

Back in the Bush Mission Letter #1 ...2008

12/31/07

Greeting to all,

I am sitting in front of my computer at home glancing at the pile of things I need to put into my suitcase by the end of the day. Packing is not my favorite thing to do but I am leaving for Curran Hospital, Liberia Tue morning so it needs to be done.

I will be traveling with a good friend of mine, Paul Shaner from Hughesville, Pa. Paul is a carpenter and has helped on numerous renovation projects in Liberia. Nice to have him along.

The other member of our Curran team traveling on Tue is a first timer to Liberia. Rev. Deb Spink from Warrington, Pa. Deb is pastor at United Church of Christ of Warminster. It is always exciting to see new volunteers experience their first trip to Africa. For those who have not heard, Deb and I will be married in fall of 2008. I am blessed with a partner who has an interest in the mission field. Praise God!

Two veteran members of the Curran team are Butch and Jim Foster from Livingston, MT. They are already at Curran preparing things for us.

The last members of our team, Stan and Sally Olsen from Anchorage, AK, will arrive Jan 16th.

Both Stan and Sally have done mission trips before and they actually met in the mission field.

Our work at Curran Hospital this trip will be to finish up some electrical, plumbing, tile, windows, ceilings, and paint in one wing plus a few other rooms.

I hope to have enough time to help St John's Lutheran Church start their new church project. The old church was burned during the civil war. The congregation has been worshipping in a small room and very much needs a bigger facility. I pray things will be in order that we can be of some help to them.

We will also be extending our help to 2 orphanages this year; Children's Ministry Orphanage and Feleta Orphanage. I look forward to this heartwarming experience being with the kids. Deb has been putting together little gifts for them today to pack in her luggage.

And last but not least, we will be gathering the student information for the 2008/2009 Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP). This will be the 9th year of the TSP and we will add over 200 students bringing the total we are helping to over 1240. Praise God!! I will be working with our TSP helpers in Liberia. We desire to grow and touch additional students but we never want to spoil our good record and grow beyond our ability of accuracy and accountability.

We ask that you lift our team up in prayer for productivity of material things and of things eternal.

Together we can act as the scared hand of Christ reaching out to our brothers and sisters

in Liberia.

In His service.....gary