



As I write this, we are crossing over the northeastern tip of Canada, headed back to the U.S. for about four months of time off and fund raising. Here's a tentative schedule:

28-30 Nov.—Lindale, TX @ Mercy Ships IOC  
30 Nov. – 2 Dec.—Dallas for family reunion  
2 Dec. – 26 Dec.—San Antonio for Mexican food (oh, and Christmas w/family)  
9 Dec.—Speaking at St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
16 Dec.—Speaking at St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
23 Dec.—Speaking at Christ Episcopal Church  
26 Dec. – 22 Jan.—Ponca City, OK  
23 Jan. – 22 Feb.—Nashville  
23 Feb. – 8 Mar.—Charlotte, NC for SIM training

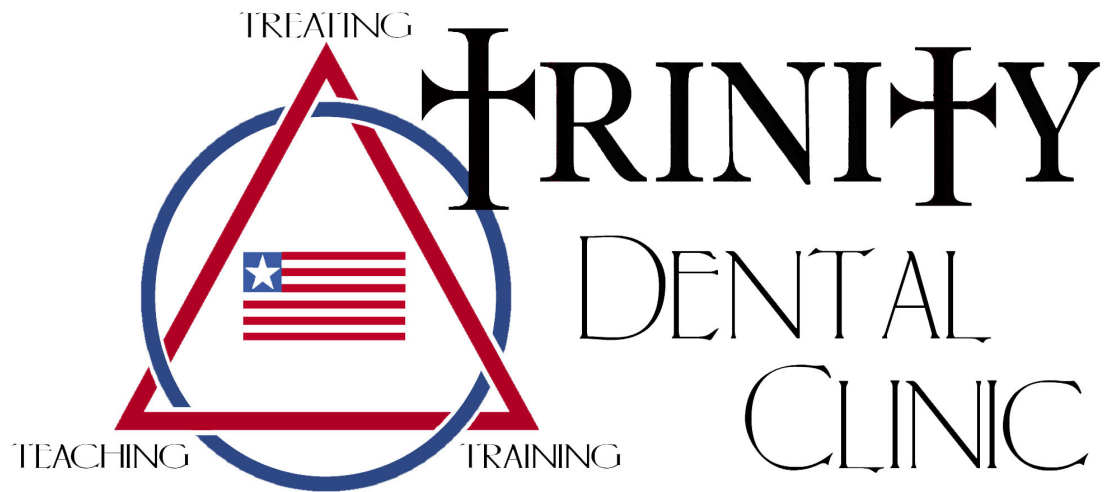
Our time with Mercy Ships, or I should say, Mercy Ships *ships*, is officially over. We have packed up and moved off the ship over the course of the last several weeks. Most of our things went to storage or with friends as we still need raise funds to renovate the house that has been given to us by ELWA (the local missions campus). As some of you may have heard, however, we will remain Mercy Ships volunteers as Mercy Ships partners with SIM to aid us in establishing the dental clinic in Liberia.

It was no doubt a myriad of emotions as we left the ship yesterday. Thankfully, the emotions were curbed by a really great piece of news—the Africa Mercy will return to Monrovia, Liberia next February for another ten months. The ship was intended to travel first to Sierra Leone, just north of Liberia, but due to multiple reasons, Mercy Ships' leadership decided a short while ago to return to Liberia.

So as we hugged everyone it was so much weight off to be able to say to most of them, "See you when we get back." The ship's presence will be a huge asset and blessing to the founding of the dental clinic in Liberia. We pray it won't be too tough on the kids to be moving to land while the ship is in the same place they lived just this year, still with many of their friends and memories.

Trinity Dental Clinic—  
[www.trinitydental.org](http://www.trinitydental.org)

Regarding the dental clinic, our current plans for the clinic are to expand the clinic that Frieda, the clinic's co-founder, has already established at ELWA hospital just south of Monrovia. This will allow us to begin for much less building costs, allowing us to focus on supplies and equipment. We are in the process of making this expansion a Mercy Ships' construction project when the ship returns. This is a fantastic opportunity for us.



We have already received one large pledge plus several other significant gifts, as well as donations of materials, instruments, and equipment. These gifts total over \$140,000, about 75% of our initial start-up budget for the clinic.

Part of our project is to establish a satellite clinic in Redemption Hospital, in which I have been working the last 2 years with the ship. Since the ship will be back and their clinic operating there, this can be postponed and allow us to focus on the ELWA clinic, getting systems in place, and simply getting settled as a family.

Our needs remain of raising funds to renovate the house at ELWA, including a guest room for short term volunteers, as well as raising monthly and yearly support for the clinic to provide ongoing, reliable income to subsidize what cannot be covered by the affordable fees we will offer.



*Joseph and I on his birthday, 2006.*

#### *A Frozen West African*

As I said before being able to tell everyone from the ship, "See you next year," made everything much easier as we left. But there was one big, very sad, yet joyous exception for me—our dental coordinator, Joseph Dumbuya, to whom I really did have to say good-bye. The joyous part is that Joseph has been accepted to dental school. Joseph is from Sierra Leone and started with Mercy Ships in 2000 as a translator at the dental clinic and began to train as a dental assistant. He worked again with the ship in 2004 when our family joined and at the end of this field service, filled a vacancy on the ship as a long term dental assistant. He then filled the role of dental coordinator and blew everyone away with his amazing leadership. Now, nearly four years after joining the ship, he is headed to Hungary to train as a dentist. A West African in Hungary—I told him to make sure and pack the thickest coat he could find. Good news is that he's had four years to acclimatize to the ship's A/C....one step closer from W. Africa climate towards Hungary.