

# SERVING WITH THE SHEAS

SERVING WITH SIM & ELWA IN LIBERIA

NO. 23 :: DEC 2018

## The Beauty of Our God

Close to the center of this photo Alan took you can see smoke rising from the beginning of the war in Côte d'Ivoire. At that time Alan was a missionary serving at International Christian Academy in Bouaké, and the staff along with 250 children ultimately had to be evacuated by the French Army.



The generator problems consumed much of Alan's time, and the move into the new radio studio couldn't take place before we left for home assignment – but we are trusting the Lord for that to take place soon after our return in January. It is amazing how the Lord's timing is always right.

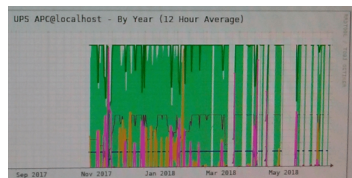
But stepping back and taking in the handiwork of the Lord in this photo, I can barely see the smoke. The beauty of the sunset and the sunbeams around the clouds has been a reminder to us how the beauty and power of the Lord outshine even the most difficult circumstances.



Repairing Generator #3

We have had some difficult times this past year at ELWA.

Notably, it has been difficult to keep the electricity going to enable the ministries that ELWA supports.



Log of power outages

The power went off at ELWA over 250 times this last year! Every time one generator was repaired another would break down leaving no backup power, and then the one generator we had would break down, as well.

There is an enemy at work, but we have a great, magnificent God whose presence outshines everything else.

ELWA Radio Studio Building



## Shining in the Darkness

The Lord's presence is also shining on the Liberian church that we attend on the ELWA campus. The International Church of Monrovia (ICM) this year commissioned and partially supports two Liberian missionary families to other countries in West Africa.



ICM is part of a group of churches that SIM partners with in Liberia, the Evangelical Churches of Liberia (ECOL). There are 112 ECOL churches, in 13 of the 16 counties of Liberia. ECOL has planted 11 new churches in 2018, and have together sent 8 missionaries to other African countries (including the two from ICM).



ICM's Pastor Moses Gwole is also the ELWA Hospital Chaplain, and makes rounds to visit patients daily. His ministry there has borne great fruit!



**ELWA Hospital Chapel**

Through a partnership with Dallas Theological Seminary, ECOL is opening the Evangelical Seminary of West Africa (ESWA) in January, which will offer the first evangelical Master's degree in Liberia. ECOL is also conducting intensive dual-track theological and vocational training programs for bi-vocational rural pastors.

The beauty of the Lord can be seen through ICM and ECOL.



We are told that at least 40% of the children in Liberia are unschooled. ELWA Academy, with 800 Liberian students, taught by Liberian teachers in grades K-12, is making a great impact on Liberia for the Lord through Christian

education. Their students have scored the highest in national tests.



We also have 70 homes on the ELWA campus housing staff from ELWA, SIM missionaries, and missionaries from partner missions like Samaritan's Purse and Mission Aviation Fellowship. It often takes most of an hour at our weekly praise and prayer meetings to share all the ways God is at work in Liberia. Praise the Lord!



## Counting on the Lord!

While Cheri and the boys stayed back in the US, still on home assignment, Alan and a team of



engineers and electricians headed back to Liberia in October to install a new generator and other equipment. Flying in Samaritan's Purse's DC-8 cargo plane, they were laughing about taking "one new generator, two (airplane) wings, three transformers (a million watts!), four engines, five pilots, and many, many prayers" – a total of 64,000 pounds of cargo and passengers. It was a lot more than just a wing and a prayer!



**Unloading at Robertsfield Int'l Airport in Liberia**

This is the first part of a big power system upgrade to support a CT Scanner that former Fox News and MSNBC host Greta van Susteren and Franklin Graham have donated to ELWA Hospital. This promises to be the first CT Scanner in Monrovia, and the first Liberian CT Technician. This upgrade will also hopefully alleviate future electric blackouts for the whole campus. The team returned November 10th.



**Above: Unloading the generator from the DC8; installed and operating. Left: One million watts of power transformers!**



## Home for the Holidays

Cheri has been really excited to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with family, but the boys are wanting to get home already! They love being with family and friends here and are enjoying home-school co-op, but they miss their friends in Liberia. We are scheduled to return to Liberia on January 10, 2019.

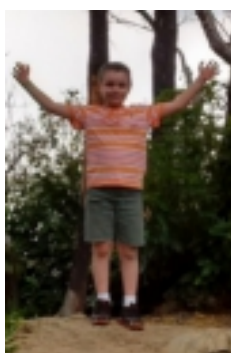
*Soli Deo gloria!*

*Alan & Cheri*

*Josiah, Nathaniel & Zachary*



**Josiah & Zachary looking at fall foliage**



**Nathaniel "on top of old smokey" (Great Smokey Mountains Nat'l Park)**

## Praises & Prayers

- A chance to relax at the end of our home assignment
- Safe travel back to Liberia and for any loose ends to be tied up smoothly
- ELWA Radio to move into the new studio
- Funds to fully equip the new studio building (including all five studios and control rooms)
- Our health
- Time for our marriage, and for Alan to have time with the boys when there are so many demands placed on him
- We are thankful that almost all of our needed financial support has come in!



**Hooligans should have stayed home! (Silver Dollar City, MO)**



**Zachary's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

View these and more photos at <http://www.plas.ml/news23>



**Alan concentrating on studio construction plans while joyful chaos surrounds.**



**Winning team of the sand-castle building contest! (Josiah: 3<sup>rd</sup> from Right; Zachary: Right)**



**Pink crab and colorful "stinkbug"**

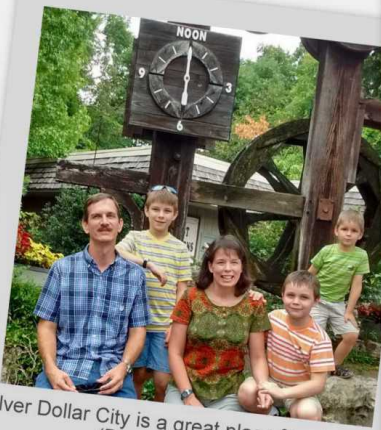


Alan & Cheri Shea  
517 S Broadway St  
Butler, IN 46721 USA

Alan: +1 260-920-0472  
Cheri: +1 260-920-4251

SIM USA  
PO Box 7900  
Charlotte, NC 28241  
Tel: +1 704-588-4300  
[www.sim.org](http://www.sim.org)  
[www.simusa.org](http://www.simusa.org)





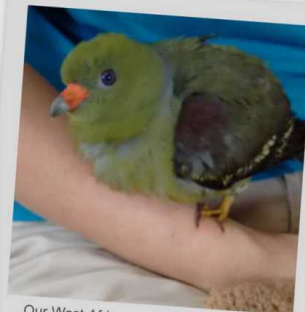
Silver Dollar City is a great place for all kids!  
(Branson, Missouri)



Great-grandpa Wiederkehr tells Nathaniel  
about enemy fighter airplanes in WW 2



Alan & Cheri in a rare selfie



Our West African green fruit pigeon pet.



Zachary and Sadie - morning walk on the beach



Its another pile up on the highway.



Practicing something (?) in the classroom.



This route to work has too many pile-ups!



Zachary and mud go together well.



Officer Zachary is on duty.



Local firemen putting out the grass fire.  
Well done!



Sadie makes a nice, warm, pillow.



New water pumps & spray system on  
generator cooling pond



Good night sun, good night beach!



Sadie thinks she needs some Splenda.



Daddy's home!