Sierra Leone Trip Feb – Mar 2019
Logs from Days 15 - 19

This is a compilation of various emails sent out by Clyde Odom documenting the team’s trip to Sierra Leone, as told to him by the travel team.

Day 15

Hopefully, you remember me mentioning the team’s driver Sullay. Here is Sullay in his Liverpool soccer team shirt, which I think he was wearing for the big game against Madrid the other day. Liverpool won and town celebrated.

All tile laying was finished today. The tiler will grout the floor outside the stalls tomorrow, and it will be walkable by late afternoon. Beautiful work, carefully sloped. The best we’ve seen so far.
Sometimes things just work out. The long trench from the cesspit to the turn to the trench parallel to the toilet facility turned out to be within 2” of the minimum level we needed for the parallel trench. We’re digging the parallel trench deeper and won’t need a down pipe. We are using the down pipe clean out and the spare clean out for cleanouts at each toilet. There’s one at the start of the 4” pipe, one at each toilet, and one along the long trench. So, the pipe to the cesspit is done and the two toilets are plumbed. The 2.5” plumbing remains as well as the sink faucets and drains.

There may be a little more backfilling and grading around the lid, but the cesspit is done!

The team had a very good meeting at the Serabu hospital. Serabu is a smaller town than Matru, and it is on the way to Bo the largest town in that district. It’s a very well run hospital although, with a lot of support from German donors. As Lib put it “I could work here.” Very clean and well maintained and staffed by Sierra Leonians. Shows what is possible here.
The scale to weigh babies there.

Joe Abu’s new truck. Not a bad 4-wheeler!

Closing out the update, Carl provided this story from their dinner with Sengeh. “He told us his car was broken into a while back and his laptop was stolen. The thief tried to sell it in a mining town but someone he showed it to recognized Sengeh’s pictures on the sign in screen. He alerted police who called Sengeh and arranged for him to be there after they had a plainclothes cop set up a meeting.

With the thief. When the thief brought it in, they called Sengeh. He identified the computer, and the thief went off to jail! Sengeh got his computer back.”
Day 16

Today was a big day for the team and the construction. The Toilet Facility and the Cesspit construction were essentially complete today. Jim had to come up with some hangers for the 4” sanitary piping and fabricate some screens to cover the base of the foundation where the sanitary piping comes out to finish it up.

They essentially completed the construction today of the facilities. They will finish piping water to it tomorrow and test the fixtures. The precheck of fittings and valves are done. Here is a picture of the total team and of Tom congratulating Ahmed and his crew for the great work.
On top of all that, they got to see some kind of marathon being run in the city that came by the hospital. “Life is like a box of chocolates…. you don’t know what you’re gonna get.”

We’ll see what they do tomorrow.

Day 17
Well, the team put the finishing touches on the Toilet Facility today and left Matru heading back to Freetown. They will do some shopping for our Auction Event April 7 (hope you all are coming!!), and maybe a PARTY ON THE BEACH!!! Hopefully, they will send some pictures to see how the gang lets it hang!
Today, they went back to the hospital for a few hours after settling up with the Promised Land Guest House, our cook Patience, and Ahmed. They finished all the punch list items (hang the signs, secure the flush buckets, and finish the water connection) before heading to Freetown. Ahmed’s crew is finishing up the landscaping and Dr. Lib is putting up signs. As Tom says it, “She hammers, she treats patients, she surveys buildings...Super Doc!” While the sign hanging is going on, Carl is part of the window cleaning team preparing for the trip back to Freetown.

Patience has been the team's cook for their stay at the Promise Land Guest House in Matru. Here Patience looks happy to see them go! Kind of like... Aww really!? Do we have to do this?? Nice colorful dress and delightful woman.
And now for what you’re really waiting for……some final pictures of the completed facility with white washed plaster. I think Joe Abu did the christening honors. Fortunately, no picture of that. The tile repair at the tie into the Pediatric Ward walkway looks like it remains to be done by Ahmed after the team leaves.
The team left for Freetown in the afternoon. Here is how you cross the river Jong to leave Matru. And of course, you will likely see canoe commerce going on; more sand hauling.

Well, that wraps up the major trip activity for the team. I hope we get some pictures from their shopping trip in Freetown tomorrow.
Day 18

I’m happy to report the team is kicking it back in Freetown, and they are much more relaxed. I’m sure they're ready to be home. Today, some took a morning walk on the beach, and then all went shopping in town. Later, as you can see in the sunset picture, they are not doing too bad!

Jim is doing some shopping. I hope its not the green chair!

This one is good. They were shopping at one of the markets for gifts and auction items. Lib turns out is a pro negotiator according to the report. After buying at one stall, Joe Abu overheard the vendor telling another vendor... "Oh my troubles. That woman doesn't want me to eat again." I’m expecting some really good auction stuff!!
And here is the pay off for the team! Not bad team! You deserve it.

I expect the team will be continuing the shopping and looking around the next couple days before they leave. Depending on what they send me, especially if its funny, I may make a post. Clyde

Day 19
The team left Freetown today and are on their way home through Brussels. They are still scheduled to arrive in Newark tomorrow around 1:20PM our time. Bill McNair will be picking them up.

Carl sent a couple final pictures of some men working a fishing net. They set the net out with a boat, and group of men pull it into shore. Carl says it looks like a lot a work for the few fish they caught.
Thank you for being interested in our team, and their activities and accomplishments. Clyde