

# SERVING WITH THE SHEAS

SERVING WITH SIM & ELWA IN LIBERIA

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## A Time For Rejoicing

**T**here is a lot to rejoice about at ELWA!

We've been excited about progress at the new hospital since its dedication in October, 2016. Alan

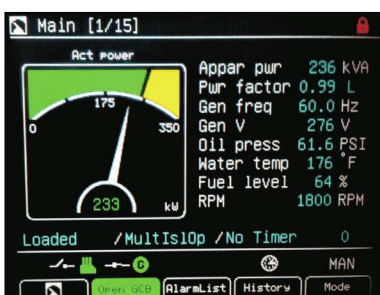
has supervised the installation of security cameras, the hospital phone system and computer networking, and improved the battery backup for the operating rooms in case of power failures.

In prayer meeting recently, missionaries were commenting how boldly the gospel is being shared with patients by the hospital chaplain, Pastor Moses Gwoleh. It is refreshing how freely the gospel can be shared here!

Most recently, Alan helped design a new oxygen plant for the hospital. Money has been promised for a facility that will directly supply the Emergency Room and Operating Rooms with oxygen, as well as fill cylinders for use elsewhere in the hospital. Right now nurses in the ER have to rotate tanks between patients, and the quality of the oxygen available is



**Tiny patient needing O<sub>2</sub>**



not reliable. Pray with us for all the logistics involved in completing this project by next summer.

Pray too as our electrical generators no longer have the

necessary redundancy or backup for the electrical load we now carry on the campus. Plans for an upgrade are already in

place, and we need to order new transformers soon. There is now a backlog of more than 4 months because utility companies have ordered so much replacement equipment due to the hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

### Astronauts & Isolation Pods

In September, a team from Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and representatives from USAID arrived at ELWA to install a containerized isolation pod on the new hospital campus. An eight-foot wide shipping container unfolded before our eyes to a width of 25 feet. Inside was a fully equipped mini-



isolation pod for treating patients with contagious diseases without exposing the regular wards. Alan was on hand to assist with the hookup, and Cheri and the boys enjoyed watching.



It was especially fun to meet Dr. David Hilmers with the Baylor team. He is a former marine pilot and astronaut who



became a medical doctor on retiring from NASA. He was a doctor in Liberia during the Ebola epidemic.

Our kids got to meet someone who has been on four space shuttle missions! We were told we could get a special tour of NASA if we ever make it to Houston. We would love that!



**Don't worry, the cholera beds for the isolation pod are brand new!**

Only a couple days after the isolation pod was set up it was in use. Teams in connection with Emory University, Samaritan's Purse and the US National Institutes for Health (NIH) arrived to screen and treat Ebola survivors who have had the virus lingering in their eyes.



Scarring results from this, and most patients received complex cataract surgeries at ELWA Hospital. This is first-ever research and treatment taking place here as well as in Sierra Leone. The specialists confirmed that none of the patients had the virus present in their eyes anymore.

Thank you for your part in ministries that provide relief and hope to this part of the world!

## Stabilizers and Constructions

Four-year old Zachary came up the other day, grabbed Cheri's leg and said, "Mommy, I'm stabilizing you!" He still says "constructions" in school instead of "instructions". It's true; building has been a theme in our home for a long time – with three sons, plus Alan!

Two months ago, Alan was asked to take over as project construction manager for completing the radio studio, besides wiring and equipping the individual studios and control rooms. While an additional load, it is also a real blessing. The studio is something very close to our hearts, and we are thrilled to be a part of this in every way.



**Atrium in the new studio**

We are getting close to the finishing touches on the interior, which Cheri enjoys helping with.

## Healing, Forgiveness, and Hope

We are rejoicing about a new trauma healing program that ELWA Radio will be broadcasting, with an



**The only production space available in the transmitter/studio building limits local program recording**

emphasis on traumatic stress experienced by military and police. Liberia is the pilot country for this version, which also comes from the American Bible Society. Small groups led by facilitators trained at ELWA complement the programs.

In Liberian English, the program reaches into the hearts of people traumatized by a brutal civil war



**Landscaping in front of the studio**



with the hope of Jesus' healing and forgiveness, to many who don't believe forgiveness is possible.

## On the Mend

This fall Cheri was ill for two months with malaria and "mono" (mononucleosis). It's not uncommon when someone is sick with malaria for another "opportunistic" virus to set in as well. Several rounds of treatment finally dealt with the malaria, which then gave her the chance to tackle the mono.



A new bright spot in our school day has been our Dutch friends from next-door joining us for science, art, and music each week

It was a test of faith for Cheri to trust the Lord, especially while continuing to teach the kids. Praise the Lord that history and Spanish were the only subjects needing any major adjustments. Cheri is feeling 100% again!

\* \* \*

We appreciate your prayers as our support requirement went up by \$200/month starting in October, due to increases in insurance and admin costs. We know the Lord already has that set aside, and we trust him for his provision.

And, praise the Lord, we just finished the previous fiscal year at over 99% of our needed support. Thank you!!!!

*Soli Deo gloria,*

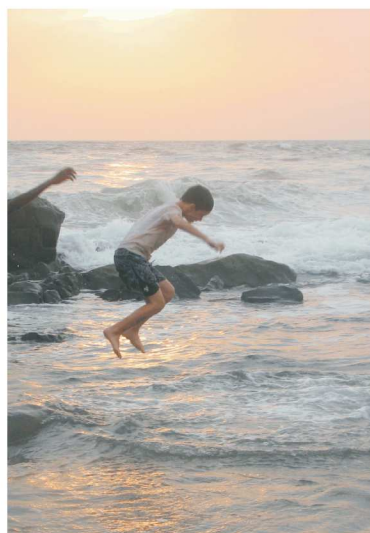
*Alan & Cheri*

Alan, Cheri, Josiah, Nathaniel, and Zachary

– See more pix: <http://bit.ly/shea-news-2017>



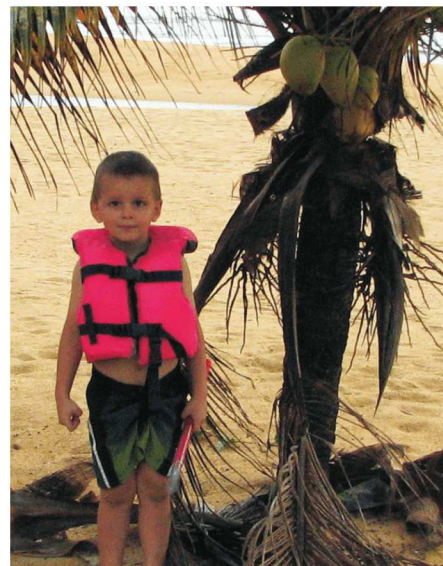
Portuguese Man-O-War!



Josiah – fun in the sunset



Sadie and Nathaniel - fun in the sand



Zachary can reach these!

Here comes another one!



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