

Back in the Bush Mission letter #5...2006

Greetings to all,

We are all fine and working hard. The “we” is a lesser we now. Joe Kanagy, Paul Shaner, Marv Johnson, and Jonathan Tuke left Curran Hospital Tue. morning to start their trip home to the US. This team, sent by the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA in Pa. was a great help at moving this project along. Butch & Jim Foster and I, sent by Global Missions, will remain in Liberia until March 18th to continue on as far as we can in time remaining.

Our portion of the hospital renovation is now totally under roof. Praise God!!

We are busy painting, installing wall and floor tile, hanging light fixtures, installing glass, and many finishing up projects. We still have lots to do but I can see the end now. We have even taken on an additional 900 sq. ft. area to reroof.

O-well, so much for sitting on the back porch watching the bananas grow.

Realizing I only have just over three weeks to work, any small work that remains when I leave Liberia will be under contract and Timothy Cleta, the administrator at Curran Hospital, will just need to monitor progress.

Our trip to Children’s Ministry Orphanage on Feb 12th was a wonderful experience. Joe, Marv, Paul, and I traveled to Balama to visit the children and share the gifts we gathered. The number one thing on their wish list this year was metal roofing for the two buildings. Every time it rains it just runs into their rooms, so with the help of some people back home and some members of our work team, we were able to buy enough roofing to cover their two buildings. We had enough money left to help pay a local carpenter to install the roofing for the orphanage.

In addition to the roofing, we carried 2 bags of rice, cooking oil and other food items, peanuts for planting, clothing and shoes, and the most important, {to the kids} two soccer balls.

Paul Shaner brought two bags of candy for the kids. I just had to let Paul experience this memorable moment of handing out his candy to 50 children. It was so so funny. Poor Paul. All you saw of Paul was his head surrounded by 50 screaming kids with his hands fumbling with the candy bag trying to keep up. Well - - - Paul survived his ordeal. Later Paul said chuckling “All I saw was hands in front of my face!!!!”

This past Sunday we worshiped at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Fisebu. Pastor John Sumo’s message was on *Mark 2:1,12*. You remember the story of the paralyzed man who was carried by a number of his friends to Jesus in hopes of receiving His healing touch. There was such a crowd around Jesus they could not reach Him, so the man’s friends, determined to help, removed some roofing and lowered the paralyzed man down in front of Jesus. Pastor Sumo’s focus was on the determined men who would not give up till their friend was made whole.

I thought -Gosh! - - This is so much like the coordinated efforts making Curran Hospital whole again. It’s the efforts of ELCA- Global Missions, Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA, Grasslands Trust, Lutheran Church of Liberia, faithful prayer partners, and devoted volunteer’s combined efforts not taking no for an answer. When someone said “No- you won’t find the money” or “No- you won’t find the labor to do the work” or “No- you can’t get all that material back in the bush where car has trouble going” these partners in mission took hold of the ropes and set a destroyed, paralyzed Curran Hospital down in front of our Lord.

And again He is faithful and the healing is happening. Awesome!!

Thank you Jesus!!

Please continue to pray for productivity and safety for all our workers and also for the healing and rebirth of Liberia.

In His service -- gary