

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2011! It is hard to believe another year has flown by and we are getting ready to head back to Liberia.

There is a sense in which our Liberian trip started early as we were privileged on November 15, 2010 to welcome Patrick Jackson, our Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP) coordinator from Liberia to the United States. Patrick came to the United States to sharpen his computer and accounting skills to keep pace with the work load of the growing TSP. It has been a huge learning experience as Patrick had never floated across the sky on a plane, rattled across tracks on a train, moved skyward on an escalator, or been caught in a revolving door before!

In awe Gary and I are experiencing things in a new way through Patrick's eyes: His astonishment as to how cold it can get in the United States and his insistence his first week here that he needed to wear his winter coat and boots inside all day just to stay warm until his body adjusted. His wonder as he felt how biting 20 degree weather can be, how silently snow falls, how cold and wet to the touch it is, and how beautifully God paints the earth a brilliant white when the sun comes up.

He could not believe that Deb just went down to the basement, put the dirty clothes in a machine, put some soap in and turned a few knobs rather than walking a few miles to the stream to do the wash. Patrick has since learned about microwaves, clothes dryers, dish washers and many other conveniences we take for granted. Gary and I would love to be a fly on the wall when Patrick goes home and tells his family all he has seen and learned.

As much as we are looking forward to going back to Liberia, it will be an unusual trip for us as we will only be in Liberia for a little over two weeks. Gary is not doing any building projects this year, but rather we will be concentrating on overseeing the registration of students on the Tuition Sponsorship Program and for the first time teaching others how it is done. To that end Ted & Judy Gregoire, who were in Liberia in 1998 with Gary, will be traveling back with their daughter Leah to learn the ins and outs of the program. We will also be shooting new video for our next TSP DVD which we look forward to sharing with you sometime this spring.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for us and for giving the students on the TSP a better chance at a brighter future through an education in Jesus' name.

Your friends in Christ,

Gary & Deb Winters