

Back in the Bush Mission Letter #3 ...2008

Greeting to all,

1/25/2008

We are all well and doing fine.

On Jan 18th we welcomed Stan and Sally Olsen to our team here at Curran Hospital. Stan is an experienced hand in construction and is very much welcomed to our renovation team. Stan's wife, Sally, is an RN and has been busy filling in to help alleviate the shortage of nurses at Curran. Both Stan and Sally have served in Liberia previously.

The renovation work at Curran is moving along fine. The contracts for this year's last phases of renovation have been agreed on and signed. Deb, Paul and I will be leaving Liberia Jan 30th, so my time is short here. I am confident Jim, Butch, Stan, and our Liberian crew will bring this phase of Curran's reconstruction to completion.

As of today, we have not been nearly as successful in getting things done at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zorzor. The people at St. John's have struggled in their efforts to develop a plan of execution to rebuild their church. St John's was destroyed during Liberia's 14 years of civil war and our hope was during our time here we could help start their rebuilding. I am a firm believer that *God's timing is perfect* and will rest in the thought that for some reason things need to proceed at a slower pace.

A few days this week, we had the pleasure of a visit from three representatives from ELCA, Global Mission. Louis Dorvilier, Rev. Twila Schock, and Rev. Rodger Prois toured the hospital, inspecting our construction efforts, and now seeing 2 wards full of beds and many patients waiting in the out patient area for treatment. ELCA has a close relationship with Curran and we pray for sustained aid for Curran's tomorrow.

Last weekend I went to Phebe for a meeting with Patrick Jackson and the Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP) helpers. Sharing my ideas and listening to their thoughts, it was a very productive meeting. God has blessed me with a group of young fellows that cherish the value of an education and want their brothers and sisters to achieve. Because of the help of devoted sponsors, we will be adding approximately 250 students for the 2008/2009 school year bringing the 9th year of the TSP to over 1280 students. Praise God!!!

This weekend we will be making our annual visit to Children's Ministry Orphanage and Feletta Orphanage. This year we have been blessed with many gifts to share with the children and I look forward to seeing them again. Since I am leaving for home Jan, 30th, I will not have time to share our experience with you till I reach home. I will be making a video of this time and would be glad to send a DVD to anybody who wishes a copy. It is always one of the most precious adventures while here in Liberia.

Please continue to pray for our team's productivity, healing for the people of Liberia, and peace and freedom for a country whose name stands for Liberty.

In His service.....Gary