

Dear Praying Friends, June/July 2025

Thanks again for your prayers and investment in our ministry. This past quarter has been extremely busy, but all glory to God, this prayer letter is written from our new home in Monrovia, Liberia!









#### **Graduation from BBTI**

May 17<sup>th</sup>, we graduated from Baptist Bible Translators Institute in Bowie, Texas! We are very thankful for the instruction that we received during our time there, as well as for the fellowship that we were able to have every day with the other missionaries and instructors. It was a blessing to us in many ways, and we are very grateful for all of you who were praying for us with our linguistics courses!

## **Moving Back East**

A few days after graduating, we bought a cargo trailer and moved all of our belongings back east. The cost of Uhaul rentals had actually risen so much in the 9 months that we were out in Bowie that renting a trailer or truck was simply prohibitive – so the Lord opened doors last minute and answered specific prayer, and we purchased a cargo trailer. We used it for the move and are using it to store our belongings stateside as well. The trailer was too big for our SUV to pull, so the president of BBTI was kind of enough to loan us his truck to make the trip! We then moved all of our belongings in NC to WV, packing them into our trailer for storage with Elisabeth's family.

It was quite a process, and we don't have space to get into all of the details, but we were working with an extremely tight timeline, and God answered prayer after prayer and worked through every detail to get us where we needed to be when we needed to be there despite the host of last-minute issues. It was a little stressful, but it was quite an encouragement to see God deal with every problem, and we are very grateful to those who He used to be a blessing to us and make it happen!

## Send-Offs

In June, we had our departure interview with BIMI down in Tennessee, putting the final touches in place for our insurance, finances, and other legal matters, making sure that everything was set and ready for our move to Liberia. We celebrated our fourth anniversary and our birthdays as well – We'd like to give a special thanks for all the happy birthday and anniversary wishes!

We are very thankful to the dear folk at our sending church, Maranatha Baptist Church in North Carolina, First Baptist Church in Pennsylvania, and Cashmere Baptist Church in West Virginia for the send-off services and fellowships! It was a special blessing to spend some time with the special people that mean so much to us before we embarked on the next step in our journey! We love and miss you all.



## **Shipping our Personal Belongings**

We had been pursing several possibilities for shipping our personal belongings to Liberia, but the door closed on most of them pretty much at the last minute. We wound up utilizing a Liberian shipping company that Kyle used back in 2021 to ship several thousand John and Romans to Liberia. We packed our belongings and supplies into 27-gallon totes and drove them up to Providence, Rhode Island to be shipped. We'd like to give special thanks to those who were praying for safety on the road! Please be in prayer that everything arrives undamaged and in a timely fashion.

We do want to share a special praise regarding our shipping plans. We did have a way to ship our stuff, but it wound up being much more expensive than we had anticipated and on top of that, we had to rent a Uhaul to get it to the shipper, which really made things tight financially with all the other major expenses this quarter already. We didn't mention it publicly or ask for funds or prayer about it, but the Lord provided through a children's VBS and an anonymous individual that felt led to give to help towards our setup expenses. We don't know the names of those who gave, but please know that the Lord truly blessed and multiplied your gifts to meet a special need and further our ministry!

## **Arriving in Liberia**

We left the states for Liberia the 14<sup>th</sup> of July and landed in Monrovia, Liberia shortly after 4:00 in the morning on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We were supposed to fly to JFK and then to Casablanca, but our flight out of Raleigh got canceled because of inclement weather in New York. Praise the Lord, we were able to talk with a kind and knowledgeable agent that listened to our plight and got us on a flight to London that would get us to Casablanca in time to make our connecting flight to Monrovia. We were the second and last people that he was able to help before the help desk was closed down! A lot of people didn't get flights until the next day, and the flight to London had very limited availability – so it's a huge answer to prayer that we were able to still be where we needed to be when we needed to be there!

When we arrived in Monrovia, however, none of the plane had their checked bags – it appears that the crew loading the baggage in Casablanca didn't take the time to properly sort the baggage, and all the bags that were supposed to be gotten off at Monrovia were not accessible. Rather than take the time to take them all out and secure them, they just sent everything on. Praise the Lord, we had insured the bags with a third-party company, and they were able to get them to us by Saturday. Thank you so much to all of you who were praying for safety, traveling mercies, and for our bags to be located! We just couldn't make this up if we tried – the entire trip was truly a testimony to the power of the prayers of God's people, and we are very grateful for each of you that held the ropes for us!

# **Settling In**

Praise the Lord, we have moved into our apartment in Monrovia and are settling in well. Jet lag is still a bit of an issue, and the change of diet, routine, climate, and the often-underestimated language barrier are still factors to contend with, but the adjustment is going very well, all things considered. Please continue to pray for us as we settle in and adjust to our new home!

#### **Prayer Requests**

- Please continue to pray for us as we adjust to life in Liberia.
- Please pray for our Literature Container Project, specifically that God would lead in arranging shipping.
- Please pray for us that we would be able to pick up quickly on the Liberian English.
- Please pray our Liberian residency applications and driver's licenses.