

Roller Coaster Rides

The past several months have been full of tremendous highs and lows for us as Liberia has grappled with Ebola. Many thought the disease had abated back in May with only a few cases occurring in Liberia. Then in June it exploded. ELWA Hospital was ready with trained caregivers and its first Ebola treatment unit (“ELWA 1”) in the hospital chapel. Then one by one three of our missionary colleagues caring for the sick were infected, evacuated to the States, and recovered. As Americans became infected and were brought back to the States the media began covering the epidemic in earnest. SIM USA stood in the forefront of this recurring crisis as its missionaries became a news focus for several weeks. As a result, help for West Africa on the scale it needed began to appear a possibility. Yet the disease continued to rage amongst the people we love, with cases increasing exponentially into the thousands.

We have felt incredibly proud of ELWA’s part in fighting the Ebola epidemic. Samaritan’s Purse



Inside “ELWA 1” (Bethany Fankhauser)

helped set up “ELWA 2” on the new hospital construction site when the need outgrew the chapel. ELWA 1 merged into ELWA 2, which made it the only continuously operating Ebola treatment unit in the Monrovia area since the outbreak began. The “ELWA 3” Ebola treatment unit (ETU), located near the highway, is operated by MSF/Doctors Without Borders and has 250 beds. It is the largest Ebola treatment center ever built and was opened in mid-August. ELWA 2 is staffed largely by the Liberian Ministry of Health, but the primary doctor serving there is ELWA Hospital’s Dr. Jerry Brown.

Early local community opposition to ELWA’s hosting these treatment centers has turned into sincere appreciation. Dr. Brown has received recognition from Liberian President Sirleaf, who visited ELWA 2 several times.

ELWA 2 has



Patients from “ELWA 2” receive their Ebola Discharge Certificate (Front Page Africa)



“ELWA 3” (MSF)



Dr Jerry Brown (J.Fankhauser)

the highest Ebola recovery rate ever: from 70% perishing in many ETUs to 70% of the patients at ELWA 2 recovering! Dr. Brown and SIM Dr. John Fankhauser (who served at the regular ELWA hospital for several months this fall) worked together to document the treatment protocols Dr. Brown is using to determine what is beneficial. Through Dr. Brown God is receiving a great deal of glory in the fight against Ebola.

Meanwhile with the help of SIM Drs. Rick Sacra and John Fankhauser, ELWA’s regular hospital has been in almost continuous operation for obstetrical emergencies. They expect to gradually restore treatment for high-risk chronic diseases and then pediatrics. Most other hospitals in the country have closed because staffs are afraid of catching Ebola. Now some of these hospitals have begun sending representatives to ELWA to observe the triage system that has been developed there, whereby it is safely determined whether or not a patient has Ebola before they are admitted into the regular hospital.

“I will pour water on him that is thirsty...” Isa. 44:3

Alan has been working the last several months here in Indiana to reinforce the ELWA infrastructure supporting these Ebola Treatment Units. At points the ELWA campus has been down to one generator with no backup, and the piecemeal well and water pump system is in danger of failing under the demand placed on it by the hospitals. Just the ELWA 3 ETU alone has been using over 10,000 gallons of water each day. This has been putting a huge strain on the pumps, especially since the reserve tank rusted through its last set of patches.

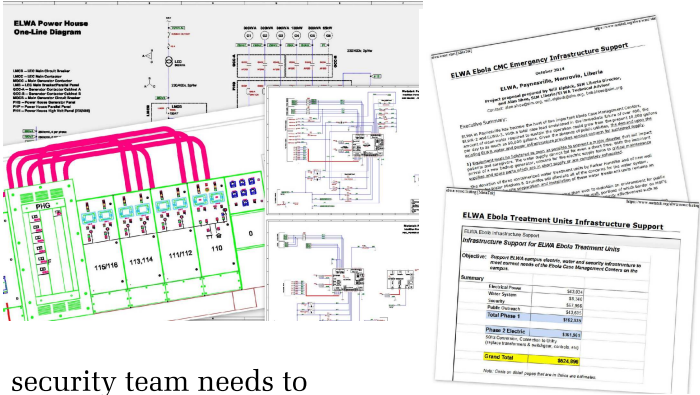


ELWA Hospital Maternity Care (Gil Gildner)

Alan has worked sometimes around the clock putting together specific lists of what the campus needed, writing the specifications and creating electrical drawings for another generator and the water system, and also noted what ELWA Radio



needed to begin all-day shortwave coverage. This would get Ebola education and the gospel through all of hard-hit Liberia and Sierra Leone, and much of Guinea. He even listed out what the campus



security team needs to provide better protection for the campus and hospitals during this time.

Other SIM missionaries, including Steve Kejr and Bob Blees, helped in reviewing the lists and making contact with people who could help. It has been incredible to watch as the Lord has brought forward one donor and manufacturer after another willing to help with these needs!

Martin Machinery kept a refurbished generator on hold for us for over a month. When EMA/USA donated funds for the generator, Martin began work, removing the radiator, fitting a heat exchanger & raw water pump, and building a control system to work with ELWA’s other generators based on Alan’s drawings...

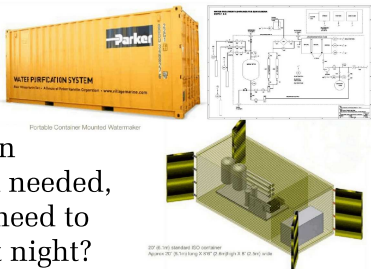
*There is a container leaving for Liberia soon—can you possibly have the generator finished by then? Wait a minute—there’s a humanitarian flight leaving on Oct. 29 that is carrying a blood mobile for ELWA. They have offered to take the generator too! Can you have it ready by then? ...Praise the Lord— the flight is delayed until Nov. 7! We might just make it!*

And so it has gone, time after time. We still don’t even know where the information about the flight originally came from, but a lot of the people at Martin Machinery volunteered to work overtime and the generator arrived at ELWA on November 11th. Steve Kejr arrived at ELWA to install the new generator just a week ahead of its arrival.



**Steve Kejr, Ben Yoko, John Eddie, Rick Calcut & Joe Kolleh at ELWA**

A few weeks ago a representative from Parker Hannifin Corporation called Alan and asked what ELWA needed, saying, “What do you need to make you sleep well at night? Don’t worry about the cost!”



Parker is building three containerized water treatment units for ELWA, and Grundfos and Water Missions are providing brand new water pumps for all six wells! Preparations are underway in Liberia to install them when they arrive. Praise the Lord! Pray for another shipping miracle so that they can arrive soon!

Charles Stanley’s *In Touch Ministries* paid for a second shortwave transmitter to give ELWA Radio all-day coverage. HCJB, a radio technology ministry in Elkhart, IN, got the transmitter ready in a record 48 hours and had it shipped in time for another missionary to carry with him on a flight to ELWA in his suitcases! (It is on the air, and even had a caller from Australia!) Then during the week of November 5th in response to a single email, enough money was donated in 48 hours to purchase 1,000 solar-powered shortwave radios to distribute in Liberia so people can listen to ELWA’s broadcasts. They are nearly ready to ship.



**Lost and left to die?**

We need to stop a moment to catch our breath, but we’re not sure the Lord’s going to make an opportunity. One thing is sure – He truly, truly loves Liberia. The effects of these provisions and labors of love will outlast the Ebola epidemic and continue on for a long, long time. The epidemic will diminish, but the gospel is going to continue to spread and God will be glorified.

A song has frequently been in my mind the last several weeks. Part of it says, “*Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die, raise your head for Love is passing by!*” There is hope for Liberia! The Lord has not forgotten even one of those suffering—and he is making a way for Liberians not only to live but to find life everlasting.

Blessings on everyone who has contributed toward Liberia’s recovery, on everyone who is praying as the process continues, and on the missionaries and others who are serving in Liberia right now. We are praising the Lord for the progress that is being made to defeat this disease. Keep on, keep on praying.

*Soli Deo gloria,*  
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**Having fun in fall leaves!**

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