
May 2017

"The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them. If your dreams don't scare you, they're not big enough."

- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia

PV for Phebe is a manifestation of President Sirleaf's quote above. A faith walk from the very beginning, indeed, an army of believers brought it here to this point! Most of all, Mary Jo Mettler.

1 Part of the crew at MSP airport, ready to head out

Leaving their homes and families from March 20th through April 16th, the RREAL team headed out for Liberia. It was a balmy 25°F the day they took off from Minnesota, and 105 °F when the team landed in Liberia! Working side-by-side with Phebe staff and additional Liberian colleagues for about 3 weeks on the ground, the RREAL team successfully installed and commissioned a 100kW solar electric system to reduce daytime fuel consumption at Phebe Hospital!



Phebe staff met and picked the RREAL crew up at the airport in Monrovia in the evening, and the crew spent the night at the Lutheran compound for some welcome rest. The next morning we were warmly greeted by Bishop Seyenkulo and Naomi Ford-Wilson at the Lutheran Compound, and we headed out to Phebe. Upon arrival we saw that the job site at Phebe was cleared and prepared in advance, and the lovely house where we stayed was prepared and ready for us. We found out that the second container shipped from Minneapolis arrived at Phebe the day before our team, RREAL's team tools arrived the same day that we arrived, and many, many other "coincidences" aligned to make this project a success!



2 Liberian crew celebrating their great accomplishment!



4 Ben and Taly - job well done



3 Joel and Josephine talking in the generator building

Thanks once again to all of the individual contributors, ELCA congregations from west coast to east coast, Global Health Ministries, Wheat Ridge Ministries, the ELCA Churchwide Global Missions office, National Geographic Society, and countless additional supporters, the dream of bringing solar power to Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing has been realized!!! From Liberian concert fundraisers in the Twin Cities Metro, MN to speaking engagements in the Grand Canyon Synod, from ice cream socials in Pine City, MN to various fundraisers in New Jersey, this project is a living manifestation of the unstoppable, caring, powerful, **Bold Women** of the ELCA today.

6 The crew racks the last modules



5: Gerd takes it easy during the heat of the day

Everyone wants to know: what's next? Here are our plans. ***Will you join us?***

June – select Liberian applicants for intensive solar training, logistics

June – celebrate success at the Triennial convention in Minneapolis!

October – conduct intensive solar training

November – Ribbon-cutting ceremony for system at Phebe, installation of energy efficiency measures

February 2018 – Liberian trainees assist with installation at Curran Hospital



7 Team takes a Saturday to conduct a site visit at Curran Hospital

Stay updated on our progress! Here's how:

1. Follow updates on the NE MN Synodical website: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/>
2. Follow updates on RREAL's website: <http://www.rreal.org/>
3. Like RREAL on Facebook for pictures, and regular update briefs:
<https://www.facebook.com/ruralrenewableenergyalliance/>
4. Come see us at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention hosted in Minnesota this summer!