

Hello All!

I'm sitting in Daru, thinking about our next trips, and wanted to send you volunteers (possible and past) an update.

Our Winter 10 trip will be in Feb-Mar. We are going to be very busy, in the best possible way! We'll need two teams of 3 people to do everything we need to get done.

Team 1 will teach the new group in Ngolahun. We are applying with a local woman's group for a grant to build a birth house, conduct the initial training, and provide the basic equipment. We are very likely to get this grant. If not, we'll likely conduct the training, anyway. So, that will involve a 4-week stay in Ngolahun teaching from our standard curriculum. By then, most of it will be typed up for you to use. This team needs a CPM, CNM, or L&D RN, plus at least one other person to work with either Chris McManus or me.

Team 2 will visit the three cohorts we've already taught. This group will conduct advanced training on topics not yet determined and check on the progress of the projects and the associations. This team will also need a CPM, CNM, or L&D RN and one other to work with either me or Chris.

We'll end our stay with a TBA Jamboree in Pellie. We learned that sizable events should take place in the dry season. And Pellie is aching to play host, as they were our first site. As one of the Daru TBAs explained, MOMS was in the womb at Pellie, and Jokibu nursed us, and Daru taught us to walk.

So the trip overall will take about 6-7 weeks. The itinerary will run something like this, I think:

Week 1 - Freetown, travel to Ngolahun.

Week 2 - Start Ngolahun training. Team 2 travel to Jokibu for a week.

Week 3 - Continue Ngolahun. Team 2 to Ngolahun for a few days, then to Daru.

Week 4 - Continue Ngolahun. Team 2 to Ngolahun, then to Pellie.?

Week 5 - Finish Ngolahun. Team 1 to Pellie.

Week 6 - TBA Jamboree, then to Freetown.

Week 7 - Freetown.

The itinerary for the wandering team may shift a bit, because traveling to Pellie is hard - it is so isolated. Also, we're thinking that we might want to swap team members between the two groups, to give everyone a chance to see how the regular training works and to meet people in the other cohorts. I'd also like the entire team at the closing ceremony for Ngolahun. So team 2 may make a quick trip to Pellie via the river (drive to river, cross in a canoe, then walk 5 miles to

Pellie); then reverse that trip so they can attend closing ceremonies. Then the whole team would drive to Pellie via the long road. I just don't know yet about this piece.

So far, we are looking at Ami B, Jocelyn, and Mary Jane, and Ali and Lisa E are still evaluating for this trip, right? If any others of you are aiming for this time, let me know right away. We need at least 4 of you, and 5 or 6 would be better.

Make sure you have sent us your application and waiver. Download them from the web site.

Then the Summer 10 trip. We're looking at August-September time frame.

We've been invited to a bunch of different places, and haven't yet picked one or two. But it will most likely be within a 30-mile circle centered on Daru. We are also very likely to spend significant time in Ngolahun, especially if we do get the grant and are building a maternity center. We'll also visit our other cohorts. I would really like to have enough volunteers that we could have three teams; if so, we can work with two new groups.

We are considering taking a number of stakeholders on this trip - board members, donors - for perhaps two weeks. They would meet some of the people and see the country. So one or two teams would be teaching while Chris or I and one of you would travel with these guests, until we take them back to Freetown for their trip home. Then we would rejoin one of the teams.

Winter 11, we will work with another new cohort or two, plus working with what will be by then 5 or 6 cohorts, doing advanced and refresher training, working through projects, and so on, plus another TBA Jamboree. We'll want at least 6 volunteers for this trip, too.

Believe me, we have more opportunities than we can imagine, so we'll be needing more and more volunteers and money. If 10 qualified folks want to go next summer, we can make that happen.

We have hired another translator, who is right now working on a trial basis. She is a Sierra Leonean nurse/midwife, a Mende woman from the Bo area. She is doing well so far this trip, and I am hopeful she will work out well for us. Her name is Jenneba Bockarie. Jitta is teaching her about how we work and how she should translate. We are keeping our eyes open for a third translator, as well, who can spend the winter trip learning and be ready to work next summer.

If you know of others who might be interested, point them to our web site at www.globalmidwives.org, especially the Volunteer section. I'm glad to talk with people about the possibilities of volunteering. I do try hard to explain what the trips are like, and am willing to answer just about any question. I am not

interested in twisting anyone's arm - while this is too rewarding for words, it is hard work and not for everyone. We'd rather grow more slowly than bring people who won't function well in this challenging environment.

Those of you who know Sierra Leone realize that these plans are carved in marshmallow. All could change 32 times by the time we leave in late Jan or early Feb!

Any questions? Fire away!

Trish (Mamie Jebbeh)

Patricia Ross

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