



Hello everyone,

I realized today that I haven't given much of an update on the Liberia clinic lately, so here are some of the latest details. This has been most of my work recently (other than carrying boxes and refrigerators) since we are going on about five weeks since the dental clinic has been closed for the transition of the ships. We start the clinic again next week—actually a week earlier than we planned. We have most of our team already here and it seems like a good one, so we're ready to get back to it.

Just finished version 4 of the proposal today. Hopefully it's the last version, but doubtful. We should, at least be able to get this version out to some more potential funding sources. We have not put it out yet because we were waiting on a visit from the architect from Mission Direct to come assess the land and building costs and meet some local contractors.

Tim, the architect, came the last weekend of May and it was a very encouraging visit. He approved the site we had chosen for the future clinic and we met an incredible contractor whose work is better than Tim has seen anywhere in West Africa. In addition, he is Liberian, which is great to have one of the best contractors in town and still be able to support a locally owned business.

God's timing is awesome. We received tons of great donations due to the end of the Anastasis' service, including the panoramic X-ray unit that costs about \$12,000 new, and even used are often \$7500 or more. Big blessing. Now I'll see if I can swing the grand piano.

The Anastasis is now empty and quiet. Very sad. Our home for the last three and a half years will soon sail away and travel for three weeks to be scrapped in India . What a legacy God has left through her. The memories we have in our short time there are overwhelming.



A great reminder of God's promise and symbol of how God has touched Liberia through the Anastasis.

While I'm talking about ships, the founder of Mercy Ships approached Kristin and I during his last visit here and asked if we might be able to wait and see about making the Liberian dental clinic a partnership with Mercy Ships. Yes, last newsletter I did say they would not be able to work with us. It was a huge to shock to us. Although Kristin, Frieda, and I feel we are neither to wait to move here nor to pause the process of trying to have the clinic built, we are trying to consider a way we might still be able to partner with Mercy Ships. This would be a large benefit to help cover ongoing operational costs in the first several years. Please pray that all of this would work out for God's work to be done for the people of Liberia .

Location—We have decided to build on the campus of a local mission campus that has been around since 1953. It is called ELWA, which are the call letters for a radio station that started the whole thing. It was started by SIM, formerly Sudan Interior Mission, now Serving in Mission , and they are still involved, but it is 98% locally run. The radio station still operates, and there is also a school and one of the best hospitals in Liberia (which is where my partner, Frieda, has already established a 2 chair dental clinic as

well as where I have performed several surgeries when it was not possible to schedule them on the ship). The land also houses several local missionary families and also NGO offices and we hope to live somewhere on the campus as well.



Future site of the clinic on the ELWA campus.

We decided on the ELWA property for several reasons. For myself, primarily because I will be able to do surgeries at their hospital and not have to worry about including an operating room in our clinic, which I would have to staff with an anesthesiologist and nurses. This saves a lot of logistics and headache in the establishing of the clinic. Building the clinic here will also mean a partnership with SIM, and the support of a very large organization. The land is also quite a bit closer to town than other land we were offered, which will be better for Kristin and the kids, in addition to being around other families and humanitarian workers.

Unfortunately, Kristin has not been able to be too involved at Acres of Hope orphanage as she was last time we were here. A couple of reasons—one, they now have a couple of full time volunteers already there, but mainly because of Jay, the boy we helped to get in the orphanage last year. He gets very confused when we visit and thinks we are the ones who are to be his parents. He cried for days after our last visit, so we're waiting for him to join his adopted family before we visit Acres of Hope again. He has been matched with a family who has sent him pictures and hopefully he's starting to understand everything a little better. We'd really like to establish a church service for the kids at AOH on Sundays, possibly mimicking that of the children's home where we attended church in Ghana .

OK, I'll end with some good news/bad news/good news. I just read that Liberia , although probably one of the poorest countries, if not the poorest, in the world, is *not* among the most unstable. Unfortunately, eight African countries were ranked among the top ten, including the sadly obvious Sudan at the top of the list and also obvious Somalia and Ivory Coast . Liberia was

ranked the most improved due to the 2005 elections. Please pray peace and stability in these countries.

Take care, everyone and please let us know how you're doing.

keith, krsitin, taylor, lauren and samuel ><

