

Subject: Ghana # 11 Saturday noon in Accra at guest house  
date: sat, 20 Feb. 2010 13:01:35 GMT

Dear Carole and Bobbie,

I just had a long conversation with the Hueys who care for persons at the guest house. They are concerned about the status of the hospital at Nalerigu as we are.

We confirmed that this was the best visit ever for me, because of the number of persons who were there while Joel and Earl were away. They returned yesterday and also arriving was dentist Fuller Robinson who has been coming for more than 20 years and he had 2 of his grand daughters with him.

On the last morning in the clinic I was with Joe and Jude seeing patients with translator Agnes. She loves peppermint and I was glad that I brought it. We saw the woman who previously had a massive operation to remove a dermoid tumor of the ovary with teeth and hair. She was doing very well and I asked about her spiritual condition. She then readily accepted Christ since he had done a miracle in her life. I sent her to talk more with chaplain Victoria and she came back beaming, because the patient's husband had also received Jesus in his heart. They received information about a church. What a great sequence to see the healing physically, then spiritually!!!! This could happen many more times and I think that it would be an appropriate plan to have the chaplains on rounds with us in the hospital wards.

We made a safe trip to the seed ministry in Tamale and had a problem with low electrical current, so there was no air conditioning. We survived the night and made the scheduled trip to Accra. We had a doctor on the plane who does ob-gyn in Buffalo - with a mission team, and a doctor with the CDC who has a malaria project here and is a colleague of Allen Craig -- plus he was with the Tarpleys in Nigeria who inspired him.

Roy and I did not go out to lunch at noon today because Bill Prine and the group will be taking the Hueys to dinner at a restaurant tonight. We also did not go shopping. The Thursday evening prayer meeting for the station this week was at Angela's house and I saw the bedroom where Nurse Amy Elrod stayed last fall. We had dinner with Mona and her family since that would be our last time for fellowship. We gave some extra food items to the Hewetts and Dickens.

We hope that the delta flights go as scheduled. We will be ready for some cooler weather -- after much sweat. We each have only 1 suitcase. We look forward to meeting you at the airport. Glad that you could have a meal together. We have been well except that there have been some cramps - possibly due to the heat and dehydration. Glad to hear of your plans for Paraguay -- I was talking about the hospital there today on the plane from Tamale.

Much love, Dewey and Roy.

Date: Sun, 7 Feb. 2010 19:26:16 GMT

Dear Bobbie and Carole,

Sunday night in Ghana #3. We just had a good supper with fried okra and chocolate cake. We are using 2 tables tonight because there are 4 more persons today. The new persons are ob-gyn from Florida and surgical tech + a Gyn oncologist and her husband from New Orleans (he is photographer). We are both well and Roy has read 2 books.

Roy is at the hospital now sewing up a head laceration from an auto accident. There were several operations this afternoon, but Roy did not do these. We have a wonderful team with 2 surgeons, and will have 2 ob-gyn doctors. This is a great stress reliever, so that persons will not get overwhelmed.

Roy, Joe and I went to 2nd Baptist church today and I took 2 pair of drumsticks. They were using the tree limbs and immediately used the sticks -- what a great Christmas gift to me to take here. There was a baby dedication at church and a dancing celebration as they sang "no not one". The sermon was from John 17. We did not pass any unclothed men on the journey back to the hospital. That is what we experienced last year. (Good Samaritan)

we continue to see loss of life and are seeing more meningitis than previously. A patient that was on the men's ward died of meningitis last evening. Tomorrow will be a big clinic day.

Much love, Dewey and Roy (Roy was with me at the computer earlier today)

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Date: sat, 6 Feb. 2010 17:22:12 GMT

Dear Carole and Bobbie,

I just read the message from Carole to Bobbie and assume that Bobbie is in Louisiana. We will not be having any cold weather here, dusty with some winds, cool in the mornings. Stars are bright at night and we have been driving up to the hospital. This is Saturday afternoon and Mona Hewitt and a daughter are in the school house. Earl is in Accra on his way to Kenya and Joel will join him there tomorrow. We have a large number of volunteers coming and Dr. Jacky Kerr arrived this morning -- surgeon from Virginia who was here with us our 1st trip.

This morning I made long rounds and wrote notes in the charts with Roy. Later I did one endoscopy that Roy had scheduled for me. It was a good case and the medical student from vandy was with me. Dr. Prine did a spinal tap on a child with meningitis. The couple who are missionaries in tamale, Ghana are here with a pre-mature baby and the baby is doing well with personalized medical care. We have had a good fellowship with them and they had lunch with us today.

The medical work is always interesting. Much typhoid with bowel perforations - serious illness. Roy was preparing to operate on a man with an abdominal problem and the patient refused after signing the permit and died last evening. I admitted a man with far advanced cancer and he decided to leave before any more tests were done. His daughter was with him and had left her family to care for her father. We had a bedside conference with her and her dad. They said they are Muslim and Christian -- going to church on

Sunday and to mosque also. We prayed for them with the ward staff present and the prayer translated.

We had a great time of pizza, apricot cobbler and ice cream at supper last night. Our dental housemate left at 4 am to catch the plane in tamale for Accra. He pulled 60 teeth yesterday and blessed us in house # 8. We are enjoying a Ghana drink of coconut and pineapple juice. All is well for us !!!!! We pray that you are well also.

Much love, Roy and Dewey

Subject: Sunday afternoon - happy Valentines Day Ghana #8  
Date: sun, 14 Feb. 2010 15:00:30 GMT

Dear Bobbie and Carole,

Thank you for the newsy e-mail. Tell Jill that the senior medical student from Vanderbilt (Joe) is learning more here in several weeks than in a year of med school. He has abundant energy and has been working with all the persons here.

For lunch today we had goat and potatoes. I gave the 2nd gift of drumsticks to the drummer at the 1st Baptist church. Roy and I went to the Sunday school class and he prayed the closing prayer. There was a 2 1/2 hour worship service with much dancing and spirited singing. There were cheers, hands in the air (including mine) and I wished that you could have been here and witnessed the excitement at church. The church was packed with persons standing around the wall after they brought in more chairs. There was a fire in the residence for students in the nursing school and 5 lost all of their possessions. There are 140 students in the school and 40 of them were in church. They all came to the front and were prayed for and then they sang 2 songs. During their singing an offering was taken with over 100 cedes given and a 2nd offering will be taken next Sunday. The chief of nursing also took up a collection for them at the hospital. Two patients were in the hospital after the fire having panic attacks -- one lost all her possessions. The fire was during the day so there was no loss of life. The message by Pastor David was inspiring about running the race with discipline, direction and endurance. The young man sitting in front of us accepted Christ.

We had good rounds at the hospital and I feel secure about the men's ward with some help from the barriers. Chuck did a beautiful ultrasound study on a patient with an enlarged heart - probably from viral cardiomyopathy. A woman with tb died last night. We all have assignments so each part of the hospital is covered. I took aggie to st. Patrick's Catholic Church. It is a tarp for cover in an unfinished building which is quite large. They were singing a familiar hymn (trust and obey) when I dropped her off. Persons went to 2nd Baptist, the Presbyterian Church, the Fulani church, and Dr. Crawford went to the bush church with Tommy Harrison. We have plans for the evening worship service in house 6 with most all of our team participating. Need prayers. We will celebrate "love" as the theme of the evening. During the night there was a power failure for about 15 minutes and I wondered about the persons in the hospital. The generator gave us electricity, but it did not come back on in town until morning. We are well and it is getting hotter and we will drink plenty fluids. P.s. saw an achondroplastic dwarf in church.

Much love, Dewey and Roy

Subject: Ghana #9 Tuesday evening  
Date: Tue, 16 Feb. 2010 20:46:24 GMT

Dear Bobbie and Carole,

I got your e-mail - valentines. I also got the e-mail from Zsila. Her wish for rain was answered today with a downpour as a storm came through. It is cool tonight.

Roy did 9 major operations today and the surgery team did about 18 with the theatre going full speed all day. The gastroenterologists managed to squeeze in 3 upper endoscopies right after noon. Roy has done 41 major operations all recorded in the log book which I tallied this afternoon. That does not include all the minor procedures such as draining abscesses. One of the ob-gyn surgeons leaves in the morning.

Report from Sunday evening worship that we had in house #6. It was all about love. Why we are here serving!!!! We looked in the hymn book and read the songs about god loving us. Sang Jesus loves me this I know, and holly sang a solo. We had 2 testimonies by Joe Kim and chuck barrier. Tommy Harrison brought the message and Bill Prine closed in prayer -- and we all recited the Lord's Prayer. It was a special blessing for me. Roy read from 1st cor. 13 and from proverbs about a virtuous woman. We had red velvet cake for dessert with ice cream. We had some little hearts also -- special for valentines.

Report from Monday clinic: with my special helper, Cindy - pastor's wife and other friend, bonnie from tx --- we had a wonderful, long day. A Ghana physician assistant, Jude, was with us and we saw 80 patients admitting 6 to the hospital. 4 persons prayed to receive Christ in our room and each was a special story like one whose wife is a Christian and he plans to go to church with her next Sunday. 2/3 of the patients I saw are Muslims. We finished after 6 pm.

One special case seen Monday night was a 2 year old child that swallowed a coin and it lodged in his throat. Dr. Charles barrier managed to push the coin down the esophagus into the stomach and we had before and after x-rays. We hope the coin will travel all the way out of the gi tract. There is something new every day.

Glad to get the news of the plan for new water well in Louisiana. Thank you for praying for us. We have a full day of clinics tomorrow. This has been the best!!!!!!! Too much to tell. Chapel at 7 am on Monday morning had a choir from the Assembly of God church with drum and tambourines. It was very lively music. Also, the chaplain - Victoria, gave us her testimony from idols to Jesus and then I saw her in the clinic as a patient.

Much love, Dewey and Roy