



My trip to and arrival in Monrovia on **Friday 27th of February** was very smooth and fine. The EHELD organization (Excellence of High Education in Liberia) picked me up and took me to the Hotel.

On **Saturday the 28th** was an orientation from EHELD about Liberia, the Ebola and the economic situations. I was educated of the precaution measure against Ebola. People are still much afraid. No more hand shaking if you don't know the person. There are people standing in most places like the Banks, Post offices, super markets, Restaurants and important places to check your body temperature. You must wash your hands before entry to avoid transmission of Ebola.

Many people are still crying, when they are remembered of the effect of this sickness and the death in their family. The painful aspect of it is that, they felt left alone without support. It is still difficult for them to accept it.

Many are still afraid to get the sickness. Many Landlords don't allow Ebola healed person to come back to the apartment. Some landlords will want you to get a medical report from a certified doctor before they give you an apartment.

On **Sunday the 1st of March**, they drove me to the University Campus in Suakoko (about 178 km from Monrovia), which took us about four hours due to bad roads and Ebola checking

In every land boundaries, you have not only the police check points, but also now, you have Ebola checkpoints. All passengers must get out of the vehicles to a nearby constructed hut for Ebola check.

My apartment is not too bad. It is conducive, though the quality is not the standard I am used to, but I thank God and I am grateful that God can use me as part of the Educational development in Liberia.

Many students and local Professors already knew of my present are really happy to have me around.

On **Monday the 2nd of March**, we had our first Faculty meeting. After welcoming me, the Dean of Faculty of agriculture, quickly confessed his plan to squeeze out my knowledge and uses it to develop the faculty.

Their plant production and management department seems to be collapsing and will need to be revived. I have to organize the production possibilities to enable Students have practical works. The animal Husbandry is totally outdated. The few Pig pens are not environmentally controlled. So I was immediately given the class-course to lecture "Farm Structure and Environmental Control". The students will learn how to construct and manage simple and environmental sustainable animal huts. I will be teaching 4 Courses in general for the middle and upper grade students.

On **Tuesday the 3rd of March**, I was able to hold my first teaching class in "Entrepreneurship and Micro Enterprise". At the end the students will learn how to use acquired information to make decisions and take risk in establishing farm business. About 95 Students registered for this course last year before the Ebola. I only had only 51 of them in the class. Most of them are still re-registering and might join us later; but some might not be coming due to death and lack of money to pay for the studies.



This was my first class and the students are hungry for teaching stuffs



The research field, which is still to be developed. John is going to be mentored by me. He is a final year student and want me to coach him through. He is one of my 5 students to be mentored.



John is one of the fortunate students to work with me. He is intelligent, ready to learn and obey commands, run errands for me, prepare my classes, print and copy my handouts for the



students. He is going to be the future instructor to take over the affairs after my departure. The aim is to have a continuity of my work.

I had classes throughout this week and it was much. Either I am teaching; preparing for the next classes or students will want me to help them go through their Thesis.

After discussing with the Dean of Faculty, I will be teaching my four courses intensively in 2 days from 7 am up to about 18:00 as from next week. The other days I will be having farm works to give practical experience to the students.

Comments and Opportunities:

Many of these Students are having very little writing and working material. No boots to go to the farms. They walk with bathroom sleepers and this is not ideal for farm work, but they all want to study and are having no other choice. Some of them can't afford a working shoes of about 20 USD. Many have to do manual jobs to finance their studies. Absent in the class means reducing your grades. So they have to come and in between go for a job. Weekends, they go to farms or go jobbing.

I thank you for your support and your prayers to enable me serve and support Liberian Students.

What next week is going to bring – I can't tell; till then, I say good bye for now.

Festus