing to the children of Liberia who will receive them.





**Pastor Ed asked the children to come forward and place one hand on the School Kits and lift one hand to the Lord while he prayed to the Lord to convey a blessing to the children of Liberia who will receive the Kits.**

May they be reminded that your children here love them even though we have never met them. May the blessings contained in these bags bless those who receive them even as they have already blessed those who sewed them, those who provided the school supplies, and those who filled the kits. And may they be consecrated now to the use of your precious children in this your present kingdom. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen!"

Pastor Ed is the Elizabeth City District Coordinator for Missions. The District began Love for Liberia Campaign by preparing School Kits for elementary school children living in Ganto which is a village in the Nimba District of Liberia. These children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources. The efforts of our Annual Conference and New Hope UMC are to help children and women who are the real victims to recover and to rebuild hope.

New Hope UMC exceeded their goal of collecting 100 school kits and put together 107 school kits. All of the kits were placed in heavy fabric bags that were made by Linda Rutenkroger. The school kits are scheduled to be taken to the MERCI Center in Goldsboro, NC on May 14th for delivery to Ganto.

Mary Hundley said, "I feel blessed that I can, even if it is in a small way, help the children of Liberia." Greg Chambers agreed and went on to say, "By sending school kits to the children we are helping them with their education so they can rewrite their future."

Be in prayer for Liberia. Give thanks to Him, bless His name! Together we can make a difference.



**Pastor Ed's final words on this beautiful Sunday, "On this Mother's Day, I encourage us all to look at ourselves and make a pledge to take on the task of "mothering" other precious children of God. Love people and nurture them. Accept your differences and keep on loving. Love them the way God loves you!"**