



Praises & Prayer

Requests:

Continue to pray for the identification and provision for a van for transporting the children and larger groups of people. Pray that my Trooper will hang in there as transportation is so important!

Pray for the school and the teachers at ELWUO. That I can provide some encouragement and training to provide any small improvement in the children's education.

Pray for the upcoming Women's Ministry Team. For wisdom in ministry, organization in packing and their safety in travel and for the hearts of those we will touch while they are here.

Praise God, there has been no significant damage from the leaking. Pray for safety as we begin the process of replacing the roof and the building of Ma Bessie's new home.

Pray for wisdom in ministry, especially as it pertains to a possible sponsorship program that will enable us to have highly qualified teachers and a regular lunch program for the school children.



THE CHILDREN OF ELWUO



Julie Alexander

Missionary to Liberia West Africa

PRAYER LETTER— NOVEMBER 2018



Hello friends and loved ones! I am sitting here, listening to Christmas music, and sweating profusely! I enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving week in northern Liberia with a missionary family there who had the generosity and space to host around 50 missionaries for Thanksgiving dinner. Some, including myself, took the opportunity to get out of Monrovia and stay at their beautiful home and guest house. I don't have to tell you that being apart from your family is especially painful at these times.

I have been back for 2 1/2 months and it hardly seems a few weeks, so much has transpired. As many of you know, an American family, dear friends of mine, are prayerfully attempting to adopt Titus. His adoptive mother arrived in Liberia shortly after I did and we spent a little over 3 weeks chasing documents and paperwork. We approached the arrangement with what we thought was good foresight by getting referrals to American and Liberian lawyers familiar with the process, but some key conditions were not met and we have not been able to secure a VISA for Titus to travel to the states. He has been legally adopted in Liberia, but without the VISA, he can not leave the country. He continues to reside with me full-time. I was not expecting to be a full-time "parent" at 53, but none of this took God by surprise. We also know that however this ends, it is just as our heavenly father intended and planned.

Through the process I have gotten to know his birth mother and I am helping her to get enrolled into a decent private school where she can finish her education. She has been spending some time with me and I am excited to see what God will do with this relationship as I ensure she understands the gospel and disciple her. I want to be sure that, whatever happens, she will never again find herself in a place where she feels she must forfeit her child. Don't mistake me, she is happy and excited for the opportunity for Titus to go to the U.S. as all Liberians would be. To them, America is heaven on earth.

I have also moved permanently into my own space, just a 5 minute walk from the orphanage. It is newer construction and I am on what is essentially the 3rd floor of a 4 story building. I have the entire floor, 2 bedrooms and a bath. There is low current here that enables me to charge phones and computers and run fans and SOMETIMES a small freezer (although I think I have already worn it out). Running water and stronger current are in the future plans and we will see but for now it is very comfortable and truly adequate for my needs! My health has been good since returning. No malaria and no

stomach issues! It is the tail end of rainy season, when the nights are a little cooler and the humidity absolutely insane, but my system did not take long to get back into the groove! Ma Bessie and Ma Mary are still helping me to keep up with cleaning and laundry, which has proved invaluable. I continue to disciple them and I am working with Ma Bessie on learning Kpelle (silent k, pe-lay) while I attempt to teach her to read. It is very slow, but I am praying that once I am completely settled in, things will pick up at the beginning of the year. Pray for our safety as we daily climb tiled stairs and carry buckets of boiling water for washing and baths! I thank God for the strength He grants me but it can still be very difficult physically!

We have been able to do a number of projects including purchasing curriculum, building desks, doors and blackboards and even putting a new roof on the smaller animal barn that has been converted to classrooms. We have yet to start the roofing project for which we were given funds, but the rain has not let up satisfactorily as the entire roof will have to come off! I am waiting for the go ahead to get that scheduled once things have dried out a little more. I am also helping them to supplement the salaries of the teachers. I continue to be frustrated with the educational system and what I see as its inadequacy, but the Holy Spirit reminds me that the adults themselves just don't know the difference. They themselves require so much encouragement and training! I am excited about a literacy program that is here called Liberia Reads! I have received an overview and will be visiting some schools where they are using the program. I am planning on attending (with the qualified teachers from ELWUO, Lord willing) in July 2019. I have requested to be trained as a trainer as my objective is to pass knowledge to Liberians who can continue once we are gone!

Christmas is upon us and I am thankful for the things I brought, sheets, hand towels, hair bows, combs and book bags which will make great gifts for the children. I have found a few small doll and soccer balls and we will have a nice meal and celebration for the children. I normally buy the children new mattresses this time of year, and I am looking into getting them all dresses and shirts made from coordinating lapa (fabric) which I traditional at Christmas time (to receive new clothes). Some have already offered to give and for that I am truly grateful.

At Temple Baptist, we are looking forward to a revival the week of December 5 and outreach has started in the community. We are planning and practicing a Christmas program for the children and are running a promotion for them to invite friends and grown-ups to church during this 5 weeks of Christmas. It will culminate in a program on December 23rd. Pray our efforts are fruitful to reach those in the Car Wash Community! We have also begun planning for the Women's Ministry team that is coming here the beginning of March. We will be ministering to the women of this local community as well as traveling to Gbarnga to conduct women's hygiene clinics. I am so looking forward to their arrival.

It is hard to imagine such evilness at this time of year, but please pray to God for the protection of the children, of all Liberians from the presence of darkness. During this holiday season, and as the new year approaches, the witches and dark forces in the country are particularly hard at work. There is still a very great evil here that encourages the practice of traditional animistic religions, including child sacrifices. People living in darkness or under counterfeit Christianity use these evil practices thinking the spirits will bless, protect or heal them. Pray that no weapon formed against these helpless and vulnerable children will prosper. The economy here continues to be bleak. Demonstrations are starting to form and have so far been peaceful, but the frustration and fear of the people of Liberia is growing. You can hear it, and see it. Pray for my safety and for all those serving in Liberia.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support. I continue to be grateful and humbled by this opportunity to serve the Lord on your behalf in Liberia! Continue to pray for wisdom and direction, that our steps would be guided by His Holy Spirit and we will be discerning to hear His voice and win the Liberians for Christ!

Your Servant for Liberia, *Julie Alexander* *Psalm 68:5-6*