

Greetings to all,

Our work is almost done. Praise God! We have had a busy 2 weeks gathering all the student info and taking new pictures of all our students. Doubting if we should be taking on any new students we have taken a step in faith and added almost 100 new students to the tuition sponsorship program. It is really hard to face a mother in tears sharing the story of not being able to keep her children in school. The need is so great and we pray we can find sponsors for them.

Our two day trip back in the bush visiting five schools went very well. It was great to see our old friends again and make new ones. Our longtime friend Pastor Edwin Flomo invited our team to stay overnight in Sanoyea at the church guest house. Staying in this precious rural town of Sanoyea is like stepping back 100 years in time. Walking down the bumpy dirt road lined with weathered mud brick homes with wonderful smells drifting from the outdoor cook houses, as dogs barked and played on the streets and roosters crowed a screeching greeting, as children ran to say hello while timidly reaching to touch the white man's hand, all shout of a simplicity we in America so long for. What a wonderful peaceful place to spend the evening. Thank you Lord.

On Wednesday we went to Bethany Lutheran School. Sarah and Andrew wanted to interview the principal, Lorpu Jaiway , as part of the "self-sustainability study" they are doing to help the schools in Liberia.

After the interview they did a skit for the students at Bethany based on Isaiah 40: 30 & 31 how God helps us when we are overburden with troubles. The kids just loved it and a few teachers made a comment how much the message meant to them. One particular teacher told Andrew that it touched his heart because of so many recent deaths in his family he was finding it very difficult carrying these great burdens. When God's word is shared one never knows who all will be blessed.

In saying our goodbyes to our TSP helpers, Peter Kollie, just returning from his uncle's burial, shared with me his sad heart due to a number of recent deaths in his family.

Remembering last year's Ebola outbreak, one would think Ebola would be the cause, but only indirectly is this true. When Ebola struck many hospitals, for fear of not knowing how to handle Ebola, just closed their doors. There are many illnesses in Liberia that can cause an early death if not treated and if you were sick and could not find an open hospital willing to treat you, it could prove to be fatal.

Sarah and Andrew's skit was perfect reminding us what a loving father we do have and that He will never forsake us. God will give strength to the weary.

As we close shop in Liberia for another year, keep our team in prayer as we start our journey home.

In His service,
gary & deb