

# JUST FOR THE NEWS



May 2020

a ministry of  **SIM**  
By Prayer



## ELWA Hospital confronts Covid-19

When Liberia announced its first case of Covid-19 on March 16, the hospital leadership had only begun to think how they would manage the arrival of the virus. So they had to work fast! Those who worked in the ELWA2 Ebola Unit in 2014, like nurse Marthalyne Freeman, were a key resource as plans were made for patient and staff safety. A standalone ward was converted to be the Respiratory Care Unit, where patients could receive oxygen and intensive nursing care. We are thankful to have our own oxygen plant as we face this crisis.

ELWA Hospital's overriding goal is to be open to care for ongoing medical needs, while government health authorities manage most Covid-19 cases. This week, Dr. Lemfuka, a SIM missionary surgeon, repaired a bowel obstruction in a newborn infant who would have died if the hospital was not able to keep normal operations up and running. Nevertheless, outpatient and pediatric clinic attendance is down, whether due to days shortened by a 3pm curfew, or finances. Many health problems are being neglected until they are emergencies.

These disruptions in hospital operations are also a strain on the budget. So far, we are not medically overwhelmed with the Covid-19 epidemic, but we are short of cash to buy supplies, keep the lights on, and pay our staff. Donations for the hospital to continue operating through the crisis can be made to SIM's project **95214 ELWA Hospital Covid-19 Relief** at [sim.org/donate](http://sim.org/donate).

## Technical Services keeps ELWA running

ELWA's Technical Services Division is key to the daily functioning of ELWA ministries. Right now, we have enough generator capacity to support campus needs thanks to the great work by our mechanics on a partially reconditioned engine we purchased two years ago. In March, the ELWA area experienced a terrible storm that brought down huge trees and power lines. By God's grace, no one was hurt. The wind and trees damaged roofs, but did not crush entire homes. Technical Services spent their entire Saturday working to get the power lines up and running again, and make houses safe and dry for sleeping the next night.



Give to the projects in this newsletter by starting at [www.sim.org/donate](http://www.sim.org/donate) and find the SIM office in your country. Use the project numbers to designate your gift.



March 2020 ELWA Monthly Day of Prayer — Until we can gather again



### Media plays an important role

When the government of Liberia ordered churches to suspend their regular services due to the presence of Covid-19, it was a shock. Churches had never closed during the Ebola epidemic. The ELWA Radio staff knew they would have an important role to play to help listeners understand the reason for the order, and also to give them spiritual food to sustain them while they cannot meet in their local congregations. Not everyone in Liberia has access to the internet, so they appreciate their “good friend station” bringing the gospel to them free of charge.

One regular show on ELWA Radio is “Appointment with the Doctor,” hosted by Dr. Rick Sacra. As a trusted voice for many years, he has tried to expand the listeners’ understanding of Covid-19 and its spread so they can safely take care of their daily needs.

The SIM-Liberia Trauma Healing team is preparing a drama and teaching radio program for kids to understand the coronavirus better and be assured God is near in times like this.

Morning and afternoon shows give listeners a chance to call in from around the nation (some hear our station on shortwave) and give an update from

### PLEASE PRAY!!

- ◆ Liberia will be spared from a rampant outbreak of Covid-19
- ◆ Liberian leaders will have wisdom, integrity and concern in their management of the epidemic
- ◆ Christians will see God provide for their needs and give testimony!
- ◆ The gospel will be heard on ELWA Radio and also at ELWA Hospital; for people to come to faith in this time.
- ◆ Our staff would not be infected
- ◆ For supplies and finances to keep the ministries running

their area, ask questions, or share encouragement. Our broadcasters try to keep the focus positive and prayerful.

Liberian language broadcasts have suffered from the stay at home order, as the hosts live in distant areas of Monrovia. If the restrictions continue, they may need to record remotely. Their followers miss them!

**Project LR 95115** at [sim.org/donate](https://sim.org/donate) helps keep ELWA Radio on the air by supporting language broadcasts and our home-grown shows which target local audience needs.

### ELWA Ministries, Liberia

is a ministry of SIM-Liberia  
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<https://www.elwaministries.com/>

