

Ebola Movie

Last night I viewed the excellent documentary movie about the Ebola epidemic of a couple years ago, called “Facing Darkness”, produced by the Samaritan’s Purse organization. Interest in this one-night-only movie was so great that a second showing is now scheduled for Monday, April 10, as indicated by the forwarded email that carries this report. (or facingdarknessmovie.com)



Franklin Graham; protective gear; Kent Brantly

The 2-hour documentary uses original imagery, re-enactments, and interviews with the actual people involved with the deadly Ebola virus in Liberia, West Africa. It shows how the Samaritan’s Purse team and

Doctors Without Borders responded to the needs, how some were infected with the virus, and details of their treatment and survival. Major interviews are with Franklin Graham, the leader of Samaritan’s Purse; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of Liberia at the time; and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services who served at that time. The coverage reveals the faith and prayers of the many involved in some way. Before the showing at 7 PM was at least a half hour of coverage of other disaster services of Samaritan’s Purse and their Christmas gift box program. These were also mentioned within the main movie.



Graham and Brantly interview

The movie brought back good memories of our own visit to Liberia in late March, 1970; of serving with Samaritan’s Purse for flood relief and the Christmas gift box preparation; and of preparing supplies in the warehouse of Project C.U.R.E. that were sent to West Africa to help with the Ebola epidemic. It also serves as inspiration for my trip next month to the interior of Haiti with a medical mission team from Project C.U.R.E. (that does not expect to encounter such extreme epidemic conditions) where I am to document with photos, video, and sound the various aspects of our team’s service to the needy of Haiti. So I will review those points of contact with this documentary movie for the rest of this report.



travel gear on back at Salayea, Liberia



hike to bridge through tropical forest



suspension bridge of woven vines



Gail on termite mound

This morning I was inspired to scan to digital imagery the 67 photographic slides from our 6-day visit to the interior of Liberia at the end of March, 1970, when it was a much better country. Gail and I (who were married only 3 months earlier and were nearing the end of a 95-day trip around the world that started with two months in northern Japan) were hosted by a mission family from New York who were teaching there. Our visit included several educational and medical facilities.



school at Salayea



Easter Sunday at Salayea church



pilot, doctor, nurse, pastor at Zorzor hospital, northern Liberia



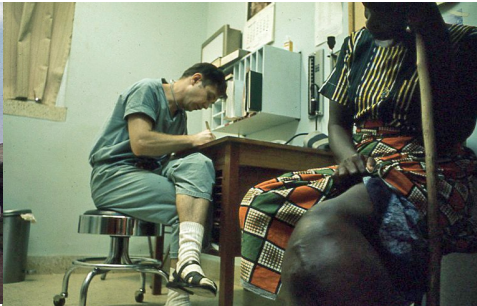
Esther Bacon (center nurse) in Zorzor hospital, 2 years before dying from accidental Lhasa Fever infection.



leper colony at Zorzor, where I shook hands with a leper who had lost fingers.



Phebe Hospital



leg tumor



boy and father



operating room



lab



pharmacy



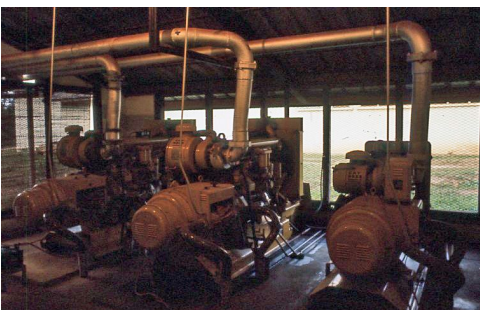
warehouse



kitchen



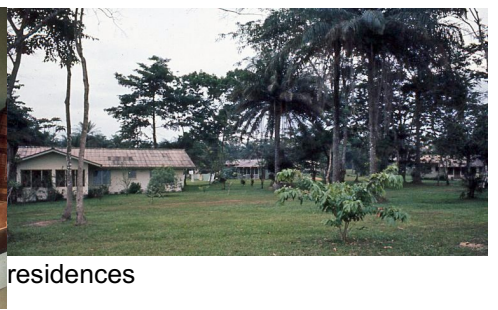
laundry



electricity generators



maintenance



residences

The Phebe Hospital was damaged by the later civil war in Liberia.

I served as a volunteer for Samaritan's Purse four times for flood relief in Longmont and Lyons, Colorado. My previous reports for those damages in 2013 are at <http://www.edholroyd.info/TripReports/2013Colorado-Utah/RocksMoonFlood.pdf> and <http://www.edholroyd.info/TripReports/2013Colorado-Utah/LyonsFlood.pdf> I did not take photos last autumn when I worked with other volunteers in a large warehouse in Aurora, Colorado, preparing Christmas gift boxes for foreign shipment by Samaritan's Purse.



outgoing supplies and storage racks

During the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, Project C.U.R.E. prepared shipments of many supplies to Liberia and neighboring countries. My weekly role in the warehouse in Centennial (Denver suburb) is to keep the supplies organized, though sometimes I help with loading them into 40-foot containers. So I was definitely involved in the Ebola relief effort.

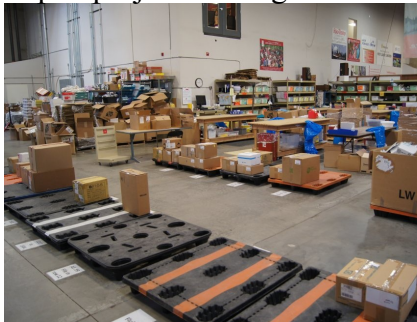


my work area and favorite pallet jack



loading a container

As was recently announced, from 22 to 30 April I will be a member of a Project C.U.R.E. medical mission CURE Clinic team to the interior of Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. <https://projectcure.org/cureclinics> and <https://projectcure.org/programs/cure-clinics-haiti-0>



area for sorting supplies into boxes



area for special CURE Clinic supplies



CURE Kits for foreign clinics, hospitals

Our team will take CURE Kits as our second aircraft luggage piece on our flights to Haiti. Each kit contains two bags stuffed with about 20 kg of supplies typically useful at clinics in other countries.



After landing at the airport at capital, Port-au-Prince, we will go to Belladere, near the border with the Dominican Republic. There will be two days of clinics there. Next we will visit a modern training hospital at Mirebalais. Then two days of clinics at a tiny village west of there. We will tour the capital area on the second Saturday, April 29, possibly seeing remaining 2010 earthquake damage, and fly home on Sunday.

Dr. Ed Holroyd, 31 March 2017