

Back in the Bush 2012—Mission Letter #3

Greetings to all,

It is hard to believe our time here in Liberia is growing short. Because of the two extra days we spent waiting for a plane in Atlanta this trip has been a flurry of activity visiting schools, taking pictures of children, visiting building sites, hosting meetings at our house, visiting with old friends and making new ones in a much shorter time than we expected.

As we draw this mission trip to a close our letter to you is one huge THANK YOU for all you do for the children of Liberia typified by a young woman of Liberia whom you will probably never meet; her name is Rose.

Rose was chosen for the Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP) and in high school made the decision to try and give back to the TSP and her community. She joined the TSP team and every year since has helped us take information for the students coming to get their pictures taken.

When we came last year to begin to take pictures, Rose was nowhere in sight. When we asked about her, we were told she had traveled back in her village for she had given birth to a baby boy. We had the opportunity to travel back to her village and talk with Rose and to meet her beautiful baby. Rose's options in life had changed dramatically. She was now a single mother trying to find a way to provide for her baby. Rose was one of the lucky ones because her parents were willing to help provide for them as Rose found a means to support the baby whether it be taking in wash, or making and selling soap, or working on a farm, or crushing rock all day.

The pastor of the village talked with us as to what a waste it was given how bright Rose was and how well she did in school. After praying about it, Gary and I decided we would find the funds to help pay for Rose's tuition, if she found a place to stay and child care for her son. With help from her family and village, Rose was able to start back to school.

This year Rose was once again working on the TSP team, helping to take information as we took pictures of our TSP students. We got a chance to travel to the village where Rose is from and visit with her son Humphrey, who, although a little afraid of white folk, is a healthy growing baby boy walking all over the place.

This past Sunday St. Luke's Lutheran Church's worship program centered around honoring all that the women do for their church. We were very pleased to see Rose stand when the English choir did their selection and sing a solo praising God with her voice and helping to lead the choir. We were very surprised and very proud when the person who then stood up to MC the entire women's program was Rose!

As Rose competently and expertly lead the whole program Gary and I had tears in our eyes as we thought of the Rose we saw last year, back in the bush in her village with very little options for what the rest of her life would hold. Rose has taken a leadership

position with the women of her church, with the help of *God's Precious Children* is finishing her college education and is doing well, and with the help of her family and village has provided a loving home for her son.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! And most of all praise GOD that we serve a GOD of second chances who provides a way out often when we see none.

We will never fully know the effect you, through *God's Precious Children*, will have on the individual lives of each student and for the county of Liberia, but we trust God to guide as we reach out in the name and love of the God who brings life out of death, and possibilities when none can be found. Thank you for being a part of this ministry.

Your friends in Christ,
deb & gary