

3/03/07

Greetings to all,

We are fine and our work is winding down.

We are nearly finished with our work here at Curran Hospital. We are doing some small plastering, painting, installing glass, and other odds and ends. Things have worked out well here and we have done much more than I had hoped. The entire hospital is under roof and the pediatric wing and isolation room will be ready for use shortly. Now it is time to put the finishing touches on started projects and get ready to clean and inventory our tools. Our work crew is down to about 10 to 15 people now. It's pretty quiet around here.

Jim and Butch Foster and I will start our journey home on March 11th. I am looking forward to getting home and seeing my family again. Just hope the snow has gone.

Yesterday Butch was doing some work in the maternity wing and mentioned to me there was an expecting mother there suffering in the pains of her labor. Late in the afternoon Jim and I were in the maternity wing checking on some things and we passed by this same woman now sitting up in her bed holding her little daughter only a few hours old. We stopped to congratulate her and as she was trying to nurse her newborn, Mom had a smile from ear to ear. It was so precious! One needs to stop and think, where would she have had this baby a year ago?? God is good!!!

While working this morning at the hospital I saw a number of ladies coming to the clinic crying. I found out later that a 10 year old boy found a live shell and put it into a fire. It went off and the bullet hit him in the jaw. He was brought to Curran for treatment. People are still being hurt by a war that is now history. Quite often we hear an explosion from the UN camp destroying ammunition they have found.

A few days ago I returned to Curran Hospital from a 5 day work visit to Phebe Hospital. I have been working with our Liberian helpers of the Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP) training them on a new and better system of gathering our student information. Things went well and in 3 days we registered and took pictures of 780 TSP students. That is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 2007/2008 TSP students. We will have close to 70 students graduating in the 2006/ 2007 school year. That leaves room for 70 new students and I only added a few above that number bringing the 2007/2008 TSP to just over 1000 students. Praise God!!

On Friday Feb 23 Butch, Jim, Frank, and I went to Children's Ministry Orphanage to deliver the gifts that so many people back home have helped to buy. Even above all the joy that this year's gifts like food, roofing, sewing machine, kitchen supplies, and farming supplies brought to the orphanage, it was most precious to see the children dig into their shoe box present of goodies. Some kids just ripping into their box to see what they received while others snuck around a corner to peek into their box in privacy. I have some neat video of the day.

One thing that found its way into a couple of the boxes were eye covers (for sleeping) from our flight into Liberia. I drew a tailless donkey on a piece of cardboard and got a 3 in. nail with a scrap of cardboard to make the tail and with the help of the eye covers we played pin the tail on the donkey. Never playing this before, it was so much fun to watch them try to get the nail on the but they tried. Sorrypoor pun!

Frank Morano left our team Feb 28th to start his trip home. This was Frank's first trip to Africa and he was a big help painting in the hospital. Frank's heart went out to a little 7 year old malnourished boy at Curran Hospital. This little boy fell out of a tree and broke his leg and was brought to Curran for treatment. The boy, needing more advanced care than Curran can provide right now, should have been sent to Phebe Hospital over 2 hour drive on dirt road. Frank gave the parents money for a taxi to carry them to Phebe Hospital for his treatment. I was at Phebe at that time so Frank called me to be on the

lookout for the boy's arrival. Well, he never showed up. Frank found out later the parents took him back to their village to be treated by "country medicine". This is someone who treats illnesses with traditional native remedies. This is all they had prior to the arrival of missionary hospitals. Now you have some kind of idea what a challenge we put up with every day. Trying in Christian love to direct people in their best interests only to receive these shocking reminders that we are in a totally different culture whose brown eyes are looking at life in such a different way.

Please pray for the wisdom to see through their eyes and change what is changeable and accept what is not.

Please continue to pray for our productivity in things of this world and things eternal.

In His service.....gary