

## January 23-24, 2018 Sierra Leone Travel Team Update

The Team has a challenging construction schedule over at the hospital but despite the normal odd challenges they are right on target. Tuesday was a big day for the Hospital visioning process and on Wednesday Chris and Herb went to Bo which is the second largest city in Sierra Leone. The Bo Rotary has been an important partner in our work at Centennial and we hope they will be part of the Hospital team too. Although it is only 50 miles away, the journey takes close to two hours if things go well. "Well" is a relative term as the road to Bo is like the old wooden roller coaster Thunderhawk at Dorney Park: rough, uneven, full of surprises, and often stomach churning. No one who has gone to Bo forgets that trip. One of our Sierra Leonian solar installers, Ali Lamin, drove the Bo rode with his crew and when they arrived at Centennial he said "This is a crazy road. I am not enjoying this experience!"

One of the reasons the roads in Sierra Leone are so bad is due to the amount of rain they receive. There is very little rain during the dry season so they receive almost the full 116 inches average rainfall in just 6 months. This wreaks havoc on the dirt roads creating massive potholes. It's one of the reasons we travel in the dry season. The roads are not only muddy in the rainy season but the car-sized potholes fill with water and must be approached very carefully. That heavy rainfall also causes erosion at Centennial and the team is addressing a problem area near our buried utility lines.

Our 2011 November Trip - Road to Mattru in what should be the dry season.





This is where the ferry crosses the Jong River, which is right next to Centennial. The river level can change 20 ft over the year. It's near its low point in this picture.



Water is heavy so they get the biggest and strongest adults to carry it. Hah! Just kidding. Fetching water is the job of small children.

They carry the water in pans, buckets and jugs...all balanced on their heads. The containers are so heavy they often have two kids

lift it up onto the third kid's head. That yellow container is about 5 gallons or more than 40 lbs of water. Note the homemade funnel.



#### From Herb:

On Tuesday, the construction team completed the wall tile, finished electrical work, installed the door lock sets, began construction on swales and continued the plumbing work. We held the visioning meeting and the stakeholders developed a five year plan for the hospital. We developed key programs in business processes, personnel, infrastructure and equipment/supplies. We developed fairly detailed plans in each of these categories. We also took a tour through the maternity ward and pediatric ward with the Bo Rotary members.

Wednesday, Chris and Herb went to Bo. We met with Bob Moran who was chief administrator at the Panguma hospital for lunch. He provided a number of insights on effective management of a rural Sierra Leone hospital. After a shopping trip for parts for the toilets, Chris and Herb attended the Bo rotary club meeting. They are very supportive and want to work with us on a project at the hospital!

The construction team moved and installed cesspit slabs, finished door locks installation, finished setting floor tiles and collected additional charge controller data

The completed cesspit!

