



12/15/2016

Wishing a most blessed Christmas to all,

Tis the season. Christmas carols softly playing in the background bringing back memories of special Christmases past. I have sweet memories of Mom and I working on our special Christmas tree, wrapping the tiny branches of a freshly cut sassafras tree with strips of cotton simulating the beauty of a snow covered tree standing in the forest. Special memories.

I also have special memories of Christmases I've spent in Liberia. Families dressed in their best walking down a dirt road to celebrate Christmas worshipping the new born King.

One Christmas stands out over the rest. A number of years ago St. Luke's Church was building their new larger church. The church was still under construction and was nothing more than a concrete floor and walls. The Christmas Eve service started with three groups of the congregation singing Christmas carols while processing from different directions towards the unfinished church. As we all converged on the church our voices came together as we entered the roofless building. It was another warm night with not a cloud in the sky and I was very moved as I stared at all the stars in the sky while singing carols and hearing the Christmas story from a new perspective.

Tonight as I am home listening to carols reminiscing of Christmases gone by, Deb and I are packing our luggage as we leave for Liberia in a few days. This trip will be about 3 weeks long as we have a heavy schedule and need the extra time to accomplish what God has given us.

Sarah and Andrew Hostetter will be with us again and Sandy Nelson will join us on the Phebe Hospital Compound.

We feel God is leading us in some new directions and we continue to listen to His call. We are planting the seeds for the growth of a Self-Sustainable School. This could be really awesome!

We will be exploring possibilities of help for Suakoko Leprosery Colony. People with a great need, overlooked.

Not to mention, this year's tuition sponsorship program as we are accepting over 100 new students.

We ask for your prayers for safe travel and a time of awesome productivity and growth as we follow His call. And as always, may God receive all the praise and honor. Amen

In His service,

Gary & Deb Winters