

GUEST COMMENTARY

Time Magazine's "Person of the Year" - Dr. Jerry Brown and Team: A Man Who Rose to the Occasion as Mother Teresa...

By: The Public Affairs Department
Executive Mansion

The ecstasy that informs our zealousness to give or offer our lives for the survival humanity can only bring true joy, self-fulfillment and an affirmation that we are our brother's keeper. Dr. Jerry Brown and colleagues who have become recognized by the renowned Time Magazine as "Fighters of Ebola will be remembered for defying the odds to save the lives of their compatriots under extremely difficult circumstances.

In the selflessness of Mother Teresa of Calcutta – giving hope to the poor was her passion and always found solace in such gold-heartedness. As for Dr. Jerry Brown and a small team of dedicated compatriots and foreign medical experts; it was indeed clear that they were facing a life-threatening situation.

Amid apprehension on the part of some of the nurses and medical aides at ELWA Hospital, it took the engrained devotion and commitment of Dr. Jerry Brown to inspire his team into action.

As perilous as breadth-cutting as the Ebola virus remains, Dr. Jerry Brown constantly assured his staff that by saving the life of one person in the midst of increasing death toll, was a victory in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Dr. Brown's cause was a symbolic virtue in the interest of humanity.

Conversely, although Dr. Brown's sense of altruism was widely covered by the local media; the high-profiled recognition from afar by the US-based Time Magazine as "Person of the Year" is a distinguished honor. Time Magazine's team of correspondents professionally covered a detailed investigative account of events, which demonstrate a clear manifestation that the world did not just watch a peculiar epidemic ravaged the people of Liberia but reasoned the compelling need to give flowers to someone who truly devoted his life to saving others no matter the consequences.

Essentially, as the country remains challenged by the overwhelming plague; Dr. Jerry Brown converted the ELWA Hospital's chapel into an Ebola treatment facility. Surely, the church is the church of this world and must intervene to serve humanity as and when the occasion dictates. That was precisely what informed Dr. Brown's hindsight.

Given Dr. Brown's heroism and dedication to save lives, ELWA Hospital in Monrovia became a strategic model for other hospitals in West Africa during the Ebola crisis. While other medical facilities were forced to shut down ELWA was passionately thriving by developing treatment facilities, carrying out screening processes and offering other critical medical services such as emergency surgery, maternity, malaria and HIV treatment, and the pediatric-related cases of the population.

Dr. Brown and team did not ask what government was contemplating; they did not ask what WHO was planning or what the international

community was envisaging when Liberia became overwhelmed and medical facilities overstretched due to the outbreak. They chose to map out what they could do to save humanity under very precarious circumstances. Even after our compatriots Foday Gallah and Salome Karwah came close to death they did not relent but joined the Ebola life-saving team as an ambulance driver nurse-aide. It is worth-noting that Nelson Sayon gave up motorcycling and volunteered with the Liberian Red Cross to bury Ebola victims.

Realizing the hugely aggressive mobilization of local and international resources in spite of the delay, the good people of Liberia heartily send their hats off to the likes of Dr. Debbie Eisenhut, Dr. John Fankhauser, Nancy Writebol, Dr. Rick Sacra for their critical life-saving roles at SIM's ELWA Hospital during Ebola Outbreak in Liberia.

Dr. Brown like Mother Teresa will remain a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope and extraordinary benevolence. As lead Medical Officer at a Charity-run Hospital; Dr. Brown's response to Jesus' plea was anchored on -"**Come to be My light,**" He was a Doctor to the sick and shoddy; a symbol of compassion to humanity, and a living witness to the thirsting love of God.