

Greetings to my sponsoring churches!

The best thing about being back in Liberia is worshipping at St. Luke's. The services are long but because of the wonderful music and the singing and dancing it is OK. I enjoy that so much. My first Sunday back, the pastor was away so I was drafted to lead the liturgy. The next Sunday I got to preach and since I had not had a chance to preach since January, I was happy to do it.

The hours we have electricity have been cut because of continuing problems with the generator and cost of fuel to run it. Most days the power in the hospital goes off at 9 a.m.! There are still problems with the water supply and my shower doesn't work most of the time. Then I have to resort to a "bucket bath." That is nothing unusual, I take a bucket bath in India to conserve water.

One day, there was a little excitement in the "executive washroom" - I went to wash my hands and couldn't find the container used to dip water out of the larger storage container. I saw something floating in that larger container and started to reach for it only to realize that it was a swimming rat!

We have been having a lot of night time storms but one morning after a dry night, the carport was covered with termites and children were collecting them for food. I was told they can be eaten fried or raw.
Snack anyone?

We are working on setting up a dental clinic at Phebe and have a promise from a missionary dentist in Monrovia to come and work there a day or two a month. We are also going to send a nurse to train as a Dental Nurse Practitioner. She will be able to do fillings and extractions and even simple root canals. We also hope to send someone to school to become a dentist. We got a shipment containing dental equipment but it seemed the air compressor was missing. It seems to have been diverted to the maintenance warehouse so we will be able to get it back. The dental chair is very heavy and we will need a forklift to move it!

While we have the forklift, I hope we can also move the portable X-ray machine which was in the same warehouse. Somehow, one of its tires had disintegrated en route so we took that tire off and had something made to replace it so it will actually be portable. It took a year and a half to get it here so I guess its arrival couldn't be without problems! It's also very heavy and the forklift will be needed to get it out of the warehouse.

While I am in Liberia I will also be helping out at Curran which is the other Lutheran hospital located in the city of Zorzor. I have made a couple of trips there so far. Zorzor is about 75 miles from Phebe and the road seems in better shape than it was two years ago. They have reliable generators but limited fuel supply for them so their power schedule is

12 noon to 4 p.m. and then again around 6:30 p.m. until midnight. It isn't as hot there as at Phebe, but it is hard to sleep without a fan at night, so I got a battery operated fan to take along when I go there.

Curran has a

midwife school and have a large group in their first class - about 36.

It will be a challenge to get them enough clinical experience as more and more women are delivering at clinics and health centers where there is no cost. Some of their clinical experience will be in those clinics - where they will end up after graduation.

One day I visited Ganta and the Ganta Methodist Hospital where I met the American missionary who runs the Ganta Hospital School of Nursing and also met a young man who did the Dental Nurse Practitioner course to which we plan to send the Phebe nurse. I got some insight into this six month course and he offered to orient our nurse which could be very helpful.

There is so much to be done here, and it is good to be able to spend my time finding ways to do some of those things rather than spending all my time trying to keep the generators and the water running! Please pray for the people of Phebe and Curran Hospitals. And please pray for me because your prayers are the fuel that keeps my generator running!