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## October 2021 Prayer Letter

Greetings from Thinker Village in Liberia! I am writing to you after my recent return from the 39th Annual Mid Baptist Conference. It was an amazing few days in a small village called Botota in the middle of Bong County. This location was so far in the bush, it necessitated me staying there for a few days. I wasn't really prepared for that but they had a very adequate guest house and Titus and I stayed there with a Liberian Pastor and his family. The beauty of the place was breathtaking. I love the inland ministry and I am very much in my element there. This is probably the 5th or 6th time I was able to speak to these women. Their love and joy at seeing me is very much reciprocated. They gifted me with a couple of chickens and some beautiful lapa! My Kpelle lessons have not progressed too far but at least I could greet them! I truly hope to come back to this location for further ministry, but more about that later. While here, a young woman approached me, clearly under deep conviction for the sin in her life. Women here have few options for survival and it is easy to make poor choices just to have a place to live or to go to school and buy the things that you need. I was able to get assurance of her salvation and with the help of another missionary, we pray to see the young woman living a life pleasing to God and able to support herself and her daughter. During my time there I managed to pick up a food- or water-borne illness, but I seem to be on the other side of that, praise God. Titus is fine, but he Liberian-oh!

The adoption process continues, albeit slowly. The second wave of COVID has slowed many things here but I was able to secure my local and interpol police clearance, medical certificate and my home study has been completed, in which I was cleared for adoption. The papers are filed with the court and we are awaiting the Gender Ministry to do their interviews with Titus' family. After that, we should be in court to get the adoption finalized. Please pray to that end! Then begins a 2-year waiting period to apply for a VISA for Titus to enter the US under immigration. That application process can take up to a year and 1/2. It will be a long road and will make it difficult to travel to the US. Titus is thriving and loving life. He was promoted out of K4 and is now attending Kindergarten at Rafiki. He loves his friends and his teachers and was invited to introduce his class during the 1st quarter closing program. He said, "Mommy, I'm a little nervous"! He celebrated his 5th birthday in May with parties with family and friends. A recent tragedy, the death of my landlord, had us talking about eternal security and I am very pleased to tell you that Titus prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior! He told me, "Mommy, I'm going to die and go to heaven!", to which I replied, "Oh, Titus, why would you say that?" and he told me, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved!" A little more lecturing evidenced he understands his decision. What joy! If this was the one reason I was to come to Liberia, that's OK with me!

I have had the opportunity to do two bookkeeping workshops! One in the "bush" at a friends ministry in the village of Edina. I had 20 market women attending. The workshop was well received and I have gotten reports that several of the women have been applying the training to their businesses. I always take the opportunity to share my testimony and the gospel. Liberians have the misconception that all Americans are happy and on their way to heaven. I hate to burst their bubble, but I share my testimony to show that sin is common to man and in our own way, many of us suffer but praise God, there is an answer to all suffering, the Lord Jesus Christ! I use the illustration of a canyon we can not cross as we come "short of the glory of God". I then illustrate the "false bridges" that can never reach. The only true bridge is the cross of Christ. One young woman asked, "how can we know we are on that true bridge?" Pray that she fully grasped our explanation and pray for my friends that continue to minister to her and many others there.



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I was recently able to attend the advanced training for Trauma Healing and I am now a Training Facilitator. This enables me to do equipping sessions, or teaching others to be facilitators. This is a major ministry goal of mine. I can see the impact that this program can have. When I was at the conference in Bong County I was able to approach the 23 Pastor there about the possibility of holding a convening session with the goal being to introduce it to the Pastors and them incorporating the Trauma Healing as part of their own church ministries. This is what I am hoping will soon carry me back to Botota. I sponsored Pastor Emmanuel Saywah from Faith Baptist Thinker Village to attend the initial training sessions. We have been discussing the possibility of incorporating further healing classes at our church plant.

The church plant is doing well and the building project is up to the wall level with the roof to come next. Please be in prayer with us as the remaining funds need to be raised. I continue to teach Sunday School and Children's Church. Please pray as it has been a challenge to get others interested and involved in the Children's Ministry there. Bro. Nap has been a very faithful helper. We have divided the Sunday School class. He teaches the younger children and I teach the older ones. These older children (5th grade and up) are now attending the main service along with Bro. Nap. They are taking notes and memorizing Bible verses. Their faithfulness will earn them their own Bible. I have been very encouraged by my time with them and the good questions that they are presenting me with. These children need much prayer to live for God in their culture. I am going to have my own mini-PR31 session. This is a young women's purity and life conference held by my sending church. I had been praying about doing such a conference but the logistics were too overwhelming. It occurred to me to hold a small conference in my home for the young women in my Sunday School class and the older girls in my sponsorship program. Pray as I plan for that in that not too distant future.

We are still working toward opening an after-school reading/study-class for the children in the Kpelle Town Community where the church is located. A school is still in the works but the building project needs to be completed before we go down that path. Some sprucing up has been going on at the Mission Property. I was able to sponsor Nap to attend some early-childhood education training offered by the Ministry of Education this week and when school starts the first of November, I am hoping to start our very own "Coconut Club" around that time. This will not only be beneficial to the school aged children but give us a platform to provide further training for Nap and other potential teachers. We are hoping to get him into the training program at Rafiki.

On a rather distressing note, Ma Bessie has not been too well. In May, she "fell out", meaning she had some sort of spell. She was in and out of a local hospital with several ongoing issues. Her blood pressure is very high and her heart is racing. I have been taking her to one of the more advanced clinics and we seem to be getting some answers and her BP a little better controlled, but she continues with some problems with no easy answers. She spent a long time away from the children during her recuperations, but she just recently returned. Her medicine will cost at least \$30 a month going forward. The "addition" to her house is completed with the roof on, but still need doors, window coverings and a septic system. Her sons are doing the labor and providing some of the items required like the doors, which is really a blessing. She insisted on taking the project further than we initially planned and discussed, so it is now up to her family to complete it. In the mean time, the kids are finding ways to chip in. They felt Ma Julie had a large burden on them now with Ma Bessie's health. They took some softdrinks I had provided (for Ma Bessie to chill and sell) and have started a small business, using their profit to buy more product. They have been su-su'ing (saving) some of their own money to pay for their shoes for the return to school. Please pray for the entire situation! We all need Ma Bessie strong again. I can be missing her PLENTY. Give us wisdom in the care and provision for these children!

School took another "hit" due to the second wave of COVID. The government shut the lower grades, allowing the older grades to complete their testing and finishing in August with the new term starting November 1. I have had very good reports on the children from their various schools. There are now 16 children in my little sponsorship program. I added Nap's daughter Rosemary this year. Also, Praise and Alexander, from the ELWUO orphanage are coming to town to live with their Grandma Mary (Ma Mary) and they will also need some assistance. That will bring the total to 18. As I said in prior years, it takes an average of \$160/child to complete the school year. This includes the supplies, shoes, uniforms, fees, reading books, etc. to carry them through the year. With the addition of the new students, I need to raise a total of \$2,500 to keep the children in school. I am going to send a separate communication regarding that campaign! To those who have so generously donated in the past, THANK YOU! I pray you will continue to do so, as the Lord allows! Please contact me if you are interested in sponsoring a child! You can give a one time gift of any amount, pay a lump sum amount or a monthly amount, all through my Mission Board. You help to bring peace and purpose to a young persons life through this program, and I can't thank you enough.

Your prayers and support mean so much more to me than I can ever express. Thank you for your patience as I know I do not update you frequently enough. I rely a great deal on social media, so if you haven't had the chance, click the links you see to my accounts on Facebook and send a friend request to so you can see on a very regular basis, all that is transpiring with #myLiberianlife. God bless you and keep you all!