

Back in the Bush Mission Letter #2 ....2008

Greetings to all,

We are all fine and working hard. Things are moving ahead on the last phase of renovation of Curran Lutheran Hospital. Our work crew is growing every day as things start to roll. We number about 33 right now but that number will build for a few weeks. We have a noon meal of rice and soup with our workers and it's a nice time to sit and eat Liberian with our workers.

Sunday we worshiped at St. John's Lutheran Church about a 10 minute walk from Curran Hospital. After church we had a brief meeting with Pastor Weidor who was sharing the church's plans on rebuilding. During the civil war St John's was burned down by rebels, now with no money to rebuild they are worshiping in a small room at the rear of the burned church. We pray we can be of some use in their dream.

Sunday afternoons are times to clear our heads from our project at Curran. Being so focused most of 6 days it is good to do something different. Last Sunday Paul, Deb, Butch, Jim, and I went to Little Ganta.

This small Liberian village, with its warm and friendly people, years ago was a leprosy colony but now it is comprised of their descendants.

With seldom a white man's visit, the children of Little Ganta were very leery of us. They were very curious and would stay close enough to observe yet far enough to be safe from the white people. I was determined to make friends and planned my strategy. In about 15 minutes time I went from a smile.... to a wave ....to kneeling on the ground holding one hand outstretched for a shake.....to slipping my baseball cap on to the head of an unsuspecting young boy and getting a laugh...to letting them come close to touch my pale skin in curiosity. The clincher was when I got my camcorder out and flipped the little camera monitor towards them. They giggled with glee as they watched each other on the little screen.

For the rest of our time at Little Ganta I felt like the pied piper with an army of kids on my heels grabbing at my pants legs striving for attention. Neat way to spend an afternoon. Thank you Lord for the break!

Please pray for growing relationships with our brothers and sisters and also for safety and productivity in His work!

In His service.....gary