

Greetings to my sponsoring churches! I ended April with stops in Tanzania and Kenya. In Kenya, I stayed in the Benedictine Brothers' Guesthouse which was a comfortable place with running water and mostly 24/7 electricity. The Sisters there are part of an order that I have worked with in India, but the novices and postulants are all from Tanzania or other countries in Africa. I would very much like them to send some of the sisters to help at Phebe Hospital in Liberia, but nothing has been settled yet. Then I went to Kenya and stayed in a very nice guesthouse at the Convent there. This order is also from India and I enjoyed some excellent South Indian food while I was there. The administrator of the 200 bed hospital was a classmate of mine at CORAT (Christian Organizations Research and Advisory Trust) and may be able to help me get the help I feel Phebe needs. There were five other Americans visiting the hospital - a Presbyterian group from Virginia who have been supporting the hospital for years. It is wonderful to see this kind of ecumenicism!

The weather in Kenya was very cool - downright cold after the heat of Liberia - so I am having to get re-acclimated to the heat of Vellore. May is probably the hottest month of all there and the favorite month for people to vacation away from southern India. When I got off the plane, it was around 100 degrees and that was at 9 p.m.! There were power cuts from 6-8 a.m. which really did not work well for me, but no one asked me what times would be more convenient for me! I do have an inverter so I can use my fan and that is a life saver. The day after I got back, the temperature topped out at nearly 110 degrees, and they tell me there are hotter days to come. When a thunderstorm comes along, the heat usually breaks for a while. But not for long! The day I went for a haircut, there was a power cut so there was no A/C and the barber did not need to use the water bottle to wet my hair - I managed to get it wet all by myself.

At one point this past month, I felt like my computer had turned on me and I had totally lost my touch with it. But if you are going to have computer problems, Vellore is a great place to have them. They fixed my laptop and reinstalled all the programs for only 800 rupees - that's about \$16. If you have ever had to reinstall all your programs, you know how much time (and frustration) they saved me.

It seems to me that I have gotten more done for Phebe now that I am not the actual administrator and do not have to handle the daily struggles with running water and the generators. Speaking of Phebe's generators, right about now the generator people ought to be there putting the new engine in the large generator. It only took a few months more than a year! But the dental clinic I worked on while I was at Phebe this year is a working reality now! I had an email from one of the dentists and they had moved the equipment in and have started doing dental work. Sometimes things do actually happen!

I have been working on making a recruiting trip to the USA to find some volunteer teachers for the Masters in Nursing Education program I hope to set up at Phebe. I have possible candidates in the New York area and also in the Midwest. I will also be recruiting here in India. I'm looking for people with a PhD in Nursing or Education willing to spend a semester (14 weeks) in Liberia.

There is a lot of work to be done and your prayers are the fuel I need to give me the energy to do my part. Please remember me in your prayers and be sure to mention me by name!