

11/10/22

This has been an amazing and jam-packed trip! We have traveled many miles from the eastern border to the southern border and then back north to Moribatown and Gbangbatoke. In Moribatown we visited the Widows Institute which is one of the crown jewels of our ministry work in Sierra Leone. They put on a melodrama for us and sang songs, and gave us clothes and two big baskets full of fruit. We love them so much.

Our visit to Philomath International School was quick. There are 750 students there and our test scores ranked 10th in the nation and 1st in the entire region. I was so impressed by them. We also visited our health post in Mo Charles, where an adorable and very articulate little girl there that gave us the tour of the building. There is a new pastor in Mo Charles and he seems to be really good with the kids. We got a flat tire, which was a little dangerous because the road is sandy and the jack was wanting to slip. Tires here stink. The best tire that you can buy here is Dunlop and they are \$330 each. Yikes!! But we got a new used tire and we were on our way.

Next up was the orphanage and school in Gbangbatoke, where I was hugely impressed with the transformation of what was a very poor program and building to a tremendous example of hope. The kids are incredible. They are tough and playful and happy. I am so happy with the work that Mr. Davis, our home manager, has done here and the building teams are doing a fabulous job as well. We played an epic soccer game and I may have accidentally hit a couple of kids with the ball pretty hard. I hugged them quickly though.

When we arrived at Waterloo on Monday, we decided to stay at a brand new hotel. It is owned by a Sierra Leonian man and his wife. It is a beautiful hotel with AC. We have been operating at 100 miles an hour so it was nice to rest for a bit. Pastor Ben is very careful about caring for our teams. He recognizes that we are not used to the heat or the pace so he works hard to ensure that we have a restoring place to sleep.

We went to the new orphan home for senior secondary school kids (Sr. High kids). We have a boys home and a girls home. They were all at the girls home

for a performance for us. They sang and quoted scripture and recited poems-- they did such a good job. After they were done performing I taught them a couple of songs that I wrote and they made them sound much better. It was fun to sing together. Ben sang one of his songs and we all had a great dance party.

We went to Ben and Kuya's for dinner one night and called Paul and Lynn Paquin to say hi. It was a joy to spend time together.

The pastors and the national board are doing a wonderful job of caring for our kids and developing plans for a future home project and compound. There are so many great opportunities to minister to the people of Sierra Leone. These are just a few of the opportunities before us:

\$1,300 would supply and connect one of our orphan homes to the internet and get them a computer so we can communicate with them.

\$3,000 would connect one of our homes to reliable solar power and ensure the kids will have lights and power.

\$5,000 would provide scholarships would get 8 to 10 students from freshman to a degree at the Evangelical College of Theology.

\$5,000 would take care of our septic system, water tank, and plumbing for the whole 1-acre new orphan compound.

\$5,000 would take care of building beds for all of our children to have their own beds.

\$5,000 would build a fence around the new compound in Foya so the kids are safe.

\$5,000 would build a few nice apartments for our new teachers that we are looking to hire in Foya to ensure that our school there is a grade A, top in the nation school.

\$5,000 would take care of fixing and replacing some of the dozens of wells that we have throughout the country.

\$5,000 would add on to the Philomath Community School building and allow us to influence hundreds more students every year for the highest quality Christian education in the nation.

\$5,000 would build a computer lab at one of our top schools so the students don't have to walk miles to go to a place that has a computer to train in keyboarding.

\$5,000 would help finish out the office chapel and build some hostel cabins for our pastors when they come from the provinces.

\$50,000 would purchase a brand new van that would allow us to move our

As you can see, there are lots of needs and it can be overwhelming to think about. But we know that the Lord has a plan and I am excited to see what happens in the near future with the work that we are doing here and the amazing ways God will provide.

We begin our long journey home today. It was a beautiful trip with beautiful people doing beautiful things for the Lord. Thank you again for your prayers!

Love ya,
Chris
