

2-01-08

Greeting to all,

I am writing this on my computer back home in Pa.

Paul, Deb, and I had a non-eventful trip home. Thank God!

After 2 days of land and air travel it felt good to sleep horizontal in my own bed (without a mosquito net).

The last week in Liberia was a very busy one.

Last weekend our whole team (Jim and Butch Foster, Paul Shaner, Stan and Sally Olsen, Deb and I) packed up and drove almost 3 hours down the dirt road to spend 2 days at Phebe Hospital. With vehicle loaded with lots of children's clothing and gifts for the two orphanages we would be visiting, it was with great anticipation we traveled down the rough road, sometimes on the seat and lots catapulted off the seat. The long stretch of road between Zorzor and Gbarnga has not been repaired since the last rainy season. The rainy season is always hard on the roads. When the ground is saturated with water and the heavy trucks travel over them they continue to press deeper and deeper ruts into the road surface. Yes, ruts so deep that a large truck will disappear into the hole that has been pressed into the roadway. During the rainy season when these holes fill with water one loses concept how deep a rut is and a driver can very quickly bury a truck in a 6 ft hole. A few years ago I was on a trip during a rainy period and when approaching a flooded area our driver would get out and probe the holes with a long stick to check their depth. What a trip!! You will never again hear me complain about pot holes in the roads of Pa.

Our time at Feleta Orphanage and Children's Ministry Orphanage was very precious. It was wonderful to watch the children open their presents. Most of the children received balls and if you can imagine 50 kids fighting for your attention hurling a ball at you. Well, not quite that bad. I have some great video of our time with the children.

Last Sunday Bishop Harris of the Lutheran Church in Liberia attended a groundbreaking ceremony at St John's Lutheran Church in Zorzor. St John's has agreed on a building plan and Bishop Harris gave his blessing to the project.

Monday we had some people on the site preparing the site for the new walls. I am confident we can get the walls erected and plastered by the end of Feb. Even if the building would sit that way until next Jan, the rainy season would not damage any work done. One step at a time.

It has been a good trip this year. Lot of work has been done but there is a lot that still needs to be done.

One awesome gift has been the total renovation of Curran Lutheran Hospital. I praise God for the hard working people he has given us to complete this building project. While working on the hospital so many people would come up to us and say thank you for coming to help. And I say thank God for letting me.

Next on Curran's list is the water supply system which hopefully will be completed soon. And after that the planned construction of Curran's Nursing School complex.

Debbie very much enjoyed her first African experience. Although cold bucket baths were not her favorite, I never heard a negative word.

It is good to be home. Now to dig through my mountain of mail.

Still in His service
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