

God's House International Freetown, Sierra Leone

Roof Raising Trip

May 15, 2006 - June 9, 2006

On May 15, 2006 Yvonne and Kandeh Turay arrived in Freetown Sierra Leone. It was rainy season, and the trip from the Airport to Upper Marjay town was bumpy as well as muddy. Upon arrival at the *site* they were greeted by the caretaker, *Amadu*, who was surprised to see them. No one knew they were coming. Their room in the facility where they usually stay was locked. Pa Nabie usually kept the keys and he was in the village. A letter was sent to him via local transport to let him know that Kandeh and Yvonne had arrived. The next two nights were spent sleeping on the floor while we awaited his arrival.

Time was of the essence. The day after arrival we began the task of looking for a roof building. It didn't take long to find one. When he came he did his assessment and quoted us a price for labor and supplies. The following day we began to buy the materials for the roof as well as continue pay the men who were doing the masonry work, building the pillars outside the second level and of course the contractors.

Not long after our arrival, people began coming to the clinic with all kinds of ailments. Headache, back pain, and worms were the most common. One case in particular interested me. While I did not plan to do a medical outreach there was a patient who was brought in who was pregnant and had malaria. She had been treated at another clinic, but her condition did not improve. She was 20 years old and married. Her husband was 57 and did not have the patience to deal with her sickness. I took her in. I brought a mattress for her to rest, plenty of water. Antivomiting medication, blood tonic and of course lots of prayer. After three days of treatment, she was eating and drinking well. When it was time for her to go home, she did not want to leave. I instructed her husband that he should take her home to rest. Continue to encourage her to drink well and provide food. I gave him some money to buy food and blood tonic. They were very grateful for her recovery.

Just as she left, another "sick" patient arrived. Kandeh's sister Pat. She had a bout of Typhoid but had not recovered. She was given rest, prayer and an antibiotic. Within a few days she recovered. This trip was overshadowed with a series of very ill individuals who took up 90% of my time daily. The last person was Pa Nabie, Kandeh's Father. One day, about a week after our arrival he complained of back pain. When he did not recover after a couple of days with medication, he was taken to the hospital. There, he was diagnosed with meningitis and died within days of his admission. The roof project was delayed as we had to do all of the funeral arrangements and burial. By the time we finished the greeting friends, family members and the memorial, it was almost time to leave. The project was left in the hands of Kandeh's brother, Mohamed. We left Sierra Leone on June 9, 2006. The project was completed in early July. Many thanks go out to all the men who worked diligently for this event to take place. Also much love to my Sierra Leone sisters who did the cooking during the event. We are hoping to return to Sierra Leone in Early 2007 to continue building the clinic, providing medical care, health education clothing and food to our people.

Of note, I was able to visit Aframerique Hair School and provide HIV/STD education as well as condom demonstration. The young ladies particularly loved the female condom. Many of them did not know it existed.

**MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS
TO THIS PROJECT:**

Eric Lee, Janice Brooks, Merlin JnBaptiste, Julie Norman, Toi Barbel

