

Back In the Bush 2017 mission letter #2 God's Precious Children

12/26/2016

Merry Christmas from Phebe Compound in Liberia!

The government of Liberia declared Monday December 26, 2016 to be the day Liberia would celebrate its Christmas so as I write this families dressed up in their new Christmas attire and children wearing their outfits complete with new sun glasses (the hot ticket item in Liberia this year) are just finishing visiting various family members and bringing them a gift of food.

So far we have been gifted with ripe plantains and plantains cooked with ginger (that were scrumptious!), watermelon, bananas, pau-pau (papaya), cake, and cinnamon rolls! Between our gifts of food and Andrew and Sarah's cooking (Sarah brought with her Andrew's Grandmother's cook book from Nigeria and a Mennonite cookbook called More With Less and so far has made chocolate chip pancakes, sweet potato pie, Thai peanut and almond noodles, and chicken curry, just to name a few), we will not go hungry this trip!

We were privileged at noon today to go to St. Luke's Lutheran church for a Christmas celebration they have not been able to hold since the Ebola crisis. People were invited to gather to sing Christmas carols, pray, share what they were thankful for this Christmas and (if they were able), to bring some food to share. Sarah made for us a type of donut/fritters to offer. It was a joy to see in a country where many still go hungry, everyone being able to enjoy a special Christmas meal and, much like the story of the loaves and the fishes, all received something to eat from the youngest child (who were invited to go up first and take whatever they wanted to eat) to the oldest with food left over.

Many of you had asked about the student we told you about in our presentations last summer who sat across the dirt road from us and stared at us for almost two weeks until we put him on the program. When we finally signed him up and asked him what he wanted to ask God for, he told us what he wanted from God was opportunity.

We thought you would be interested to know he was the very first student in line when we started recording students. His name is Samuel and Gary took some video tape of him telling his story which we are hoping to share with you in this year's presentation. Tomorrow we start back recording the academic information and taking pictures of over 1400 students. Thank you for all your prayers and support, it is deeply appreciated.

When next you receive a letter from us it will be 2017! We wish you a blessed start to your New Year!

Your friends in Christ,

Gary and Deb