

Dear Friends,

We have finished two weeks of the semester; all is well. Our classes are full, and we have good students. Kathi is teaching French I and II, and the chemistry and physics parts of the Physical Science class. I am teaching Basic Electronics, Statistics, and Excel. Not what I trained to teach, but still fun.

Charles Hunt, who has come to teach solar electrical systems, is settling in and doing well, also. He has started to learn some of the idiosyncrasies of Liberian students. He said that he gave a homework question: "List the five main elements of solar systems." His students, instead of looking at their lecture notes, notes from the class on "**Solar Electrical Systems**," Googled the question, and answered: iron, carbon, hydrogen, helium, and oxygen. I told him I would have answered, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Neptune, and Saturn. He was not amused. I still don't know what the correct answer is.

Kathi has gone to near the border with Ivory Coast today to teach traditional midwives with her friend Anita, a nurse midwife who lives up that way. It rained really hard all night and was still pouring this morning when they left around 6:30; we had to wade through ankle deep water to get to the truck. Most of the road is dirt, but Jonathan, her driver, is an "expert rough road driver," and a careful driver, too. It's about 45 miles, but will take an hour and a half or maybe more in this weather. She has been able to do this a couple of times per semester and is planning to do one more trip before we head home. They always want to "pay" for the seminar, and do so with plantains, pineapples, cassava, etc. Green plantains or cassava make a nice substitute for what they call "Irish potatoes." Kathi makes breakfast "Country Fries" from plantains. They are quite good.

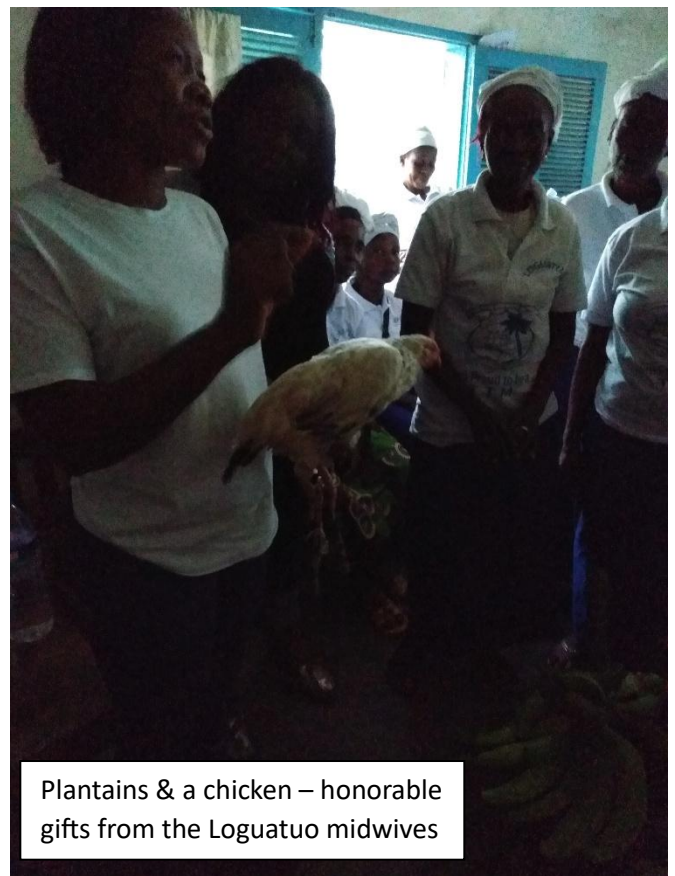
Things have been changing here under the new management. Dr. Buz, a wonderful Christian man, is home in Georgia, taking care of his wife and mother-in-law, both of whom are ill. Here, two families with whom we had developed close relationships, have resigned and moved on to new opportunities. And several new regulations have been put into place. One that really affects us is housing. In the past we paid rent for the 8 months out of the year that we are here, and did not have to during the breaks. Now, year-round payment is required, or we will have to vacate our house, store our belongings or take them home over the breaks, both winter and summer. We've lived in the same house for three years and have grown fond of it. We will see how this works out. It is not a big inconvenience, just a change, of which there have been many.

Pray for us and for Charlie.

Dave & Kathi



Stovetop sourdough with fig-guava jam, scrambled eggs, & plantain country fries with homemade ketchup



Plantains & a chicken – honorable gifts from the Loguatuo midwives