Day 0

Theme of the Day: Ground Hog Day (the movie) … Best Laid Plans

Those close to the travel team 2 probably know this story. For the rest, here we go!

Here is travel team 2 left to right: Carl Zvanut, Lib Stanton, Sally Wright, John Cecchini

Day 0 didn’t go as planned. The team was driven to Newark airport Thursday afternoon to catch a United flight to Brussels around 7:00PM that night. Unfortunately, one engine needed some maintenance, and the flight departure was delayed to 12:15 AM. Of course, they would miss their Brussels connection to Sierra Leone (SL). After significant negotiations with United Customer Service (who was excellent), they rebooked for the next day (today Friday), but they would be flying through the city of lights (Paris) and then on to Freetown, arriving Saturday night as opposed to Friday night. After some scrambling and changes in material shopping plans, they still plan to leave for Mattru on Sunday. Thanks to Pastor Joe for doing the shopping for us on Saturday in their absence. The team returned to the Lehigh Valley to try again today.

Day 1

Here is travel team 2 left to right: Carl Zvanut, Lib Stanton, Sally Wright, John Cecchini

Hmmm looks the same? You get the Theme of Day now?!
Stay tuned for round two. Hopefully, the second times the charm! We wish them good luck traveling tonight.

Day 2
Our team made it to Sierra Leone today. They had a good flight from Newark to Paris last night, instead of Brussels, and from Paris to Freetown arriving mid-afternoon our time. However, their luggage didn’t! Five pieces went to Paris with them, and one went to Brussels. Somehow, the five in Paris didn’t make their flight to SL. So, they filled out their claim forms and talked to the airline representatives on their options.

They finished their business at the airport and went to the guest house and chilled the best they could, trying to figure out where and when to buy clothes. At least for now, they have food, drink, and a place to sleep. It’s not all bad. John may look a little exasperated.
They are with Joe and Sullay. They are in good hands. Though the plans are not clear, tomorrow they should go on to Mattru.

Thanks for following. Stay tuned to see what tomorrow brings.

Day 3

Theme of the Day: Not all Bad

The team had several accomplishments today offsetting their rough start. Their bags were delivered from Brussels and Paris, with assistance from someone Joe knows at the airline to help work through the red tape.
While John and Joe Abu were recovering the bags, Carl and Sally were cashing money, on Sunday when all shops are closed, again with help from Joe. The exchange rate is about 9,700 Leones per dollar. That’s a stack of Leones in front of Sally. Guess how much?

The team had settled into the usual hotel, the Comfort Zone, last evening. Though Carl reports he doesn’t have AC in his room, there seems to be hot water for all to relax and enjoy this evening before they do a little plumbing parts shopping before traveling to Mattru tomorrow. Tom has been coordinating a lot of the team’s logistics and changes here in the US. That has been very helpful to them.

Not to put any pressure on team, but we should all expect them to kick in gear when they arrive tomorrow and link up with Ahmed to continue and finish the staff house cesspit, plumbing, and electrical. They will also kick off the first information sharing session between the Mattru hospital staff and Lehigh Valley hospital staff. That will be a game changer for this hospital. We’re all excited. Stay with us to see it happen.

Closing out today and leave this adventure quote from Tom:

"Duffel bags filled with blocks of cash, a PhD chemical engineer, two medical professionals, and a project manager - all you need is good theme music and you’re all set for “Breaking Bad - Sierra Leone Edition”

Thanks for following

Day 4

Quote of the day from John Cecchini: It feels really good to be doing something other than looking for baggage!
The team finally arrived in Mattru, “the most beautiful place in the entire universe” according to John. A nearly 7-hour drive, including a stop for reading glasses because some guy, who will remain nameless (but his initials are JC), broke his and didn’t have a spare. They arrived there around 5:30 their time, 12:30 EST.

After getting to Mattru, the group went to the hospital site and checked on progress. The cesspit is coming along really well. The leveling bottom layer and first course of blocks are in place. Plans were made to start the electrical work tomorrow, along with the plumbing.

Finishing up the day was a delicious cooked dinner of fish and rice by Patience. Hopefully, they will have a good night sleep and be ready to get after the work tomorrow.

Thanks for following along.

**Day 5**

Quote of the Day: Usain Bolt can’t beat Team 2 out of the blocks!

This was the team’s first full day on the job, and much was accomplished today. Four courses of block were laid in the cesspit. All of the kitchen and walkway framing and mesh is complete. Much of the internal bathroom waste and water supply pipe is installed.
The house looks outstandingly better already with a coat of whitewash!
A good bit of the celotex has been installed under the walkway soffit. The tile guys showed up today, the debris from the bedrooms was cleaned out all, and they are prepping the floors for tile.

Lib, Carl, and Sally checked out the Zoom communication App and loaded presentations for Wednesday morning's test run with LVHN IT group and other staff. The first staff-to-staff information exchange will be next week. The start of something really great for the staff and people of Mattru, for sure.

Lib and Sally also worked with Augustine (hospital staff) this morning to mark all the lights and outlets in the staff house building. Painting was done on the walls where the wire way will be run tomorrow, so that wiring work can proceed. Final painting can follow later.

That’s a wrap for today. See you back tomorrow.

Day 6

Quote of the Day:  Children Rule!

John didn’t have a snappy quote for today, so I made one. Wait till you see one of the many pictures below. Anyway, the group made good progress again today. The living room, hallway, and one bedroom tiled. The plumbing for the toilet/bath rooms continues but was being held up a bit waiting for the tile guys. So, the toilet/bath tiling will be on Friday. Electrical was also stalled today because of the tiling in the house. I believe the tilers are not local and come from Bo. So, they’re there, and you gotta let’em tile! The electrical team (Sally and Lib) is scheduled for the weekend.
Tamba, on left, and his helper Massu are taking a rest at the end of long day.

The ceiling Celotex has stopped as they need more furring strips for the seams. There was some conversation on how to do the last course of cesspit blocks, but at the end of the day, they are in place and the corner columns are going in tomorrow. The walkway frame that connects to the Maternity Ward is complete and only needs the roof zinc to complete it.
Great news on the communication front! The conference call with Sweety Jain at Lehigh Valley Hospital went great, with the exception of the microphone. That was sorted out during the call. Otherwise it was a roaring success. They will be ready for the first staff to staff information exchange next week.

And for the Theme of the day. Joe Abu's niece is Mafoo, and she stays at the guest house with the team. She watches the guest house during the day and also does laundry. She usually has a child to watch with her, and this time it is MaryAnn. Sally fell in love with Mafoo.

![Image]

That’s all for today. Thank you for being interested in our work and our teams.

**Day 7**

*Quote of the Day: The party has started!*

With this trip about 1/2 way through, you can’t say Team 2 doesn’t know how to have a good time. Sally and Lib took the day off and went with Patience to the market. I can’t tell if that is a big bag of almonds or a bean. You can barely see Sally behind Patience pretending to look at something, but then you notice a camera strap. Lib didn’t want to be in the picture as evidence she was there. But we know she’s taking the picture!
Then while John and his helper Gasumbu are working away digging a trench for the sanitary line to the cesspit, Carl decides to get down with the guys and break out some moves. Some say like JAGGER!

And here is John’s moves for comparison...
And for his hard work, Abdulraman gave him a pineapple. He is usually very reserved, especially with his lack of English. John won him over, I guess. Nice work, John.

Anyway, even with the partying, Ahmed and his guys did get a lot done today. The cesspit columns were poured and is now ready for the perimeter beam tomorrow. Carl and Sally laid out the route from the house to the cesspit for John and Gasumbu to partially dig the trench. They want to get the 4” pipe routed from the toilets to ensure no interferences occur. They stopped about 25 feet short, so as not to create a hazard for the cesspit team.
The tilers completed another three rooms in the house. The masons also installed the landing outside for bedroom 5 door, which was originally a window with a rain trench underneath it. The Onduline siding was installed on the north wall gable. All of the 2.5” drain plumbing was cut and assembled without glue to get the routing right. The Zinc was added to the maternity ward stairwell, so that’s finished. The team generated a substantial punch list of items to be completed in the next 7 days and will meet with Ahmed in the morning to work through the list. Ahmed went to Bo on another material run for window glass, putty, furring strips, rebar, etc. Sally assembled the remaining desk and mounted the TV in the conference room. Lib, despite her dogged determination, was unable to meet with Dr. Yoder, Dr. Tupin or the CHO’s as they were busy in surgery. She will try again tomorrow.

And to finish off today’s update, besides Carl dancing on the job, he is being a real trooper and inputting everyone’s receipts into the spreadsheet, including Joe Abu’s, to help the team keep the accounting straight for EWB National reimbursement.

Thanks for following along.