

Back in the Bush Mission Letter #5 2009

Greetings from the bush,

I am sitting on my porch as I write this on my lap-top with 6 children peering through the window screens trying to understand what this white man is doing with this strange box with a picture frame setting on it. Just behind our house is one of the few wells in our area and there's a constant flow of people coming to fill buckets for the day's needs. For a large part, this is a daily chore of the young people in the house, and in their boredom, while waiting their turn at the well; groups of children come to our house to see the white man, (gender universal).

We are winding down all our projects as our time is growing very short here. Deb and I start our travel home Sunday morning.

On Wednesday Deb, Barb, and Sandy are having closing ceremonies for their teacher training workshops. All their students enjoyed the last 6 weeks of training and are already asking if they are coming back next year. No promises have been made as Deb and I need to be alert to God's calling for us. Deb is humbled by 2 of her faithful students that walk over 1 hour each way 3 times a week to attend class. Ahh-yes and then I remember the people that keep circling and circling the Wall-Mart parking lot to find a parking spot 10 feet closer to the front door.

In winding down our construction projects we have just a few more details to take care of on the 2 homes we rebuilt. But the big news is today (Sunday) was the joyous rededication ceremony at St John's Lutheran Church in Zorzor. Bishop Harris of the Lutheran Church in Liberia was present and it was a grand celebration lasting 4 hours. Long service?!!

Deb did the sermon this morning and you could tell by the reaction of the people, it was very well received. It was even on the local radio station. Wow!!

There are also a few details still unfinished at St John's that we will be taking care of this week.

This last week here in Liberia will be a busy one. The container from the US finally was released from the port and now we have our gifts in hand for Feleta Orphanage. Praise God! Thursday our team plans to travel to Feleta, stay overnight at Phebe Hospital, and travel Friday to Harrisburg to gather some information for the Upper Susquehanna Synod's project for 2010, the reconstruction of Day Memorial Church. We should be back home at Curran Hospital late Friday evening.

Reminiscing on some special moments from this trip I remember the ladies from St John's Lutheran Church when they would come daily to help by carrying water, or cleaning the floors, or making food for the workers. They would greet us with a big "Thank You - Thank You - hear?" and even a big hug to show their great appreciation for our help in rebuilding their church. Sad to say St John's was a casualty of 14 years of civil war and has been left in ruins for more than 6 years.

I praise God for what has finally happened for them.

Our next mission letter will be written on our computer home in Reinholds while I am still suffering from jetlag.

Thank you for your prayers of productivity and safety.

Deb and I thank God every day for where He has put us this moment and may the small things from our hands bring glory to God!

In His service
gary and deb