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Greetings to all,

Our first week in Liberia has gone by oh-so quickly. Judy, Ted, Leah, Patrick, Deb, and I were met at the airport Sunday afternoon by a vehicle from Phebe Hospital. After loading 7 people and their entire luggage into a 5 passenger Toyota Land Cruiser we were driven to the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL) compound in the capital city, Monrovia. We needed to deliver numerous things that were carrying for different people of the church. It is like Christmas for some people when we arrive.

Unfortunately the guest house at the LCL compound, where we were to stay one night, was full (*no room in the Inn!*) Bill Martin, a gifted volunteer with a big heart serving in Liberia many years wearing many hats, found us 2 rooms at a hotel about 5 blocks from the LCL compound. Bill invited our team to his apartment on the beach for dinner. After our exhausting trip it was great to sit on the beach before dinner and watch the sun set on the Atlantic.

After a good night's rest we went down town to buy a two week supply of food, not available back in the bush, before our trip up country to Phebe Hospital. While in town, our team also had the privilege of visiting with Dr. Walter Gwengalie, head of Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Liberia. I know Dr. Gwengalie for about 13 years and he is a big advocate for the Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP). During his many years of service in Liberia he has made huge health care improvements and has a very busy schedule but he opened time for our visit which made our time even more special. By now it was time for our three hour trip up country to Phebe Hospital and Praise God it was uneventful!

In preparation for Tuesday's start of recording TSP info and taking pictures of students for the 2010/2011 school year, Monday evening we had a meeting with our Liberian TSP info gathers to make sure all know what I want. Tuesday upon arriving at the site, we were met by over 200 students waiting in line to have their picture taken, some already standing in line for hours to be first. We worked from 9:00 to almost 4:00 recording some 360 students. It is a long process recording info and taking pictures of over 1300 students. By Saturday afternoon we have processed over 1000 students!

Thursday afternoon we visited the home of John Sackie and family. I thought it is important for sponsors to know the environment that TSP students come from. Our whole American team was humbled by the conditions John's family experience every day. I pray that God will direct my efforts to share this with you all in our next TSP DVD.

Tomorrow, Monday, we will be taking the TSP project to the road going to Zen-Zu, Totota and Sanoyea to record students and take pictures. We will return back to Phebe Tuesday afternoon. Please pray for safety and productivity for our team.

In His service,
Gary & Deb