

Back in the Bush Mission Letter #3 ....2006

Greetings to all,

Things are fine in Zorzor. Way up here in Lofa County, the cool evenings are a wonderful relief from the hot sun of the day.

The Curran Hospital project is coming along very nicely. Both the operating room and the maternity delivery room now have new roofs. All the trusses are set on the maternity ward and lastly nearly all of the trusses are built for the outpatient wing and will be set in place the beginning of the week. I have a team installing 36 aluminum windows and patching bullet holes and cracks in the walls. I have an electrician and a plumber starting their work early next week. We are on a roll. Thank God!

The 4 man team from the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA, Paul Shaner, Joe Kanagy, Marv Johnson, and Jonathan Tuke, along with Jim and Butch Foster are busy building wooden windows, installing door frames, doors, preparing walls for tile installation and keeping generators running. God has blessed us with hard working crews, Liberian and American, to make all this happen in just a few weeks.

Thank you for your prayers.

By next week our work team will number about 45. We give all our workers a noon meal and it gives us a time to sit and eat with our Liberian workers. Of course it is rice and soup and some of the meals are - - - quite interesting. Wednesday I had a lead bullet in my soup. I guess that is encouraging; now I know the animal was not just found dead somewhere.

One of my biggest concerns in doing this job was getting the building materials back to the job site. I have made an agreement with a supplier in Monrovia to deliver to Curran Hospital three times during the renovation for no additional charge. Being about a 6 hour drive from suppliers, transporting building material to Curran Hospital could have been a huge and costly problem.

There is still so much to be done and at this point it is too early to know if all will be done by the time I go home. But always resting in knowing that, God's timing is perfect.

I have been wrestling with all the busyness of this huge project; feeling a bit like a horse with blinders on, only seeing his work before him. Then remembering the story of Jesus and his disciples as they were traveling from Jericho and a large crowd followed them. This was a time in Jesus' ministry when many were pulling for His attention. He was extremely sought after and His followers knew this and that's why as they passed by a blind beggar, who was calling out for Jesus' attention, the crowd told the beggar to shut up. Don't bother Jesus! He has important stuff to do! He's a man with a mission.

And then our precious Jesus, even with all His busyness and Calvary looming on the horizon, stopped - - - and said "What do you want me to do for you?" And Jesus had compassion on him and touched his eyes.

Wow ! - - - - - convicted

Oh - - - to have enough time for compassion and to touch!

Please pray for our team's safety and productivity and - - - for compassion to touch those in need of His touch.

In His service- gary