

Back in the Bush 2014, mission letter #3

1-23-14

Greetings to all,

We have been very busy recording the student info and taking pictures for the 2014/2015 school year. After we had finished most in the Phebe area, we went out in the bush to record student info at 4 remote schools we support students in.

Even though the roads are long and treacherous the work is so much less hectic, giving us the time to savor precious moments. I remember a promise I made about 14 years ago in one of my mission letters. At that time I was bogged down with a heavy work load and with little time to nurture and grow relationships; to just listen to people, regardless of my ability to change anything. *"I pray not to let the passion for my work get in the way of my compassion for the people."* Alas, I keep trying. These times in the bush are some of my favorite.

We have well over 1400 students recorded now and should finish out about 1500 for the 2014/2015 school year. Praise God!!

After our return from the bush, Barry, Chen and I delivered about 35 Bibles to Phebe Community Lutheran School. As we walked home on the path from Phebe School we caught up to a young girl about 13 years old. She was walking so slow and had such a sad look on her face. I asked her why she was going home from school. She said she had finished her exam and was free to go. Chen talked with her and found out her name was Patricia. Patricia was on her way to visit her mother in the hospital. Her father had the same disease about a year ago and died. Patricia has no Aunts or Uncles so the fear of losing her mother is leaving her very much scared and alone. Chen stopped and prayed with her. Such sad stories are unfortunately more common than one would ever dream. It's every day Liberia, like the blind man coming to Deb wanting help to send his daughter to school; like the teenage boy coming to me pleading for help because his mother and father are dead and his younger siblings are not in school; like a friend I know for years now living his last days with cancer, coming to me begging for food for his family. It's every day Liberia. Overwhelming!?! You bet it is! But God's Precious Children continues to extend itself as far as it can reach each year. I am reminded of a quote from Richard Stearns, President of World Vision. *"Don't fail to do something just because you can't do everything."*

Please continue to pray for wisdom and strength for our team as we finish our work.

We continue to keep our ears attentive to the calling of our Father and may God receive all the praise and glory.

In His service
gary & deb