

Greetings to my sponsoring churches! I believe I may have mentioned once or twice that May is the hottest month in Vellore, but I feel like I need to mention it again. May is the hottest month in Vellore! On Sunday mornings when there are power cuts during worship time at Christ Lutheran, I seem to sweat more than I preach, and we don't have any music. The daily power cuts would be more manageable and less frustrating if they came on time every day, but they don't. We don't have access to a fan in the chapel where we have the mid-week anointing services so I am a puddle by the time everyone has come for prayers and anointing. There are areas in the chapel where there is an actual breeze, but that's not where people choose to stand, kneel, and wait.

Keeping the Palliative Care Unit's computers free of viruses, worms, and other nasty things seems to be part of my job. I like doing that sort of thing, but it is more of a chore with dial-up Internet service.

The required programs are rather large, and the long downloads frequently are interrupted.

A long and much anticipated shipment from Global Health Missions finally arrived in Ambur and I went to see what we had gotten. I remembered doing the ordering over a year ago but glitches, delays and bureaucracy slowed its arrival. We got a lot of rolled bandages, a suction machine, Ace wraps, and some other much needed bandaging materials. The drive to Ambur was a nice break since the car has air conditioning.

Our chaplain Grace has left to go to Bangalore to work on a masters program. Her husband Hamilton, who was also a chaplain here, is in Europe submitting his thesis to earn his masters degree. I was invited to their youngest daughter's birthday party - she's two now - and we spoke with Hamilton with the aide of computers and Skype. We had a goodbye dinner for Grace on the roof of the ASHA building. It was a week into June by then and it actually cooled off a bit in the evening! And there was a great view.

We now have a psychologist on the palliative care team. She will be working half days. We are going to need a new chaplain too. That search process has begun, but Grace will be hard to replace. Grace's final anointing service was June 9th and then she and her two girls were off to Bangalore for a new chapter in their lives. Hamilton should be back to join them in a month or so.

I have still been searching for professors for the Nursing Masters program in Liberia - looking all over the world. I've also looking for a place to send some nurses for a PhD program. I was really excited about a program in Korea until they explained that they teach in Korean!

Oops! Back to the drawing board.

Did I tell you that I bought a Kindle? One of my bosses delivered it when he visited last month and I love it! The other day, I heard a book reviewed on NPR and in two minutes, I had ordered it, downloaded it, and it was on my Kindle, ready to be read. And it's great for traveling. My suitcases are heavy enough without all the books I want to take along.

I hope that Pentecost Sunday reminded you of the great gift of the Holy Spirit. May you feel the Spirit around you as you go on your way.

You are in my prayers and I hope I am in yours.

Peace, John