

2nd Mission Letter 2016

1/10/2016

Hello from Phebe Hospital, Bong County in Liberia, West Africa! The week has flown by as we have finished taking 1,060 student pictures and updating all of their academic profiles. Monday we begin our travels to take pictures at our schools in the bush.

Our first impression of Liberia after what they are calling the “war with Ebola” are favorable. After departing the plane we had to wash our hands and they took our temperature before we could enter the terminal. Anytime we entered Phebe Hospital we have to wash our hands and have our temperature taken. And even our team before our mid-day meal together now all want to use hand sanitizer before we eat.

We have been able to connect with old friends and are making new ones. We have found Liberians will still shake hands, but there is much less physical touching (hugging, children walking hand-in-hand, etc.) from what we remember.

We were disappointed in our travels to Phebe hospital from the airport for when we flew two years ago they were working on paving the road. We thought it would be done by now, but it turns out they stopped working on it when the Ebola crisis hit and are just now restarting the project. We had two hours of smooth new coal-tarred road and then one hour of our usual dirt and potholed “off road” traveling. Sarah and Andrew Hostetter commented that people in the USA would pay good money for the “off road” experience we had. We were proud that of the 24 eggs we hand held in the car, only one was cracked by the time we arrived at Phebe.

One of the things that has moved our hearts this trip was a visit from one of the graduates of God’s Precious Children Tuition Sponsorship Program (TSP). She became pregnant while in high school and we prayed about what our stance was going to be with girls who got pregnant out of wedlock while in our program. We allowed her to continue and when she graduated high school, she was able to attain a scholarship to Cuttington University. After she gave birth to her son she told her parents that even though she had brought shame to the family, one day she would make them proud. This summer it was with great excitement that her parents had the opportunity to proudly watch their daughter receive her diploma from Cuttington University. The parents, who once thought their daughter would amount to nothing, were now crying through her whole graduation ceremony for she was the first of their children to be able to graduate from college. She now has a part-time job in her field of study and is on her way.

We love hearing the success stories of our students and thank all of YOU for YOUR support for these students. Monday we head into the bush to finish our work and we covet you prayers.

Your friends in Christ,

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