

God's Precious Children
Mission letter # 1

Wednesday January 3, 2018

Happy (Belated) New Years from Bong County Liberia!

This is Andrew Hostetter. My wife Sarah and I have been blessed to join Deb and Gary Winters in Liberia for the last two years. I am writing you a bit later than usual because it has already been almost a week since we met in Deb and Gary's house to travel to Liberia. Let me catch you up on what has happened.

We arrived to Liberia on Friday December 29th in the evening. All of us were a little sleep deprived from the prolonged travel here and were ready to go to sleep but our plans got delayed. We found out as we landed that the winner of the Liberian Presidential Election had been announced, and for an hour we were in completely stopped traffic because we had unwittingly driven directly into a large party being held in the streets for the president-elect. Thankfully, both the election and the party were peaceful.

The next day we bought all of the food and other supplies we needed for the next two weeks, and then began the 3 hour trek by road to Phebe where we spend most of our time. Upon our arrival to Phebe, we were quickly greeted by friends and served a delicious Liberian feast: fried plantains, chicken stew over rice, beef, and fresh pineapple, cucumber, and bananas. It was a great way to be welcomed back.

After a couple days of getting ourselves and our bodies re-oriented to being in Liberia, we started re-registering your kids into the tuition sponsorship program here in Phebe. Despite the school being closed, and many families being on holiday, we have had a pretty good turnout the last couple of days. Samuel, who is one of the boys we sponsored and someone we have written to you about, was the first person in line which made us smile. He has further blessed us by deciding to stick around and help us each day all day. It has been so fun working alongside him, and it has further convinced us of how wonderful he is.

I also have had the privilege to see God answer a prayer for a local church. Deb and Gary have been known to help not only with education, but local churches if they are able. A friend of theirs last year invited us to their church to see its need of funds to repair their church building. In such a remote part of the country we knew they would likely never be able to fund these repairs alone. We told them we would ask around to churches at home to see if they could sponsor them. I had reached out to a local branch of their denomination over the summer, and was surprised to hear them excited about the idea of helping this church. They were able to raise almost \$5,000 for them, which was slightly more than they needed. Just today I brought the money to them, and bought all the supplies they needed to fully repair their church. The pastor and church leaders were immensely grateful.

God has continued to show how he cares for these people and this community, and I am grateful to get to be a part of it. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support for these kids and families. You may never grasp how much of a difference you are making, but I have seen firsthand the impact God has made here through your help.

May God bless you in this New Year,

Andrew Hostetter