

# SERVING WITH THE SHEAS

SERVING WITH SIM, SIM-TEC, & HCJB

NO. 11 :: DECEMBER 2007

## Light of Life

Light and life are explicitly connected in Scripture. It is significant that light is the very first thing God created; without light, life on earth could not exist. While in Liberia during the months of August and September, Alan and I gained a fresh appreciation for light.

Almost no commercial electricity is produced in Liberia, even in the capital city of Monrovia. This means that by 7 PM nearly everything lies in darkness. While on the ELWA campus the generators gave us light for several more hours, eventually they too shut off for the night. We had some 12-volt battery lights in the house, but of course none in the bathroom. (I often thought to



Our home for August and September  
— Alan's childhood home!

myself that the bathroom should have been the first, not last, room to have a battery light in it!) I got used to the three-inch cockroaches that came out in the dark (or out of Alan's pocket when I took his jeans off the line), and was glad I didn't find the four-inch spider hiding until just a few days before we left.

### Dark Nights

However, the darkness in Liberia also means more serious dangers. Even on the ELWA campus we were very careful not to walk about alone in the evening as there had been recent machete attacks, and the house we were living in had already been



Atlantic Ocean Sunset from the ELWA Beach

broken into twice within the last year. We know the safest place for us is in the center of the Lord's will, but the first few nights we spent there were especially nervous for me. The two dogs that watched our house and the neighbor's were extremely restless and

noisy, and the two guards on duty kept constant patrol. We were told it was likely that "rogues" were present in the brush somewhere looking the newcomers over. Over the next few weeks the dogs continued to wake us often, but I was grateful! It was wonderful when they finally quieted down after we emailed friends who prayed especially for this situation.



Alan and Wymah Youyoubon

The primary purpose of this trip was to improve the reliability and capacity of the electrical power system on the ELWA campus. It was also a chance for me to get to know Liberia, to assist at the ELWA Academy, and to better know how to prepare for setting up house when we return as long-term missionaries.

### Generator Control Systems

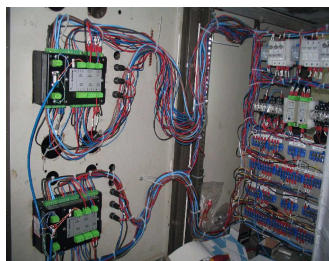
The new computer control system Alan installed allows two of the ELWA generators to run in parallel for more capacity, and can switch

between the generators without turning off the electricity. This will provide efficient 24-hour electricity on the campus without wearing out just one generator, and will allow upgrades in



Monrovia Street

campus security. Most importantly, these improvements will provide Radio ELWA with reliable electricity for broadcasting the message of Christ to Monrovia and throughout Liberia. As frightening as physical darkness can be, spiritual darkness untouched by Jesus, the Light of Life, is infinitely worse.



Control Panel wiring



Generator #2, 75kW

In addition to the control system installation, we praise the Lord for enabling almost a full overhaul of the powerhouse. Alan had the help of Steve Kejr, a colleague from the SIM-US office, and Mel, his brother from Kansas, along with the ELWA maintenance staff. Due to a failed part and lack of time, Alan was not able to install a control system on ELWA's third generator. The ELWA management team is asking when he could make a follow-up trip in the near future.



Cecelia Jarpah, first grade teacher

### ELWA Academy



Third grade teacher Julie Winslow & Cheri

While Alan worked on generators, I spent my time teaching science to upper elementary students at the ELWA Academy and writing curriculum for the second through fourth grades in the areas of Bible, science, and social studies. It was such a joy to spend time with teachers committed to sharing Christ

through their teaching, even in much less than ideal circumstances. At the Academy, preschool and kindergarten classes contain 40-plus children crowded into one room, and curriculum and teaching resources are extremely sparse.

### The Darkness of War

Before we arrived, the darkness of civil war had enveloped Liberia for fifteen years. The country is just in the beginning stages of recovery. We spent



Alan and John Dogoleah

hours listening as old friends of Alan's recounted stories of a war in which civilians went totally unprotected, and we rejoiced at the faith and joy we

saw in their faces and heard in their prayers. Africans can sing like no others, and I stood with tears when the church we attended rang out with, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; because He lives, all fear is gone..."

In Liberia, we saw firsthand the Light of Life shining in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we have come back blessed. We long for the day we can



return to work with them, specifically in the restoration of Radio ELWA so that it can broadcast the light of the Gospel across the continent of Africa.

### In the Meantime...

While we raise our remaining support to go back to Liberia as long-term missionaries, Alan has

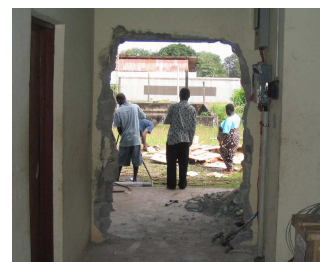


New 5kW shortwave transmitter

been "loaned" to HCJB Global's Technology Center in Elkhart, Indiana. He will be assisting in the development of a digital shortwave broadcasting system (Digital Radio Mondiale)- technology

he hopes to take back to ELWA when we return.

During this interim, I have begun working with SIM-TEC, and have been assigned to write the profile for and coordinate the writing of a core of courses for colleges to be started in Africa. These classes will center around



When the door is too narrow for the new transmitter...



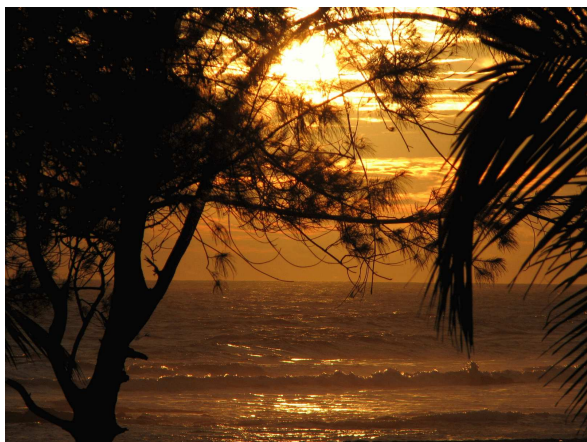
recognizing the components of various worldviews in individuals and cultures and the impact those worldviews have. This is a "tall order," but there are many others involved. The Lord has been preparing me for this for several years, and I am very excited about being involved in this curriculum development process.

We will write more about our present activities

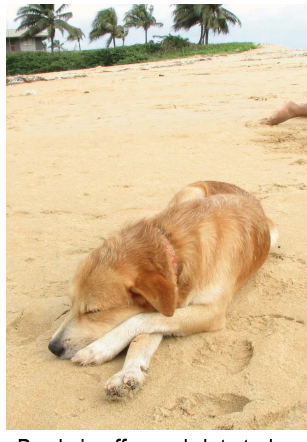
with SIM-TEC and HCJB Global in the next newsletter. Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement this past year! We send email updates more frequently than these newsletters, so if you do not receive our email updates and would like to, drop a line to <[alan@shea.net](mailto:alan@shea.net)>.

Sola Deo Gloria,

*Alan & Cheri*



ELWA Beach Sunset



Brady is off guard-duty today



Peewee David and Alan working on Gen. #2



Rainy seson on the front porch of our house



Patience Tonkery



Sparks fly when Steve Kejr is at work

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Contact us if you would like to receive our email updates. See more pictures from Liberia at <http://picasaweb.google.com/alanjshea>



Cut and use as a prayer reminder



Alan & Cheri Shea  
SIM Appointees to Liberia

### Praises

- Progress with electrical system and curriculum that was written
- Safe traveling
- Completion of SIM Candidate Orientation and Membership for Cheri
- Good health and strength

### Prayer requests

- Completion of documentation; possible followup trip
- SIM-TEC Curricula & Planning
- HCJB Projects
- Wisdom for ELWA Leadership
- The safety of those serving at Radio ELWA and security of the campus
- That Liberia would one day be known for righteousness as it is today known for warfare and spiritual darkness