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Greetings to all,

We are all well and working hard. Thank God!!

The flights into Liberia were uneventful, arriving into Roberts Airfield Wed. about 7:30 PM.

After going through the airport routine, Butch and Jim Foster and I were warmly greeted by members of the Lutheran Church of Liberia [LCL] and Curran Hospital. We spent our first night at the LCL compound in Monrovia ending our marathon of not getting horizontal to sleep.

The next day was spent in Monrovia checking with potential material suppliers, registering at the US embassy, and doing some supply shopping before our long trek up country to Curran Hospital.

Upon arriving at Curran we wasted no time in assessing our project. There is a tremendous amount of things to set in place before even one nail can be driven. But thank God, things are falling into place, well - - - maybe not exactly falling, but I have about 25 Liberians working now and the number will surely increase.

I am having a difficult time making connections with our building material suppliers in Monrovia from Curran. I can communicate with them by e-mail through a satellite connection but large files do not go. Being pressed for time, I decided to make the long trip down to Monrovia and gather the material estimates I requested from 3 building material suppliers. After receiving the estimates, I was able to pick our supplier and place a large material order. Now, let's pray that it will be quickly delivered as not to hold up the project.

Needless to say, this whole ordeal can be frustrating, but once you have experienced Liberia, and seen real poverty, real need, and watched the daily arrivals of parents bringing sick children to the little couple room Curran clinic right behind the destroyed hospital, my inconvenience pales in comparison to bringing health care to those who have not.

Please pray for growing relations and cooperation with our new workers and safety and productivity in all we touch.

And also pray for safe travel for the Upper Susquehanna Synod [USS] team leaving for Liberia Jan. 10th.

In His service - gary

