

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

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Thomas Schirmmacher visits Liberia's oldest church

Appointment as Honorary Bishop of the Pentecostals

(Bonn, 23.08.2019) Subsequent to his speeches at the 32nd General Assembly of the Liberia Council of Churches, Thomas Schirmmacher, Associate Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance for Theological Concerns, spoke with the leaders of almost all churches in the country and with several politicians. He also visited the oldest church in Liberia, the Providence Baptist Church, built in 1835, which was severely damaged and threatened with decay by shelling during the civil war.

In 1839 Liberia's independence was declared in this church, where the two chambers of parliament initially met. Since 1975 the church has been a "national shrine", but Liberia has not yet provided assistance for renovation costs for the destruction during the 1989 civil war.



Award of the honorary bishop's dignity and the name Sengbeh, right the chairman of the church, left the member of parliament of the region
© BQ/Warnecke

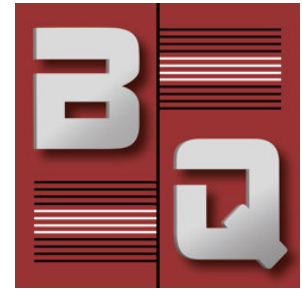
The Providence Baptist Church was founded by Lott Cary, a slave of a Methodist pastor in Virginia until 1813. In 1821 he came to Liberia as a liberated slave from the USA, founded the Providence Baptist Church, built the preceding building of today's church in 1825, helped to develop the colony into an independent state, and became eventually Prime Minister, but died shortly afterwards in 1828.

The following Sunday, Schirmmacher preached in the main church of the Apostolic Pentecostal Church International in Brewerville in Montserrado County, the administrative district of Liberia which the capital belongs to. In a solemn ceremony he

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A joint platform for the following Bonn organizations on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance:

Commission for Religious Freedom of the German and the Austrian Evangelical Alliance
www.ead.de/akref

Culture and Science Publ.
www.vkwonline.com

Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

Giving Hands – International Charity
www.gebende-haende.de

International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIIS) of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.islaminstitute.net

International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) of the World Evangelical Alliance (International Headquarter, German Branch Tübingen, EU-Office Brüssel)
www.iirf.eu

Martin Bucer Seminary (Bonn, Linz, Zürich, Prague, Tirana, Istanbul, São Paulo, Delhi)
www.bucer.org

missiotop – Evangelical Forum for Missions, Cultures and Religions (German Evangelical Alliance)
www.missiotop.org

Office of Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations of the World Evangelical Alliance

Theological Commission of the European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance
www.worldevangelicals.org/tc/

UN Bonn liaison for inter-religious concerns of WEA

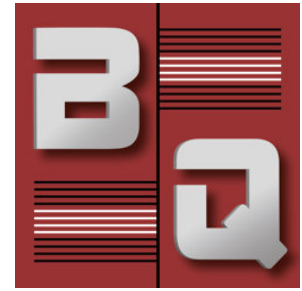
WEA Sustainability Center
www.wea-sc.org

World Evangelical Alliance – Office Bonn

SOS World (Brussels)
www.sosworld.be/page-daccueil/

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was appointed Honorary Bishop with the new name “Bishop Sengbeh”. ‘Segbeh’ means ‘strong’ in the Mende language. This included a traditional costume of the region.

Downloads and Links:

- **Photo 1:** Sermon in the Pentecostal Church © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 2:** Sermon in the Pentecostal church (church from behind) © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 3:** Award of the honorary bishop’s dignity and the name Sengbeh, right the chairman of the church, left the member of parliament of the region © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 4:** The children congratulate Schirmmacher on the honorary bishop’s dignity © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 5:** First press interview as honorary bishop © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 6:** The honorary bishop document © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 7:** The chairman of the Liberia Council of Churches, Bishop Kortu K. Brown, and Thomas Schirmmacher in front of the oldest church in Liberia, the Providence Baptist Church, founded in 1821 © BQ/Warnecke
- **Photo 8:** Shield of the oldest church of Liberia, the Providence Baptist Church, founded in 1821 © BQ/Warnecke
- Website of Providence Baptist Church: <http://www.providencebc.net/history/>

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www.islam institute.net

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