

# SERVING WITH THE SHEAS

SERVING WITH SIM & ELWA IN LIBERIA

No. 19 :: APRIL 2015

## Go Come Yah!

**G**o Come Yah!" our Liberian friends and neighbors told us last spring as we prepared to leave. "Goodbye, but come back soon!"

It's time to go back.

We had just purchased plane tickets a year ago March, for a six-month home assignment to begin in July, when Ebola cases started showing up near Monrovia. SIM strongly recommended that families with young children leave "for a few months".



"Wall of Survivors" at MSF's ELWA3 Ebola Treatment Unit

Water Treatment Units which will support the new hospital. Paul and another engineer from Water Missions will be arriving in Liberia at the end of May to install the systems, so it's important for Alan to be there.

Then in April Alan worked with ELWA MK & electrician David Frazee in Tennessee on electrical plans for completing the new ELWA Radio studio.



ELWA Hospital's Dr. Jerry Brown

Within a week we were on an airplane. The Lord graciously provided a vacant parsonage in Indiana for us to live in. This parsonage has been our home for a year now.

By God's grace, we now appear to be looking back on the worst outbreak of this disease on record. There were a total of 10,212 Ebola cases

(including suspected) in Liberia over the last 12 months, including 2,672 cases admitted to the three ELWA Ebola Treatment Units.

Liberia's last Ebola case passed away on March 27. If there are no more cases, Liberia will be declared Ebola-free after May 7. The numbers continue to fall in neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea as well. Praise the Lord!

## Winding Down, Ramping Up

Alan's involvement in infrastructure support for the ELWA Ebola Treatment Units is winding down.

In March, Alan worked with Paul Mitchell, Water System Supervisor at Cedarville University, to finalize installation plans for the three Parker Hannifin



Alan at Parker Hannifin's facility in California, inspecting and loading the Water Treatment Containers.



New ELWA Radio Studio

Work continues for Alan on the final phase of the studio (studio equipment, lightning protection, etc), so ELWA can begin producing programs in Liberian languages.



Listening to ELWA Radio on a pre-tuned radio.

The Galcom solar-powered pre-tuned radios are now being distributed!

The repaired shortwave transmitter is now back on the air, almost doubling the hours of ELWA's daytime shortwave coverage of Liberia.



The only thing missing at Radio ELWA is Alan!



Waiting for installation: New water treatment system next to the old pumphouse.



Right Back At It

One of our favorite doctors for our boys is Dr. Rick Sacra. He is simply great with the kids he treats. Dr. Sacra has been at ELWA Hospital since the early 1990s, and is the third American Ebola survivor. He is already back in Liberia at ELWA and will be involved in developing a residency program for training Liberian physicians at the new hospital.



Dr Rick Sacra

*In my work as a physician, I have appreciated Alan’s support on so many occasions—the ability to do the work we do, to serve the people we serve at ELWA Hospital, depends on technical support... And Alan’s expertise in various technical areas makes him a key resource in project planning... We’re very thankful to God for providing for Alan and his family, so that they can serve the people of Liberia at this pivotal time!*



Construction on the new ELWA Hospital re-started last month, after being interrupted one year ago. Alan will be working on supplying power from the ELWA generators.

"I thank my God every time I remember you..." Phil. 1:3

As we look forward to returning to Liberia, it’s worth noting that during our first term, and even now after a year working in the USA, we still met 100% of our original support requirement. We are incredibly grateful for your faithfulness, and feel both humbled and encouraged.

Early last July during our Home Assignment debriefing in Charlotte, SIM reviewed our budget with us. Having another child in the family, tax guidelines regarding our vehicle expenses, needing more for



Tebah & Zachary

Alan & Cheri Shea  
2006 Bashor Rd  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Cel: +1 260-645-0663 (A)  
Cel: +1 260-235-0361 (C)  
alancheri@shea.net



Nowellie, Stephen, Martin, Greatful, and Josiah

electricity (6 times the cost in the US) and groceries (milk is \$7-8 dollars a gallon), and previously getting by without putting enough into retirement and savings all added up to a significant increase in our support requirement.

Unfortunately Ebola exploded in July, and Alan’s focus turned to the Ebola emergency and support for the Ebola Treatment Units at ELWA. Now we are feeling released to focus on our own requirements for returning.

Pray With Us

For several months we have considered the timing of our return. SIM has now given the all-clear, and the SIM Liberia Medical Director concurs on our returning with our kids. Our SIM Liberia Director has asked us to be back in Liberia by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

In order to go before June, we need to have pledges by May 11<sup>th</sup> for \$1,800 in additional monthly support. We also need one-time funds to replenish our depleted reserves and for our airplane tickets.

Because we’ve lived in the States twice as long as we had saved for, and still had to continue to pay rent and maintain our house in Liberia while we were away, our reserve account is depleted. SIM has recommended that \$8,000 is needed to replenish it, and airplane tickets will cost \$11,000 for our family.

Alan calculated that if 12% of the people receiving this letter are able to contribute \$20 per month then our support need will be met, and if 25% contribute \$110 for our one time funds, we’ll be on the plane!

You may already be giving, and we are blessed by the knowledge that you are already praying for us. We chose the title for our newsletter “*Serving with the Sheas*” because you are a part of everything we do.

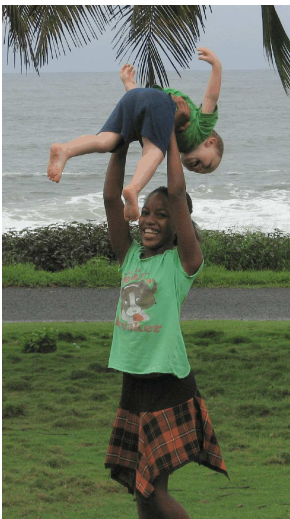
Without the funds we can't get on the airplane, but without your prayers there would be no point in doing so. We are excited to see what the Lord has in store!

*Soli Deo gloria,*

Alan, Cheri, Josiah, Nathaniel & Zachary



Where’s Nathaniel?  
He can’t wait to get back to see how much higher he can go!



Glenda & Nathaniel

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