

# SERVING WITH THE SHEAS

SERVING WITH SIM AND ELWA IN LIBERIA

No. 17 :: APRIL 2014

## Under Construction

Mommy, tell me the constructions [instructions]!" one of the boys said the other day. "Construction" is a word that has been used a lot around here lately!

Radio ELWA's new studio is ever closer to completion of phase 2, which means roof, walls, windows and doors. From the boys getting rides in the caterpillar as it was clearing the construction site to Cheri getting Alan-guided tours during different phases of building, we have really had fun feeling a part of it all.



New Radio ELWA studio under construction

Before the war, Radio ELWA was unique because it broadcast programs recorded by studios in the target areas by the national Christians there. The programs were sent to ELWA, and in turn ELWA put them on shortwave, broadcasting back to those people and many, many others as well. Now we want to broadcast programs by internet as well. All of this takes time, but ELWA has

had requests from churches in Nigeria to start broadcasting their programs again on shortwave!

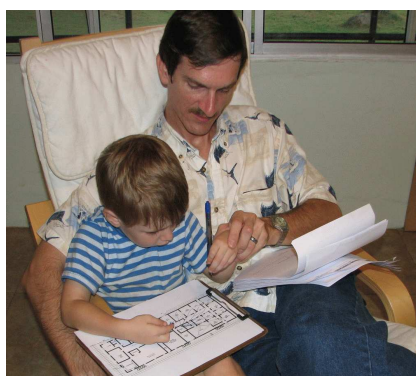


The Radio ELWA studio, housed in a garage since the war, burned down in November, 2011

Alan helped draw up the plans for the studio and has continued to look in on things as they progress. He's been in touch with an acoustic expert for advice on how to shape the walls in the broadcasting

studios and has found a company that may donate their assistance for lightning protection for the studio – always a concern here.

Phase 3 will complete the inside of the building and fit it with equipment. Alan's trip to Cleveland last summer enabled him to research studio equipment. We are trusting the Lord to provide the funding for phase three, and know he'll provide it at exactly the right time.



Josiah wanted to "help" Daddy with the new studio drawings

We felt one step closer to that this past December when Alan and the radio technicians put up a new short wave antenna. For the first time in several years Radio ELWA can be heard all over Liberia and not just in Monrovia. Praise the Lord!



Setting up the new 4.76MHz shortwave antenna, Dec. 2013

## More Construction...

On the other side of the campus progress continues at the new hospital. Alan worked out an extensive project for upgrading the campus power to supply the new hospital. In January, the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) installed power lines and a transformer for ELWA; this was much earlier than expected, so Alan is accelerating the plans to convert ELWA generators to 50 Hertz. The remainder of the project includes lines and transformers to the new hospital and switchgear for backup power. ELWA will still need to increase capacity in order to provide backup power for the

hospital and campus (which is likely to be needed from time to time). The actual switch to LEC & 50 Hertz is still a few months ahead; the new ELWA hospital itself should be open in early 2015. Pray that God will provide the funds needed to make these important upgrades.



LEC transformer installed at the ELWA power house

## To All of Liberia

"This will be the resource library...This is the director's office...This will be the non-English language broadcasting..." It was especially exhilarating on Cheri's "tours" to see the opportunity taking shape for Radio ELWA to once again broadcast in Liberian languages & to countries outside Liberia.



Yes, More—Here At Home!



Construction needed to be done here at home, too, and the boys put their backs into the projects...



..."helping" in any way they could! (Don't worry— the cement mixer is empty!)



It was such a challenge...



...when we had to live with the construction messes inside.



Inside play is so much tidier now...



...but outside we still had a ways to go!



Putting a new septic system in our backyard...



...was something both boys really enjoyed. Here's Nathaniel making a jump!



Josiah getting help with a construction project of his own



The backyard and patio are finished; rainy season recess here we come!



Inherited, refurbished playhouse— just add kids!

There were frustrations along the way, especially with getting the garage roof built properly. (For instance, screws were *nailed* in making a loose, "holey" roof, and we couldn't open the doors because of incorrect roof slope!) The most difficult parts are done now though and we are so thankful for the home the Lord has blessed us with!





Our house up until this fall



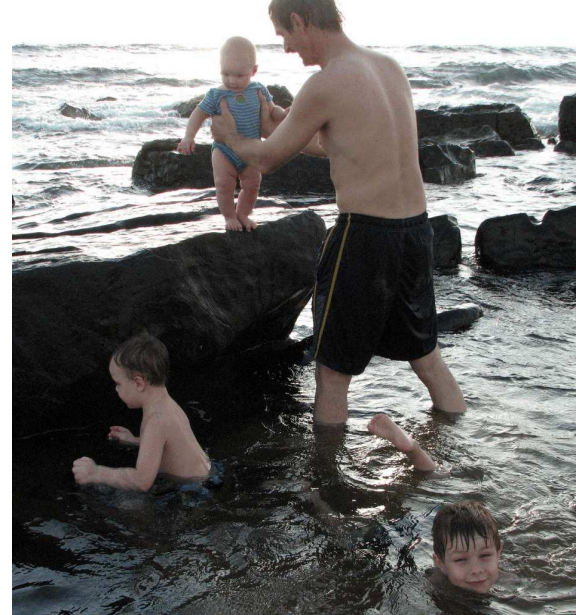
February, 2014– Thank you, Lord!

## Construction Complete!



Zachary James

While many projects (even the ones here at home) are ongoing, we were thrilled this past summer to “complete” our family with the addition of Zachary James, born June 4. He is walking all over the place, provided he can still hold onto something. He is easygoing with a smile as big as sunshine, and his big brothers love him dearly, so long as he doesn't mess up their toy train track or legos!



Just one more introduction!

## And In Between

Of course there have been other things going on. In February Cheri assisted with a teacher training conference held at ELWA Academy. She taught sessions on phonics, early geometry, and art. This was one of the largest conferences yet, with 120 teachers in attendance.

We are planning our first home assignment; we leave the beginning of July and will stay through Christmas. We appreciate your prayers as we make arrangements for housing, a vehicle, and visiting churches, supporters, friends and family.

There have been some things happening which have made it clear to us that our family has been under spiritual attack. Please pray that the Lord would place a hedge of protection around our home, our children, and ourselves. We want God to be glorified in all we do, and we know that “greater is he that is in us!”

## Praises and prayer requests:

- ▶ Praises for good health, progress on our house and the radio studio, and for Zachary!
- ▶ Praise that our support requirements for our first term were fully met!
- ▶ Pray for spiritual protection for our family
- ▶ Pray for homeschooling and giving our boys good spiritual training
- ▶ Pray for the projects Alan is involved in to be at a good place before we leave
- ▶ Pray for increased support needed next term
- ▶ Pray for funds for a “new to us” vehicle
- ▶ Pray for scheduling visits with churches and supporters during home assignment

You are a tremendous blessing to us!

*Soli Deo Gloria,*

***Alan, Cheri, Josiah, Nathaniel, and Zachary***

Alan & Cheri Shea  
ELWA / SIM Liberia  
PO Box 6958  
Monrovia, LIBERIA  
alancheri@shea.net  
Tel: +231-880-555-324



Glenda, Nathaniel, Chloe, Josiah, Martin, Zachary, & Nowele

SIM USA  
PO Box 7900  
Charlotte, NC 28241  
Tel: +1 704-588-4300  
www.sim.org

## An Ebola Detour

*May, 2014 — Just as the enclosed newsletter was ready to “go to press,” some unexpected things happened to us!*

We had no sooner purchased tickets for home assignment/furlough in July, when we had to change them to leave in early April with barely a week’s notice. Several cases of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever had come within 30 miles of ELWA and cases were expected to arrive at ELWA Hospital. Proximity on the campus was too close for SIM to feel comfortable for families with young children to remain, so it was recommended we come home. Praise the Lord that no cases have arrived yet at ELWA.

We’re back in Indiana where we had intended to be based for our home assignment, just several months sooner than we expected. The Lord provided a large, vacant parsonage for us to rent in Goshen close to our home church, and we are grateful to be settled and have resumed homeschooling.

Airfare is too expensive to go back and forth in such a short time frame, so we will be taking our six-month home assignment now rather than beginning in July.

Please pray with us as we are scheduling visits with churches and supporters with shorter notice. Our support requirements have increased and we are trusting the Lord to provide. He has already done so in wonderful ways, making our quick transition home so smooth for our family.

The day before we flew out of Liberia the SIM Liberia director stopped by to say that it was good that Alan would be back by the end of October (instead of in January), as planning for phase three of the radio studio needs to start this fall. This was sooner than we expected and very exciting!

***Alan, Cheri, Josiah, Nathaniel, & Zachary Shea***  
2006 Bashor Rd, Goshen, Indiana 46526  
Tel: 260-645-0663 (Alan), 260-235-0361 (Cheri)

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/ebola-outbreak-in-west-africa/> (photo of ELWA Hospital Chapel/Isolation ward)