



Though I have been visiting Liberia since 2010, my knowledge of the people was just shallow.

I used to come for about two weeks and go back; the time was always too short to really look deeply into the mentality of the people. Liberia is a different African society with low population. They are hardworking people, but not sustainable. I think this is a result of the very low level of education, combined with very high state of poverty, the mixture of traditional-Islamic-Christian religions, and the influence of the many NGOs (non-governmental organizations). The several wars and the recent outbreak of the deadly virus disease, killing many people are also contributing to the hardship of the people.

Now that I am spending more time with them, I started to know while the Liberians are having different mentality. They are friendly but there are still some vulnerable ones, having it difficult to work out their past negative experience. Life is hard down here.

The students are willing to learn, though most of them came to the University with very low standard of the secondary education. I came here with a high curriculum for my 3 courses I was to lecture. Here I was given two more courses, because they don't have enough professors. My biggest work now is how to reduce my high curriculum/Syllabi and to what extent I can enable the students at least to pick something to take along in their lives. I don't want to pump them with the high stuffs they cannot use practically. I am praying for patience and understanding to help them build their excellence of high education, which they are aiming at.

My students - now about 68 in my courses would all want to get closer to me to learn more about management. They are the second and the third year students and are at the ages of 20 to 45.





About 8 are final year students and are working on projects to write their Thesis. Some of the students might drop off along the way due to financial problems. Also the ladies, I heard, when pregnant. The situation is hard for some of them to hold on to the studies.

Though I love working with them, I am always very happy when I am alone. Often I just off my phone to avoid callings and answering questions. I usually spend my lonely time studying for the next classes, praying and at times doing some work in my hobby garden. I am preparing the nursery beds now and next week I will start planting the seedlings.

Though I am not from Liberia, the students are always happy to interact with me, to share their visions, dreams, tell stories about their families and look forward to have me control their project works.

The church in the campus is, as usual, always filled up. There are many children in the Sunday school from the ages 1 to 16. Last Sunday I was with them and it was great to see these children asking questions about Austria and about God.

I was able to share some of the envelopes with vegetable seeds and 1 USD prepared by the CIG-Sunday-School to them. They were very happy. They send greetings to CIG. Next Sunday, we are going to have the plants back (if well done) and talk about growing together in the house of God. The Sunday school teachers are also students of the University and doing wonderful jobs with the children.





There is also a Campus Students Christian Fellowship. They meet every Sundays and Wednesdays at 5 pm for fellowship. I was with them last Sunday, spoke with the leaders and promised to work with them in counselling. We are going to form small groups of maybe 10 students each.

The service of the bank (ECO Bank) in the campus is not good. It is not functioning at all. To open an account took me about 3 days. After having an account number, no bank card, no money; ATM is not working and my Bank card from Austria is not working here. Now I have no access to money.

I think the only way for me to get money now is going to be through "Western Union" or "Money Gram". I have to go to the nearby town to collect it.

It is nice sharing my works and activities with you. Please keep putting me in your prayers. I don't know when to share with you again, but I hope soon.

Missing you all –

Festus