

On Wed, Aug 10, 2016 at 5:33 PM, Les Law <hopeles2@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Fambul, Family, Friends.

Hope and I are privileged to go to Sierra Leone each year (except Ebola years) and personally see what the Fambul Members started and have supported over the years, starting in 2004. Our team this year went to observe and evaluate what needs to be done "post Ebola." We visited all the projects, and more, on which we all worked.

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT YOU STARTED AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT.

GUEST HOUSE TILE FLOOR. Thanks to the generosity of many Fambul Members, all the floor in the Nar Sarah Guest House has new, attractive, and durable tile. Gone is the thin linoleum. We collected just enough to cover all the cost plus some repairs. It looks great.

MAKENI SECONDARY SCHOOL. The team members of the early years will remember the condition of the school when we arrived in 2004. It was five classrooms in need of refurbishing and repairs because of the war. There was around 50 students in attendance. Our Fambul did the repairs and returned to add on three classrooms and a staff room. In addition the members presented teacher workshops for several years. The apparent end result was encouraging and inspiring to the local staff. The first team will recall the staff and Board of Governors calling our team an answer to prayer, and how we looked at each other in awe, or was it shock?. Apparently the locals kept praying after we left.

TODAY, at the initiative of the staff, they have added 11, count them, ELEVEN, new classrooms for over 500 students. Two of the 11 are under construction to serve as science labs. Principal Barzey is still there and probably is the main inspiration for all of this. He made a point of showing us a special place, their computer lab. Guess what? They are still using the computers our teams and supporters gave them about 8 years ago. They are the old CRT type and were used when we gave them. Almost made us cry.

Hope's name still appears above Principal Barzey's office and mine remains above the toilet.

One of the current geography teachers was the head boy while our teams were there. The teacher workshops have continued for years but moved to Bo after we left. The workshops are mainly facilitated and taught by local teachers

The nearby elementary school is packed with children, too many to count but one class had 110 students. 3/4 of the students are girls. The Community

Center that some of our team worked on is being used as classrooms. The Library some of our team worked on is still being used as a Library. Feel the pride?

NAR SARAH CLINIC. Some Fambul Members will recall the Clinic started in a small blue building with 2 rooms, adjacent to Peacemaker's house. Before that it was in Finah and Peace's house with both being volunteers, mainly delivery babies. From the WAP building the Clinic moved into a new building.

That building is 9 rooms with 14 full time staff and several part time employees. One of the full time staff members is a Community Health Officer and another is a Certified Midwife. There is a lab with a qualified lab technician and a room set aside for small surgeries. Plus there is a pure water program that has created a need for a new well, storage tank, pump, and related plumbing. In the past year bio-degradable toilet has been built. To meet new government standards a Triage Building has been added, with an isolation room, and an incinerator to destroy used meds and supplies.

Plans are being made to visit smaller villages to provide health care, a nutrition program is in place, health care lectures are provided to patients, a scholarship program is in place for over 100 students, and income producing programs are being developed. Health care is being provided to over 4,000 patients a year. Remember that Nar Sarah and the community successfully kept Ebola out of the Koinadugu District.

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. When one of our teams first became acquainted with the School for the Blind we found the children living in horrible inhumane conditions. That first team did something immediately. They cleaned as much as they could, got rid of wasp nests, painted the rooms, got a few bed nets, repaired part of the roof, and built a new latrine. Another team did some more work and supplied new beds and mattresses. At the same time the local people, especially the Clinic, recognized the horrible conditions and started to make things happen.

Now the blind students have their own primary school classrooms, a new dormitory, and a well with much of the credit going to people in Italy. Some of our teams built a duplex to be used as staff quarters. The secondary students have canes, provided by members of our teams, to use to walk to school.

The blind in the Kabala area now live better and have a better opportunities.

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL. The first teams saw a jungle that had to be cleared of trees, stumps, rocks, and termite hills. The teams were welcomed by

near by villagers, given a goat and some chickens, made a lot of cement blocks, and painted for hours. HHS in Littleton provided over \$80,000 to erect the buildings and provide desks and chairs. Three classrooms were added with funds from HHS/Littleton.

Now the tradition continues. HHS/Littleton is providing funds for a computer lab. While HHS/Kabala remains a Junior Secondary School they have a goal of becoming a Senior Secondary School with Science and Home Ec. labs. There are more girls enrolled than boys and many come from the small villages near by instead of Kabala. For 3 years in a row HHS/Kabala has ranked the highest in number of students passing the exam to enroll in Secondary School. The Sierra Leone government has approved Heritage for supporting teacher salaries and the teachers are taking classes on weekends to become certified. The school fees for the teachers are paid by a Denver church team that has never been to Sierra Leone

KABALA UMC CHURCH. After Heritage was started, and Nar Sarah already existed, the UMC Conference decided to start a church in Kabala. The church met on the veranda of Nar Sarah Clinic. A member of one of the teams inspired his church in Pueblo South. CO, to help the church in Kabala. The help ended up providing enough money to build an attractive new church building.

The church attendance, at least while we are there, is around 75 including 25 children. A UMC Primary School was started on church property with funds provided by the UMC Conference in Minnesota. The attendance is around 100, currently Classes 1 through 3. While visiting this time our team participated in a UMC Primary School parade through town celebrating the Day of the African Child. After the parade the team attended a talent show with talent exhibited by the children and youth

SIGNS OF SUCCESS. There are now 10 students now in college that were touched by you through Primary, Secondary, and College Scholarships. Two are from the School for the Blind. Poreh and Joseph are in their first year in college in Makeni., or near completing college. There are 3 from Makeni, and 5 from Kabala. Three of the Kabala students are from the Amputee and War Wounded Camp. One of the 8 is studying to be a Doctor and one will graduate in 2017 as a Nurse. One is already a teacher at HHS/Kabala. Two are studying Agriculture and Land Resources.

No one person, or persons, does all this alone. Because you cared, with local people, staff, teachers, officials, all working together, LIFE is better for many.

All of you still care. Some have committed to careers of helping others on an international scale. Others are studying for careers that will lead to

helping the world. Some are volunteering in local programs. Just wanted you to know that you did good and the good continues.

Hope and I are blessed to know each of you. Thank you.

But, are we done? About 2 weeks after the team returned an announcement was made about the Juno spacecraft approaching Jupiter. It traveled almost 2 billion miles, taking 5 years, and worked perfectly. Can you imagine the effort that went into that accomplishment, the hundreds, or maybe thousands of people, that took part in the design and building of the craft, and then the planning of the flight itself?

This happened just after we returned from a place that has very few computers, very limited access to the internet, live in poverty, eat one meal a day, lived through a rebel war, were scared and decimated by Ebola, but only say, "Wi deh manage." The people of Sierra Leone are never, ever, poor in spirit.

How do we connect these two worlds in which we live? The excitement of learning about space and the benefits derived from research and exploration is great. Our minds thrive on the potential of life, and the creativity shown by so many.

But at the same time our heart hurts. Too many are in need in this confusing world in which we live. We can't stop helping.

Watch for the Newsletters. Keep in touch. We love to hear from you.

Hope and Les