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Serve the Children News

A Day in Liberia Written by Sara Sandefur

We wake to the sound of roosters crowing and flip-flops scuffing through the lower floors of Sinkor School where we were staying. The surf crashes with a constant dull roar right outside the slatted glass covering the open windows. Slowly, sounds of life increase all around the building. The team takes turns showering under cold running water, newly plumbed from the recently restored main water line. Downstairs, children arrive for the morning school session and line up in the courtyard for worship and devotions. We gather up our supplies with three liters of bottled water each, packing into the vehicles for the drive to the other school at 15-Gate.

We pass the extremes of Liberia along the way. Mud huts with palm fronds and tarps to keep the rain out, brand new suburbs of concrete and aluminum, and unfinished government buildings from the 1980s. Sickness, health, starvation, obesity, filth, beauty—it all moves past the windows. We crawl through the Red Light market area, where wheelbarrows filled with goods line the sides of the road and a sea of people mill around, buying and selling. The sounds of Liberian gospel music, vendors and honking cars fill the van. The further we get from Monrovia, the deeper the potholes in the road and the wider we weave to avoid them.

We arrive at 15-Gate to an excited crowd of orange-shirted children with huge smiles. A line of children has already formed outside the small office where the medical team sets up, most of the cases will be malaria or open wounds. Several teachers are already waiting for the Story of God training. The sponsorship team begins taking photos and gathering biographical information. We all work steadily until the children go home, a quick lunch and one last stop at the maggot-filled pit latrines before we head home for the day.

There is no running water when we return, the pressure lasting only through the morning. The heat, humidity, and salt spray combine with sweat, sunscreen and mosquito repellent for a sticky feeling like no other.

Continued on the next page . . .

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Sinkor School



15 Gate School

Serve the Children

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▪ *“What we are doing is helpful, but we all struggle with the enormity of the task.”*

A Day in Liberia, cont.

If there is time before dinner, some team members may walk to the internet café or convenience store. Others may nap, read, or check out the woodcarver's goods. Dinner is always rice with various types of meat in palm nut based sauce. At dinner, we usually review the day in “happy face/sad face” terms and talk about the ways we see God at work in and around us. What we are doing is helpful, but we all struggle with the enormity of the task at hand and what we should be doing to make the biggest difference.

The generator roars to life in a cloud of exhaust sometime between 7-8pm. Fuel is expensive, so we only have power for a few hours. The team spends the evening playing cards with our security staff, chasing crabs on the beach, reading, catching up on journaling, and preparing for the next day. These are always the times when we have the most fun together. Soon it is time to lock up the iron gates and head to bed. Tomorrow will be another life-changing day in Liberia.



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- PRAY - join us in praying for the health, safety, and growth of our children and staff in India and Liberia.

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