Project Title: Preparing Curriculum for a new Christian School in Liberia, West Africa

Project Abstract: The construction of a new Christian school in Kakata, Liberia, is currently underway, with a completion date targeted for the summer of 2017. Prof Jim Jadrich and I (Ron Sjoerdsma) have been providing teacher education workshops in Liberia for the past eight years. Those workshops have been effective through encouraging more engaged approaches to teaching, and we have seen the fruits of those efforts, as minimal the training often is (one-two weeks). During our last workshop in the summer of 2016, several school leaders in Kakata asked whether we could create a manual that would highlight the key principles of Christian teaching. In addition, the most effective educational leader we have worked with over the years, Harry Gorwor, has been convicted that he needs to create a school built around the concepts we have been promoting in past workshops. That school is being built in Kakata, an area of Liberia that desperately needs a instructionally solid, well-managed Christian school. In addition to training, the teachers at that school will need curricular materials and guidebooks initially in the lower elementary grades--the school will begin with grades K-3. Those materials are an essential part of this developing Christian school.

Project Outcome: Products will be published for teachers in the new Kakata school and likely for teachers in many Christian schools in Liberia as well as in other West African countries. Prof Jadrich and I intend to work with the Kakata teachers during the summer of 2017 (likely in late July).