

Back in the Bush Mission Letter #22009

Greetings from Curran Lutheran Hospital in Zorzor, Lofa County, Liberia!

It is a beautiful Thursday morning, 74° F. with a slight breeze blowing. I must be getting used to Liberian weather as I am sitting on our porch with a light jacket on. The jacket will come off soon as by mid-morning it will reach well into the 80's.

We arrived here safely exactly one week ago. The only glitch we had was when we flew into Brussels and they could not get the door ramp to work. It was either frozen (it was 22° F.) or jammed or both as it took them over half an hour to get it fixed before we could get off the plane.

We arrived in Monrovia on New Year's Eve and were met by Jim and Butch Foster and their driver, Anthony. As we headed toward the Lutheran compound we were pleased to see some of the improvements that had been made. It was evident that more generators were up and running as many of the shops had electric signs lit up at night and all the stores were open with the electric light bulbs shining through their windows as people were buying last minute items preparing for their New Year's Celebration. We welcomed in 2009 with a simple but good meal prepared by the Fosters.

The next day we headed to Phebe hospital and were pleased at how the coal-tarred roads had been repaired by the Chinese. We stopped to confer with Patrick Jackson about the Tuition Sponsorship Program and to send a quick email home that we had arrived safely. We then left for Curran and were even more pleased at how the Bangladesh and the Pakistanis had graded the dirt road. This time we spent about an hour and a half on the seat and only 30 minutes in the air—a big improvement from last year!

By Saturday we were well on our way at making our room at the Guest Missionary House feel like home. The Fosters already had the room set up with two small night stands, the bed already made and the mosquito netting hanging from the ceiling. Gary and Jim met with Timothy, the Hospital Administrator, and decided on which hospital projects they would be able to do while also putting a roof on St. John's Lutheran church in town.

I met with the Lutheran school principal only to find out that he had also invited the public school principal and his teachers to my workshop, who then turned around and invited the Baptist school. I came prepared to lead teacher training workshops with the 30 Lutheran teachers and am now teaching two classes of 50+ teachers and I am scrambling to figure out how make material for 30 stretch. Prayerfully when the rest of our team arrives next week (Carl, Barb, Sandy, and Joe) they will be able to bring additional material.

Classes start next week for me, and Gary and most of the work teams are up and running so all prayers would be appreciated. We pray this letter finds all of you doing well and we will keep you updated as God continues to guide our work here.

God bless, Deb & Gary Winters