

Serving with the Sheas

SERVING WITH SIM & ELWA IN LIBERIA

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Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas to everyone! We are praying that this Christmas will be one of healing and rejoicing in Liberia.

One big reason to rejoice is that Liberia was (again) declared Ebola-free September 9, followed by Sierra Leone on November 7. Then on November 17th, Guinea discharged the last Ebola patient in the world. *Praise God! Pray with us* that Guinea can be declared Ebola-free before New Year's!

We are also praying that we can return to Liberia ourselves in January. Our support continues to climb, and we now have just over 90% of our monthly requirement. We praise the Lord that all our one-time needs are met, for the new contacts and friends we have been able to make during the last few months, and we trust his timing is best.



A recent story in *The Economist* mentioned that before the Ebola outbreak there were ***fewer than 60 doctors*** in the entire country of Liberia, and 10% of those died caring for Ebola patients.

ELWA has a crucial role in the beginning of a long-term solution for the Liberian healthcare situation!

A cup of cold water...



This old (well) house is no longer needed!



The new hospital that Samaritan's Purse is building for ELWA is scheduled to be connected to ELWA's electric power in early February, in order to open later this spring.

We are excited because this hospital will provide a residency program for training new Liberian doctors as well as nurses.



This summer Alan made a very successful trip to ELWA leading a team to do new well testing and install three containerized water treatment

systems. Two of the three systems were installed, and ELWA had potable water for the first time since 1990!



Trauma Healing by Radio

Beyond the medical complications, many Ebola survivors are dealing with symptoms of post traumatic fear and depression, and experiencing “psychosocial” complications from being ostracized by friends, neighbors, and even their own families. This on top of unresolved trauma from the war can be totally overwhelming.

The American Bible Society prepared a special Liberian-English version of their Bible-based *Healing the Wounds of Trauma* program for ELWA Radio. Last June and July, ELWA hosted



Trauma Healing group facilitator training, June 2015

multiple training courses for trauma healing group facilitators. These facilitators are leading small groups in several counties. They listen to the weekly radio program together, then share and pray with one another.

Through this, church leaders and family members are learning that “wounds of the heart” can be just as debilitating as physical wounds. These radio programs have been very well received, and include call-in segments for those not in small groups. The call-in times are packed. *Praise God!*

Completion of ELWA Radio's new studio will exponentially increase ELWA Radio's opportunity for ministry and outreach like this.



Alan on another ELWA communication tower – he has been getting price quotes on a new 350ft FM tower to replace this one (left), which has a fatal case of “rusting disease”.

Pray with us that God will send new supporters to join with us in returning to Liberia, where Alan is needed – to finish the new radio studio, replace the FM tower, install the third water treatment system, and most immediately, make necessary power upgrades to support the new hospital.

In His Time

Cheri is grateful that she has a new prayer/accountability partner whom she can keep in contact with from Liberia, and who will lead other ladies in targeted prayer for us.

This unexpected time has also allowed Cheri to resolve several health issues, including fatigue. She's seen a lot of improvement after identifying several food sensitivities and finding that she's become insulin resistant.

None of this prevents us from returning, but Cheri is very grateful to be heading back feeling able to keep up with our three boys! *Pray with us* as we continue to figure out Josiah's stomach pain.



Nathaniel, Zachary, and Josiah – just “hanging out”

While Alan is busy troubleshooting generator problems, writing up a project for funding the new tower, etc., Cheri is teaching Josiah 1st grade and Nathaniel kindergarten. Zachary already knows his shapes and colors and he's even beginning to recognize his letters. She's never had more fun than when teaching her own kids!

We are so grateful for all that the Lord continues to do in Liberia, and for your continued prayers for us and Liberia. Have a *wonderful* Christmas!

Blessings,

*Alan
& Cheri*

Alan & Cheri Shea	SIM USA
2006 Bashor Rd	PO Box 7900
Goshen, IN 46526	Charlotte, NC
Tel: 260.645.0663	28241
alancheri@shea.net Tel: 704.588.4300	
www.sim.org — www.simusa.org	

Sheas support via SIM: <http://bit.ly/ACSheaSIM>