

## Mission to Sierra Leone, Africa October 16, 2013 Travel Report

Tony,

Thanks to all those who released prayers and prophetic words over this mission. Based upon the beginning of this mission, there is going to be great eternal work done these days.

I will report of one incident that only I was involved in as you will get the rest of the story from the others.

Since none of our baggage made to Sierra Leone with us, we went to the market today in the last larger town before we went deep into the bush to buy a couple of t shirts, underwear and pants for Casey and I (Lisa brought all her clothes in her carry on). As I am walking thru the market, it was crowded, someone bumped into me and I felt something in my pocket where I had all my cash. I put my hand in there and the money was gone, I had just been pick-pocketed! I didn't even see the person. It was like I was in a bit of a stupor with what just happened. Before I could even think about what to do, I heard a lady yelling "You're not taking that!" The crowd instantly got huge around me, all kinds of people yelling and this lady grabs me, holding cash in her hand and said "I caught him, this is your money!" By this time Emmanuel was over there and asked what happened. The lady that nabbed the robber; her name was "Josephine". That was my momma's name and when she said that, I had a warm flash of love flow thru me. She said "come with me" and took me over to what I thought was her shop, took me in the back and said "make sure it is all there!" The people around that saw the event said they had seen pickpockets rip off lots of people there, but had never seen anyone get caught in the act before and were shocked by how fast it all happened. I blessed the lady and then went over to see Casey and Lisa, who were still shopping and then turned around, went back to the shop to thank her again and she was nowhere to be found! Now, the more I think about this, what are the chances of a woman in a large tight crowd looking at my pocket the exact moment that this guy's hands go in it? Remember, there was no space around me for people to see that happen. And then, the exact moment he pulls the money out of my pocket her hand is on his hand with a vice grip forcing him to release the money into her hand. An Angel perhaps? I really don't know how else to explain it. I am in AWE again of what My Daddy did for me! Anyways, I sure am glad that His PROTECTION and PROVISION were evident and that we were enveloped in His Favor! Thanks to All for your prayers!! Thank You Jesus that You have got me fully covered!

Casey:

Wow about does it. So far this trip has been very eventful not boring for one moment. It all started in Atlanta airport when we only had a half hour to catch our connecting flight to Paris. We must have looked like a modern OJ Simpson commercial with all three of us running to catch the plane. We were the last one on the plane, but none the less we were on the plane. All the flights were good and nothing exciting to report there but the action soon picked back up when we landed in Sierra Leone. After going through immigration we were on way to pick up our bags (all six) or so we thought. Come to find out our bags never made that tight connection in Atlanta. No biggie you might be thinking to yourself. Well here in Sierra Leone they only get a flight in every three to four days. On top of that we will be going far south of the airport past the city of Bo, which was an all-night drive. So the next flight will be arriving Saturday night but the baggage claim office is closed on Sunday so we would have to pick our bags up Monday. That should work out great for us because we will be heading back to Freetown on Monday to fly out on Tuesday. So you guessed it once again Tony and I are without our luggage. No clothes, toiletries, no

nothing just the clothes on backs. A whole new meaning to traveling lite. After that fiasco ended we had to rush out of the airport to try and catch the last ferry across the harbor which was easy without our bags. Needless to say we missed the boat and are now stuck until morning, or so we thought. A speed boat which equals an old hollowed out v-hull with a 40hp outboard motor and no running lights to boot. However they did have life jackets for us to wear so it was totally safe J. It was a nice boat ride across the harbor in total darkness, but at least the rain stopped. When we arrived to the other side at the boat ramp the driver was pulling in very slow only at an idle speed and asked everyone to turn off the flashlights and to be quiet. Why, I thought to myself, maybe it was real shallow and he needed to concentrate. Nope, that was not the case at all as we were met at the ramp by the harbor master and the police with a machine gun telling us we were going to jail. Ah Cletus is this happening? To find out we were just smuggled across the harbor by the speed boat captain and his crew. We were asked to sit on this curb by the armed police man who was very nice to explaining to us that only the boat crew was going to jail tonight. He said what they did made the whole country look bad because they broke the law and they knew better. If something would have happened well let's just say it would have been ugly. After sitting on the curb praying for everyone involved in this mess the favor of God showed up and the harbor master let the boat crew off with a firm warning and released us to start another leg of our adventure. They brought the truck into the boat ramp area to pick us up and we disappeared into the darkness once again. We drove all night to a city called Bo where we slept in a great little motel. The name of the motel was "Nissan crew cab" lol. Yep we slept in the truck with Tony, Lisa, and I all in the back seat of the truck and talk about a sore bum in the morning but hey it's all part of our adventure. I awoke to some strange old man staring at me. I must have looked funny to him with my head hanging out of the window and more than likely with a puddle of drool on the pavement. After everyone was up we moved to another parking lot a few blocks away and hit the local market to find some clothes for Tony and I. This was quite the challenge most everything they sell here are in huge piles mixed with men's and women's clothes. We did find a few shops with hanging items which was way easier, but finding the right size was tuff. Between shops Tony had gotten pick pocketed by random dude off the street. This ended up being a real cool event. This woman caught the guy right after he took Tony's money and started to yell I got your money back. Where did this woman come from? And how did she react so quickly? There is way more to the story but I think Tony is going to share about it. All we can figure out and totally believe is that this woman was an angel. When shopping was all done we loaded back into our Nissan truck and drove several more hours to our final location. Our final location is a small city on a hill that has a large gold mining company operating here. So all the local pastors talked to the Gold mine Company and asked if we could stay on their campus. Lucky for us they said yes. We are being so blessed we each have our own private room with electrical power, ac, hot showers, and free internet. Ya it was a journey getting here but well worth it I wouldn't trade any of it for nothing. Thank you so much for praying for us. Blessings ><>

Lisa,

We had a nice smooth flight without any unexpected bumps in the road. When we arrived into Sierra Leone, however, none of our bags made it over! Ugh! We lingered behind a bit to see when we could possibly come back to pick up the bags but there would not be another flight arriving for three days! We got in the car and made it too late to get the ferry but our host, Emmanuel, decided that he would try and make up for some lost time. He negotiated with some of the locals to take us over via speed boat to get us closer to where we needed to be. We rode over in the moonlight but when we arrived on the other side, we were greeted by some government officials. We got off the boat and as we did so, Emmanuel and his crew were told that they were facing the possibility of going to jail for illegally crossing over at that time of the evening. The three of us sat on the sidelines and said a simple prayer

asking for God's intervention into the situation. Before we were even able to say the word "Amen", the guys were shaking hands and everyone had come to an agreement of terms. Thank you God and we were on our way again! We went to the local church to pick up some equipment and started to move forward in our journey! As we got back on the road, we continued to be stopped by police officials on the side of the road. When I asked why, it was explained that they had received some sort of potential threat from the Taliban and these were simply precautionary methods being taken by the government. After a short while, we pulled over and were able to receive a few hours of sleep. As daylight came, we woke up and decided to start moving again. Before doing so, I was able to jump on the back of a motorbike with one of the other girls, exchange some cash, bought a pair of flip flops on the side of the road and off we went! It was a six hour drive and we still had a way to go! We drove for a few hours and then arrived at our destination later in the day. God blessed us in abundance with an incredible place to stay and we each have our own nice air conditioned room along with a hot shower!! God is so GOOD and I know we are all feeling extremely BLESSED!!

HANK YOU JESUS!!! What a MIGHTY and POWERFUL God we serve!