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The Kuwaa Mission Prayer Letter

Mailing Address:
10023 South Beverly Avenue
Chicago, IL 60643-1346

PHONE:
(773) 575-9355

E-MAIL:
djensen@kuwaamission.org



Sponsoring Church:
Bethany Lutheran Church
1340 8th Street
Slidell, LA 70458

Donations go to Bethany
c/o Lisa Dunk
Earmark for Kuwaa Mission

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Mr. Ed Stelling returns to Liberia after thirty-three years. Below is part one of a two part story of his return – this time as a Kuwaa Mission volunteer.

BACK TO LIBERIA by Ed Stelling

Thirty-three years ago, in 1979, our family left Liberia after completing our missionary assignment with Lutheran Bible Translators, working among the Kuwaa people on a Bible translation project with Rev. Richard Thompson. He had analyzed and developed the orthography (written format) of the language prior to our arrival in Liberia. I was responsible for developing a literacy program, creating primers and readers and related literacy materials.



Teachers were then trained and equipped to use these materials, teaching children and adults to read and write their own language. The New Testament was completed and printed ten years later, bringing God's Word to the Kuwaa in the language of their hearts. Now, fast-forward to March 3, 2012. I left Los Angeles at 1 PM and arrived in Liberia the next day at 5 PM local time (10 AM, LA time)

as a volunteer missionary with the Kuwaa Mission. Accompanying me was Cindy Ellis, also a KM volunteer missionary, on her third trip to Liberia. She is our water engineer, supervising the well projects and the medical clinic construction in Kondesu this year. In her three trips to Liberia we will have completed, by the grace of God and the financial support of many Lutheran congregations and individuals, eight well projects and one medical clinic.

The highlight and purpose of my four week stay in Liberia was to conduct a teacher training workshop for village teachers in lesson planning and classroom management. This workshop came about at the request of village teachers, some of them being volunteer teachers in mission and government schools in the Belle District. They had been informed earlier of the workshop by radio and came to Belle Baloma, location of our village home from 1974-1979. Some of the teachers came after walking over six hours through the tropical rain forest, to attend the four day classes.

Leaving Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia, it took us twelve hours to reach Fassama, the first Kuwaa town. Cindy and I were crowded together in

the front seat of a 1990's Toyota four-wheel drive pickup truck along with the driver. The back of the truck was loaded down with our luggage, construction materials, medical and school supplies, bags of rice, water filters and seven men coming up country with us. In Fassama we met with the government clinic staff, took a tour of the clinic, and presented them with a large amount of medical supplies from America and other medical equipment and supplies purchased in Monrovia prior to our trip up country.



Thanksgiving

I thank God that I was given this opportunity to return to Liberia and the Kuwaa Chiefdom after being gone thirty-three years. The Lord has blessed me with good health these seventy-seven years of life in service to Him who called me to be in the teaching ministry of the Lutheran Church in elementary schools and as a missionary with Lutheran Bible Translators back in the '70's. I also thank a number of individuals and two Lutheran congregations in Southern California for their financial support of my trip and the Kuwaa Mission in general. Finally, I want to thank my family for allowing me to return to our people in Liberia.

Prayer Request

Continue to pray for the Kuwaa Mission – the work is plentiful