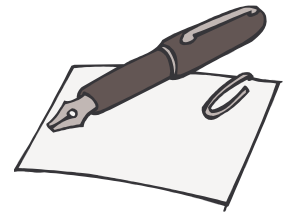




“...And He sent forth His Word, and healed them” -Psalm 107:20

Scripts from the Sacras



September, 2006

Hey! I think I was made for this!

As you know, Rick and I came to Liberia as a doctor and a teacher. You are probably also aware that we don't get to do much doctoring and teaching these days, as we have had to take on the leadership and administrative roles for SIM in Liberia, for now (we always say that, believing that this is just a season). But in the past couple months, while there has been a brief lull in new arrivals, visiting teams and other administrative demands, we have actually gotten to do what we love to do!

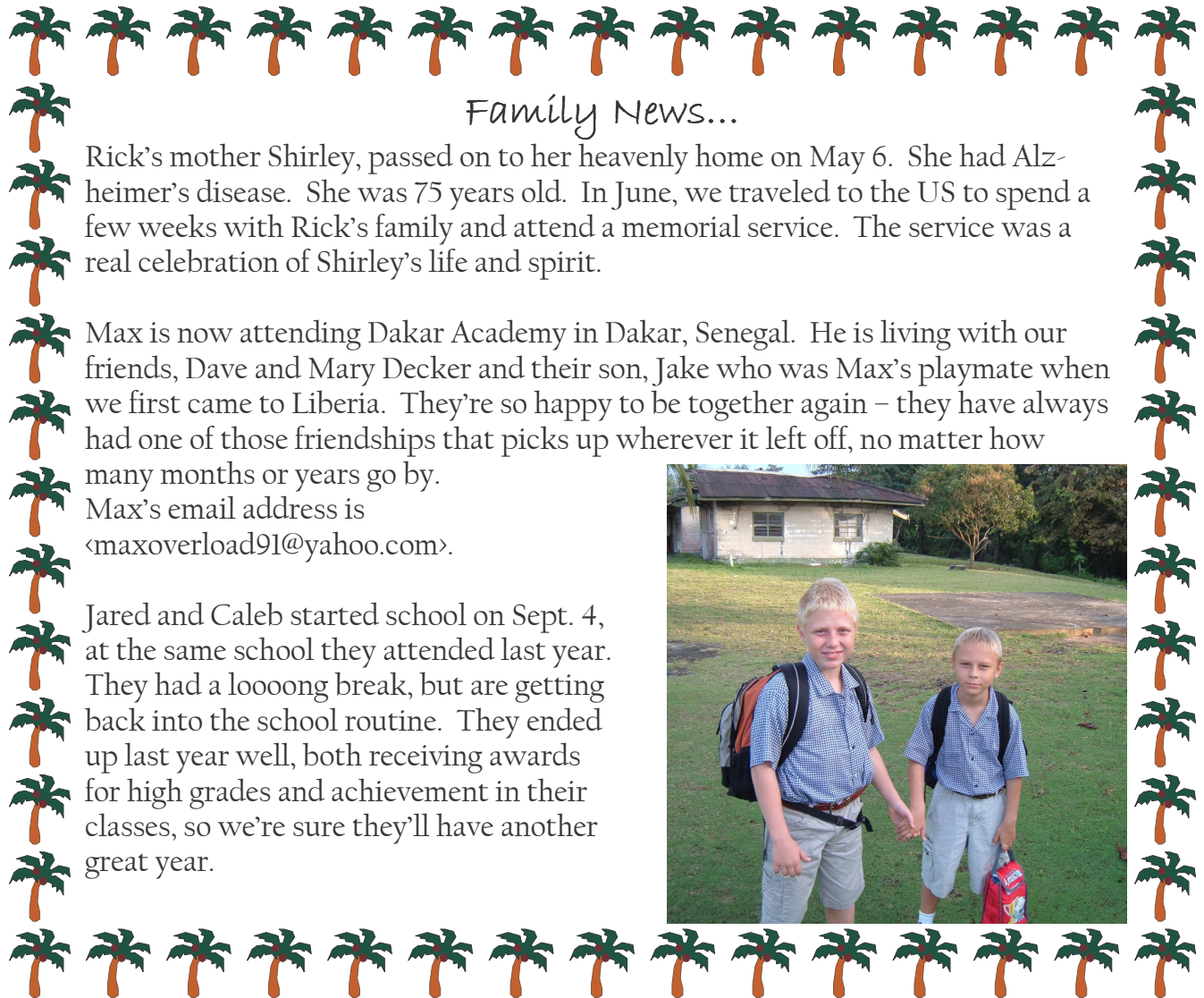
During the month of August, I helped out with the ELWA Academy “Vacation Enrichment Program”. Two days a week, I spent an hour or so with some 4th-6th graders, teaching creative writing and reading. Our class creative writing project was a riddle collection. That was fun, and I have posted some of the riddles on our blog <360.yahoo.com/rick_sacra>.

For reading, we divided into two groups and I took the lower group to work on some of their basic skills, such as sight words and syllables. The time was very short, but we packed a lot of activity into those few hours and I do believe it might have done some good. But most of all, it was good to interact with the kids, get a glimpse of what our teachers are dealing with, and see whether the strategies I have been trying to suggest to them are actually effective with these students. But oh, getting back in the classroom makes me long for the day when I will get to do it again!



Last year, Rick visited Sinoe County with a team from an organization called Equip and some ELWA Hospital employees. They found there was a desperate need for surgical support at the government hospital, and training for nurses and community health workers. As a result of the generous funding of the Health Outreach team project through SIM, ELWA Hospital has been able to send doctors and nurses down to Sinoe to help staff the hospital and train the regular staff, and provide drugs and equipment. Rick FINALLY got his chance to spend a couple weeks there this month, along with a Swiss medical student, Corinne Beerle, an OR technician and the hospital chaplain. Rick did more surgery the last two weeks of August than he has most of the year – several hernias and even an appendectomy! He has had the same feeling about his experience that I had about teaching this month – that it is good to see what people are dealing with at the grass-roots level again – to keep in touch with the realities of the ministry that is mostly taking place through our Liberian partners.

But we don't want to communicate the idea that our administrative work isn't real ministry. It isn't what we came here to do originally, but we know that it is what God has for us to do for this season. We have been working hard to get more on top of our responsibilities because we see that as our team grows and our ministry is broader, we need good administrative systems in place. And we are not too bad at it really, just overwhelmed at times. Enough to need God's grace to fill in the gaps. We are SO THANKFUL that Sheila Langford arrived in August to help us as an administrative assistant. When I asked her what gives her job satisfaction she said she likes to "make order from chaos." She should have a lot of opportunity for that with us! We hope that in the year that she is with us, we can really put our administrative house in order so that SIM Liberia is prepared for more missionaries on our team and more ministry with our partners.



Family News...

Rick's mother Shirley, passed on to her heavenly home on May 6. She had Alzheimer's disease. She was 75 years old. In June, we traveled to the US to spend a few weeks with Rick's family and attend a memorial service. The service was a real celebration of Shirley's life and spirit.

Max is now attending Dakar Academy in Dakar, Senegal. He is living with our friends, Dave and Mary Decker and their son, Jake who was Max's playmate when we first came to Liberia. They're so happy to be together again – they have always had one of those friendships that picks up wherever it left off, no matter how many months or years go by.
Max's email address is
<maxoverload91@yahoo.com>.

Jared and Caleb started school on Sept. 4, at the same school they attended last year. They had a loooong break, but are getting back into the school routine. They ended up last year well, both receiving awards for high grades and achievement in their classes, so we're sure they'll have another great year.



Many thanks to all of you who support us, pray for us, and keep in touch with us! Sometimes it is just knowing that you are thinking of us and praying for us that keeps us going! Please feel free to write us anytime—email is usually the easiest, but feel free to write or call as well.

Mailing Address:
c/o SIM Liberia
P.O. Box 6958
Monrovia, Liberia

Mission Address:
SIM USA
P.O. Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241-7900
<http://www.sim.org>

Email: rick.sacra@sim.org
Blog: http://360.yahoo.com/rick_sacra
Phone: (Rick) 231-5-663131
(Deb) 231-6-513411