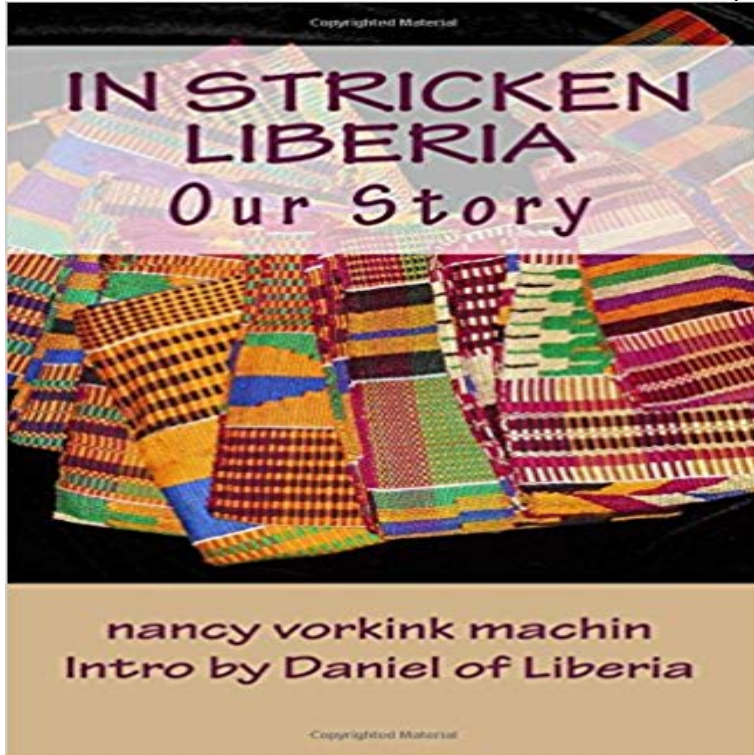


In Stricken Liberia:: A PhotoJournal (mosaic@seventy press) (Volume 7)



When Margaret Mead said never to doubt the power of a small group to change the world, she spoke directly to the author of *IN STRICKEN LIBERIA Our Story*. Nancy J V Machin, a former teacher in Liberia, West Africa, for two years, in the 1970s, met Daniel F Poawalio, one of her students, and a 30-year friendship developed. Daniel writes a compelling introduction. Although separated by oceans, the two kept connected. Through Liberia's fourteen year civil war, displacement, life in a refugee camp, and the return back home, a committed friendship evolved and flourished. Soon Friends of Daniel network was created to help them both out baskets of joy, care parcels of books, and prayer circles. The cross-cultural story became more personal as the family named one of their girls, Nancy Kumba, after Nancy, now their American Mom. Back in Monrovia, the capital, both Daniel and his wife worked in professional downtown jobs. Daniel even attended a Masters program in Peace Studies at night. Education was always paramount. Then Ebola struck in 2014. Everything turned upside-down, as the dying littered the streets and the villagers faced the health care workers in space suits. An intensive awareness campaign involved all West Africans, and later, Americans, on this unprecedented deadly disease. Schools shut down for months, hand-washing rituals became the new normal, with new burial practices a necessity for health. The goal is a Ebola-free zone in all of West Africa. Liberia is in the forefront of this global crisis. What makes a difference is village to village sharing and respect, and in continued, united friendship a teacher and her student and family share and respect. Humor is a large part of the journey. Joyful fellowships in Liberian churches bring praise and Colorados healing meetings embrace this outstanding friendship.

Vorkink Machins direct link to Daniel and his family in Liberia formed a unique and powerful bond over many years. From lessons of war, displacement, refugee life, doing without, to the establishment of family ties, extended families and love-faith-hope graces, a professional link for Daniel Poawalio and American Mom and Friends sustained many hardships with triumphs and tears as they aged. Having deep cross-cultural connections in your life as you age, for all readers, enriches the beauty of Life as well as its challenges of sorrow, ill-health, conflicts, and loss. The contributors in the book are Dr. John Dupree, Teacher Marilyn Grotzky, Poet Anita Jepson-Gilbert, and Veteran Charles Doubrava. A fine beginning by Daniel Poawalio himself introduces the reader to this compelling and inspiring love story. REVIEW Nancy Vorkink Machins new book, In Stricken Liberia: We Made a Difference weaves together narratives, photos, news items, poems, and letters, as Daniel Poawalios family confronts Ebola. The courage of Daniel, his wife Jemina and their two daughters shines through on each page, as does the fidelity of Nancy Vorkink and her Friends of Daniel. Their friendship blossomed into a family spanning continents and offering a stunning tribute to faith hope and love even in the grips of Ebola. -Susan Tiberghien, mentor, of the International Womens Writing Guild, author of One Year to a Writing Life. Second Edition (2015) njvm

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