



Retreat

Every year during the first week of February, RainForest International School (RFIS) sets aside time for a middle school retreat and a high school retreat.

For four days, we worshiped, laughed, learned, fellowshiped, prayed, and retreated from normal life to focus ourselves on Jesus. It was an amazing time to be with the students away from the stress and pressure of school life; to have conversations and encourage the students to grow in the Lord.

Probably the best part of Retreat for me was spending time with the senior class. I have tried to invest as much as I can into this group so that they can bless and encourage the rest of the student body. It was great to see and hear them encourage their peers, and serve so willingly.

(Pictured above: the senior class including Hannah in the middle-back, and Mark who serves as chaplain and their class advisor on the left).

Read more about the RFIS retreat on our blog: <https://africansandinourshoes.com/2018/02/23/retreat/>



Liberia GlobalFingerprints Ministry Trip

The Liberian people were devastated by war in their country from 1989-1997, and then again from 1999-2003. When I went to Liberia last month, I heard stories of people who ran for their lives, went hungry, lost everything, and watched family members killed right before their eyes.

More recently, Liberians were traumatized by the Ebola crisis during 2014-2015. Many lost loved ones from this deadly disease.

Poverty is high in Liberia. According to the World Food Program, 83.3% of the population lives on less than \$1.25/day.

However, the Lord is using GlobalFingerprints to bring hope to the hopeless. Our mission is to transform the most vulnerable children in the world with the fingerprint of Christ. Our vision to accomplish this is by meeting the spiritual, educational, medical, nutritional and other needs of children through partnership with the local church.

We want to share the Gospel and introduce children to real hope that can be found in Christ alone. We want to help them grow in their relationship with the Lord, and one of the important ways to grow is through disciple-making relationships. This is a major distinction between GlobalFingerprints and some other child sponsorship organizations that may just focus on the physical needs of a child.

While in Liberia, I introduced life skills training to the Liberian staff; something that we want to see developed at all our GlobalFingerprints Africa sites to help the children bridge into adulthood. Lessons, for example, could include but are not limited to personal health, relationships, attitudes and choices, business and ethics, purity, and time and money management.

(Distorted photo: Deborah Demeroutis with the Liberia GlobalFingerprints Site Coordinator, the Liberian staff, and Oshia)

Read more about my time in Liberia on our blog: <https://africansandinourshoes.com/2018/02/09/liberian-sand-in-my-shoes/> and here: <https://africansandinourshoes.com/2018/02/16/liberian-sand-in-my-shoes-%E2%8D%AD-making-disciples/> and here: <https://africansandinourshoes.com/>

THANKS for PRAYING

* Cathy and Hannah both had safe, healthy trips to Liberia and Mt. Cameroon, respectively.

* The RFIS High School and Middle School Retreats offered special, encouraging times for the students and staff!

* The Lord provided housing for our family while we are on our planned home assignment/furlough beginning this June.

We will live in the fully furnished Missionary Furlough Housing in Wheaton, IL- near many close friends, family, supporters, and several of our supporting churches!

* Hannah has received the missionary kid scholarship through Liberty University, for full-tuition! She is looking forward to studying Musical Theater beginning in the fall!



[Sponsor a child](#)

Please PRAY

* for the upcoming ReachGlobal Africa Division Conference in South Africa; that it would be a special time of reconnection and encouragement for all who attend.

* for good health

* that our family would make the most of our days in Cameroon before home assignment.

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