

Sunday, January 15, 2012

Greetings to all,

Happy New Year 2012! We trust as we write this pre-mission letter that you have had a blessed Christmas and a good start to your new year. We realized as we watched our grandchildren start back to school that it was time for us to prepare to go back to Liberia to oversee the process of recording the information and taking the picture of each of our almost 1,400 students in the Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP) of *God's Precious Children*.

We are thrilled this year to have one of Deb's students, Heather Biscoe joining the team this year. Heather attends Palmer Theological Seminary (where Deb teaches) and is originally from West Virginia. Although she has been on other mission trips this will be her first trip to Africa. One of Heather's main duties will be to see if she can make the students smile for their pictures (not an easy feat!). This trip we are taking with us the hand puppet Bert from Sesame Street to help Heather along. When you receive your student's picture for this year, you will be able to judge for yourself if we were successful or not!

We are also overjoyed to have Sandra Nelson from Trout Run, Pennsylvania join our team this year. Sandra has been to Liberia many times with the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Lutheran Church and has worked with Deb in the Teacher Training Workshops in both Zorzor and Harrisburg. Along with helping us record data for our TSP students, Sandra and Deb will be meeting with the head of the Education Department for the Lutheran Church of Liberia to see if we can set up a permanent location for yearly teacher training workshops that we would like to offer to all of the schools involved with the Tuition Sponsorship Program of *God's Precious Children*.

Besides overseeing the whole program, Gary will also be exploring the possibility of either renovating or building a school next year in Liberia. With the advent of our website, www.GodsPreciousChildren.com, we have been gifted money to help renovate and build schools and have just about enough to actually do our first project next year. With the grace of God, as donations are still being given, Gary will do all of the ground work this year, so we can renovate/build next year.

We are thankful to God that we have someone staying at our house while we are gone and we hope they don't have to shovel a lot of snow! We seek your prayers for our safety and that in the short time we will be in Liberia we can accomplish the many tasks God has called us to do. If the e-mail system does not hum-bug us, we will be sending out a mission letter each week while we are in Liberia and then one when we are safely home and preparing all of the profiles for this year's students.

As we prepare for the 13th year of the Tuition Sponsorship Program some things have become just a routine now. Gary heard a sermon a couple weeks ago and the pastor was comparing the word "got" and "get" and it reminded us of our travels to Liberia. We pray that our mindset will never be "OK, we got to go to Liberia again" but rather, and as it has always been, "we thank God we get to go to Liberia once again and do His will, Praise God!"

Thank you for your prayers and support, we deeply appreciate them. We pray God continues to richly bless you and yours.

In His Service,

Gary and Deb