



**Ricks Institute, Liberia, West Africa**, founded in 1887, is a Christian faith and learning community for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The beautiful 1200-acre campus located some 15 miles east of Monrovia, the country's capitol, was severely looted and vandalized as a result of the brutal 14+ year Liberian civil war. Following the end of the war and the arrival of Principal and Chief Administrative Officer **Olu Menjay** in 2004, Ricks has taken great strides in resurrecting from the ashes of destruction, bloodshed, and pain. The school, both boarding and day school, is now in session with almost 600 students. Additionally, the Ricks Institute Community Health Clinic is operative with a full-time nurse who provides medical care not only for the school students, but also for those in the many surrounding villages and communities.

First Baptist Church is privileged to partner with Ricks Institute in order to reach this part of Liberia for Christ. Ricks is by faith providing free primary (grade school) education to students, unheard of in this period of Liberia's history. A number of First Baptist families sponsor these students; without this sponsorship the students would not be able to receive an education. Additionally, God working through First Baptist has enabled the Ricks health clinic, destroyed by the war, to again provide medical care.

Olu and his wife Ottolee, along with their young daughter Mia, reside on the campus of Ricks Institute. For Olu, *hope* is the operative word. "At Ricks you've come to hope us ... You provide so much hope for so many people. You will never imagine it ... We are prisoners of hope. And we will remain prisoners of hope until we leave from here."



[www.ricksonline.org](http://www.ricksonline.org)  
[omenjay@ricksonline.org](mailto:omenjay@ricksonline.org)

Birthdays: Olu – May 19      Ottolee – June 26