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Prayer/Praise Requests

Continued health 1
for Ruth Pierson.
She has another
check up this month!

That the Lord will 2
find donors of
\$12,000 to pay for
the first phase of
solar for the hospi-
tal.

Moving mercies! 3

The Sierra Leone 4
Wesleyan Church

Comfort for Marc, 5
Mimi and Chris and
other family mem-
bers as we leave.

Our final 5% of sup- 6
port.

- To become a financial or prayer partner in our ministry [Click Here](#).
- Asher family fund WM04-0332 or Start Up fund WM06-1272.(solar)
- We also need 400 people willing to pray for us on a weekly basis
- We currently have 95% of our support budget pledged.
- We currently have 98% of our start up budget donated.

Ashers In Africa

Volume 1 Issue 7

Newsletter Date October 2008

Home Mission Notes

Wow! Less than 6 weeks and we will be on our way to Sierra Leone! How can we possibly thank you all for your support, work and prayers. It seems like just yesterday that we looked ahead at the daunting job of raising both our support and our start up fund. Our God is so good! What seemed like an impossibility to us was no problem to Him and his people. We appreciate you so much!

We have been on the road so much the last few months. We had the privilege of speaking in southeast Ohio Karen attended medical school in Athens, Ohio so it was a bit like coming home. The people at Nelsonville Wesleyan and Oakfield Wesleyan in Crooksville made us feel right at home. Tom got to see a little of the area where Karen did some of her early medical school rotations and we even squeezed in a soccer game that Josiah Steinbrecker was playing nearby!

The following weekend we spoke at Dueber United Methodist Church in Canton, Ohio. Karen grew up in this church and was so happy to see people she knew. The church is vibrant with both a traditional service and a contemporary service. We certainly felt the Lord working in both services.

Our last service in Sept. was the missionary weekend at Whiteford Wesleyan Church in Ottawa Lake, MI. This is the church that is sending us to the

mission field. Their support both financial and prayer and with physical work has uplifted us even when things have been tough. Our most recent service was in Julian, PA. We can't honestly remember any restaurant that served better food!

Thank you all for your hospitality, friendship and encouragement. We can't express how much you all mean to us.

In the midst of all this traveling we also packed boxes and boxes of medical supplies, food, fabric, sewing supplies, clothing and school supplies. You all were so generous. We even received sewing machines, laptops, printers, and medical supplies from eastern Pennsylvania! One lady washed and folded clothing for weeks to bring us more than 20 garbage bags full of clothing. Many of our friends and church family worked tirelessly to pack all the boxes with all the requirements to ensure it would pass customs. And finally we had a huge group packing the 26 foot truck with such care that we were able to get all the items and the 2 four wheelers inside the truck! (See pictures about this on the following page!) All told, we moved 11,500 lbs. of supplies for SL to the World Hope Warehouse in Alexandria, Louisiana. There Tom met Pastor Dave and the Rose family. They work tirelessly moving, crating, packing on pallets and shrink wrapping and shipping containers for missionary work worldwide.



This shipment for Sierra Leone will go out in November and take 45 days to arrive in Freetown. There it will need to be cleared by customs and rented trucks will move it the 8 hour trip to Kamakwie.

Many of our churches have committed to rolling bandages for the hospital and collecting the needles and thread the women need in the church. These items can be mailed at any time to: World Hope Warehouse 1906 Gus Kaplan Rd. Alexandria, LA 90301

Please mark the outside of the box with Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital/Dr. Asher and list the contents. Bandages should be about 4 inches in width (any length, color or print) rubber banded and placed in plastic bags inside the box (zip locks are nice because they can be reused). When they arrive in Alexandria, they will be stored until the next container is sent to Sierra Leone. If you have items that can not take humidity or heat (like laptops or school supplies) please contact us by email and we will give you some alternative ways to get the items to us. Again, we can not thank you enough for your generosity!

Photos from the World Hope Warehouse



←
Loading the final boxes

→
Arriving in Alexandria

↓↓↓
After unloading the 4 wheelers the fun began, unloading 11,500 lbs. of supplies at the World Hope Warehouse.



So What is Next?

We have confirmed airfare on British Air leaving from Chicago on Dec. 2nd. Between now and then we will be speaking at: Community Wesleyan in Washington, MI (10/24-26), Bentley Wesleyan in Burton, MI (10/31-11/2) and Fredericksburg Presbyterian in Fredericksburg, Ohio (11/9) If you would like to join us at any of these services, please email us and we will send you times and directions. Our final service in the U.S. will be a farewell service at our church, Whiteford Wesleyan Church in Ottawa Lake, MI on 11/30 at 10 AM. (it is located on the corner of Rt. 223 and Sylvania-Petersburg Rd.) Please join us if you are in the Toledo, Ohio area..

Our support and start up funds are nearing completion. If you have been planning to

join our support team please send in your commitment cards for prayer or financial support to Global Partners. We have learned many lessons and met many wonderful people during this period of home missions, but we are so happy to move on to the field.

Now we are seriously packing. We had a huge garage sale that earned enough to pay for 1/3 of the first stage of the solar program. Thank you to all who were able to drop in and say goodbye. We ordered the solar items for that stage and they are even now being delivered to Louisiana to be included in the container going to Sierra Leone. Praise the Lord. If you contribute to the start up fund you will be contributing to the solar project, because

the truck has already been ordered. We will get there before the vehicle arrives! The Lord's timing is perfect. Speaking of this, we were not able to sell our farm but we have found some wonderful renters and are preparing the house for them. They will move in before Thanksgiving.

Our final item to be finished is finding someone to sublease our office space. We would appreciate it if you would pray that the Lord provides a solution for this space that we still have. We may not understand why this hasn't been taken care of yet, but we know His timing is perfect and He will solve this problem.. We have been called and we know He will provide!

Many people have asked us if there is any way to send items to Freetown to the church office. From there they will be hand carried to us at the hospital when someone is coming out our way. The church office address is : Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital c/o The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone P.O. Box 305 Freetown, Sierra Leone. We can always be reached by cell phone at 011-232-76-280855. I found when Tom was in Kamakwie that the cheapest way to call was to add money to my Skype account and call from my computer to the cell number (you don't need the 011 with Skype) or to use an African calling card that can be purchased at most gas stations.. Please be patient with us if you email us as we reach the country, we still need to travel quite a way to get to internet access. We so appreciate your prayers and know that we are praying for you too! God Bless you, Tom, Karen, Marc and Matt Asher



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