

Back in the Bush 2013, mission letter #1

Greetings all,

Deb and I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New year.

We are in the midst of juggling things around trying to fit everything we need to take to Liberia into our luggage. It seems to get tougher each year as our mission grows, but I am sure we will make it happen somehow.

I thank God for our house sitters that take up residence as we travel to Liberia. What could be better than getting away to a warm place in the winter, right?

January 8th we leave for Liberia and it is with great anticipation that we prepare for our journey back in the bush. Deb and I will be accompanied by Edward Brzoza and daughter, Hanna from Hatboro, Pa. and returning with us Sandy Nelson from Trout Run, Pa. Sandy has served numerous times in Liberia and this will be her second time helping God's Precious Children. Ed has participated on two mission trips to New Orleans helping rebuild from Katrina, but this will be Hanna and Ed's first trip to Liberia. Ed's family sponsor a student with God's Precious Children and one thing we will make happen is for Ed and Hanna to meet their student and family face to face. In 2007 I helped introduce Frank Morano to his student in Liberia and it was quite a moving experience so we are all looking forward to this year's adventure for Ed and Hanna. I pray we will have some good video to share with you.

Our primary work will be to record the student info and take student pictures for the 2013/2014 school year. This past year was extremely successful for GPC so in light of that we will be picking up about 300 new students for the 2013/2014 school year. We thank God for all those sponsors and our hard working helpers.

Last year GPC was blessed with a donation to complete 9 classrooms at Bishop Main Lutheran School. We will be visiting Bishop Main to take pictures and video of the completed school. This year GPC was blessed with another donation to help fund the building of the new Belefanai Lutheran School. We praise God for donations allowing GPC to be involved in not only helping students stay in school, but to improve the quality of their education through our school building projects.

So you can imagine our little team will be plenty busy getting all these things plus done in the short time we are in Liberia. Also our work load is getting heavier and heavier back home as GPC continues to grow. God has given us the help of a couple hard working ladies that input the new student info each year into our computer and we thank God for their assistance. As I grow closer to retirement from my regular job I believe I see what God has planned for me. The other day I was doing my morning devotions reading Proverbs 14 and I was drawn to a verse I had highlighted a number of years ago. It must have struck a chord with me years ago. Proverbs 14: 4 ***Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest.*** I have always been meticulous about my work. I guess that comes from years of classic Mustang restorations. I like to have all my loose ends neatly tied up and put away. I guess you could say, I like my ***stable clean.*** With God's Precious Children we are balancing so many things at once, going so many different ways at the same time, talk about a messy stable, but I have never been more confident knowing that His ***strong Ox*** is making an ***absolutely awesome harvest*** and for the sake of ***His harvest,*** I accept my stable getting a little messy.

The harvest is thousands of students getting an education sitting in a good class room, most who would have never seen the inside of a school building, and all this in the name of Jesus! Talk about a ***great harvest!*** Thanks be to God.

We ask you to hold our team up in prayer as we travel to Liberia and for safety in our work. May we shine the light of Jesus Christ in all we do and say, even in a messy stable. Messy stable?? Ahh but, where was our Savior born?

In His service,
gary & deb