

Greetings from the Foxes in Yekepa

As we approach the end of our sojourn here, we need your prayers all the more.

Praise

- Semester, and life, mostly going smoothly
- Two successful and one anticipated day-long midwifery workshops
- Charlie Hunt's success with Light for Liberia courses and project connections
- Opportunities to minister and bless
- Lots of papayas from our garden!

Prayer

- Continued restoration of health and protection
- Finishing well
- Covering and protection for our travels
- That our home place is in good shape

Dave is busy preparing to preach tomorrow at Westminster Presbyterian Church across town, where one of our younger faculty members is pastor. He has been able to teach, and sing one of his songs, twice at chapel and will have one more opportunity right before we leave. Fortunately, he appears to be on the mend from an apparent case of COVID that Kathi is praying to continue avoiding for the duration.

Midterms are over, and final projects and exams are looming for both of us. We also have Senior Thesis supervision for students who still need to be led patiently through the process of an acceptable level of academic writing to be ready for graduation. The Health Check radio program has covered topics from breastfeeding to sickle cell anemia, fetal alcohol effects to malnutrition, and focus on lung health and heart health. Potential upcoming topics include mental health, pregnancy loss and SIDS, and even Global Handwashing Day.

Kathi enjoyed an additional opportunity to hold a midwifery workshop for a smaller group of traditional midwives closer to Yekepa last Saturday, at Camp 4, also known as Unification City. It's the second time we've been there, at the Free Pentecostal Church and Clinic, and it was great. One more workshop is in the works for a week from today out towards Karnplay, at Zorgowee, not as far as the last one at Loguatu, but still at least an hour and a half if not more due to road conditions. There is some concern that there may be an uptick in cholera cases in some communities out that direction because of recent heavy flooding contaminating water supplies, so keep us and those communities in prayer.



Health Check at Radio ABCU



Westminster Presbyterian Church



Birth Simulation at Camp 4

The students in both French 1 and French 2 did a really good job of doing their own work and writing some halfway decent papers in French that they read to the class (somewhat less comprehensibly but with some notable improvements in pronunciation on the part of some) for their midterm project. Chemistry wound up fairly well with only one failure (a young woman who chose to schedule her wedding shortly after the term began and missed a lot – bad timing), and the Physics section will be winding up in a week. I was impressed with how well they were all working on the velocity and acceleration problems related to gravity for the last lab. The Earth Science portion of the course will follow as we depart, taught by faithful Prof. Andrews, who has been teaching in Africa for 30 years and at ABCU for at least 12 of those. Dave's statistics and electronics students all did fairly well on midterms and now have final projects to complete before we leave.

Charlie Hunt's Off-Grid Solar Technology course seems to be a fairly spectacular success with over 20 eager students holding their own for the most part and several pulling ahead of the pack looking like they will definitely be success stories. He is continuing to make remarkable connections that could make a long-lasting difference in many ways for the school and beyond. Besides that, his lovely bride and our dear friend, Carla, is planning to pick us up at the airport and ferry us home on our return. We fly out late on October 27 and land in Sacramento the evening of the 28th (well after midnight the 29th Yekepa time) if all goes according to plan.

One pleasant development this round has been the increase in hours of electric power and running water. For the most part, school days mean power straight through from 5 in the morning until 11 at night, a daily increase of 7 or 8 hours from previous semesters – not so long on weekends but still an upgrade from the past.

We've only had two close encounters of the serpent kind. One was another forest cobra slinking through the grass along the campus road right next to our house, discovered by a small boy skipping down the road and well smashed by a circle of his friends hefting rocks. The other was another African green snake lurking in the hedge right outside our back landing two Sundays ago while we were holding Sunday School on the nearby patio, spotted by keen-eyed Sam, who immediately fetched our serpent-slayer (a very long-handled, very heavy flat-nosed shovel) and was ready to do battle but ended up deferring to one of the high-school boys who skillfully dispatched it, and the two of them quickly buried it next to where we buried the forest cobra of a year ago.

Our two Pawpaw (papaya) trees that sprang up in the garden have been producing abundantly and have been a real treat. We've been having pawpaw, with or without fresh-squeezed lime juice, for weeks almost every day at both lunch and dinner. Only one pineapple is growing in the garden this year. It's getting quite large but won't be ripe before we leave. It doesn't seem to be easy to find pineapples in the market for some reason these days. We've only had one small one earlier in the semester. We're gong to miss their luscious, ripe-from-the-pineapple-plant juiciness. We did score some good pork at the last campus pig butchering, though, and were fortunate to find green salsa in the supermarket this year, so we've enjoyed some meals of chile verde with homemade flour tortillas.

The weather here has been the coolest and most pleasant of any semester so far, to the point that we almost feel cold more often than hot – perhaps becoming so Liberia-acclimatized that the 60s and 50s that are supposed to be hitting about the time we get home are liable to be a tough adjustment – first order of business likely firewood.

Thank you so much for the ongoing prayers and your ongoing connection with us. Blessings All.

Dave & Kathi