

TRYING SMALL

Brian Palmer – ELCA Pastor/Missionary serving in Totota, Liberia

Aloe Vera

West African movies have struggled to cultivate much of a fan base among Americans. Poor production quality coupled with seemingly nonsensical story lines conspire to make Nollywood movies trivial to the point of being pointless. Go ahead, I dare you, do a Youtube search for “Nollywood 2022” and watch a full-length movie produced in Nigeria. Let me know what you think. My thought processes have evolved a bit over the years, and I can usually understand what the story is about but I can’t honestly say I’ve ever really enjoyed anything from West African cinema...until now. There’s a movie out from Ghana that I found to be outstanding. It’s called *Aloe Vera* and it’s available on Netflix. Spoiler alert: it’s about the divide between Democrats and Republicans and an excellent example of what Paul writes about in Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”



What a Joy

So I serve a little church called Baysah Farm #2. As the name implies, you only have to go down the road a coupla miles to get to Baysah Farm #3. Three weeks ago I attended Baysah Farm #3 since their evangelist had been sick. After the service, they brought me a list of 10 persons who wanted to be baptized. I was a little confused as to why they didn’t bring this to me before the service. No problem. Then I learned that I would need to “wait small” for them to get the people together. I had been fooled by this wait small business many times before and was not willing to sacrifice the afternoon. After some renegotiation we agreed that I would come back in two weeks. Two weeks later came and the evangelist was better and everybody was there and now the number who wanted to be baptized was 13. There was only one problem. There was a question that they had been debating and they were hoping I had the answer: Is it okay to baptize a big-belly, i.e., a pregnant woman? I listened carefully to their concerns and in the end assured them that baptism was for everyone. The general sense of relief gradually led us into the joy of true worship. It was a great day. The 13 are in the picture above, the woman with the red shirt and red shoes is the big-belly...the baby in the picture was not baptized. Perhaps next time.