

Belated End of Trip Communiqué – Home Safe from Liberia – Tomatoes in December 12-10-25

You've heard of Christmas in July? Well, we're having harvest in December.

We did arrive home in one piece from Liberia, and the delays and extended travel were not as difficult and grueling as expected, though it started with flying 7 hours in the wrong direction to Ethiopia – not our original itinerary. The pause in Rome made all the difference in the 17-hour marathon flight from Addis Ababa to Dulles. Even without getting off the plane, it was a lot easier to be up moving around and getting a break before the long trans-Atlantic leg. The 11-hour layover in Dulles was tedious but also not as excruciating or interminable as expected, and then only another 6 hours to Sac, an overnight rest, and a couple of hours to home.

On arrival, because of a combination of sufficient rain and lack of frost, we found that we had not entirely missed the harvest we left behind. We managed to salvage enough apples to make a good-sized apple pie and probably could have managed another if we'd been quicker to take full advantage. Though the persimmons had already fed a lot of birds, there was still a good-sized crop of firm, whole, sweet fruit to harvest and enjoy on a daily basis right up to Christmas. In fact, we're not keeping up, and some have already been dried for future enjoyment. Kathi immediately picked a half gallon of sun gold tomatoes and three gallons of tomatillos with more tomatoes left on the vine to finish ripening; still picking on Christmas day, and more to come. The bulk of the tomatillos, along with those that survived cold storage after picking before departure, made it into a big batch of green salsa, along with the large handful of pasilla peppers of various sizes that came on after our departure, Kathi also picked three gallons of Concord grapes that still remained on the grapevines and is in the process of cooking up a big batch of grape jam.

What a blessing, and it's good to be home, but missing Liberia already. Thank you for all your interest and prayers. More to follow on what the future outlook holds.

Blessings,
Dave & Kathi

