

Dear All at St Andrews and All Saints, Malvern,

Thank you so much for your prayers and support over the last few months. This has been a unique journey for us as a family as we have welcomed Finley Harry into our lives and grown into a family of three.

Finley Harry Bryant

It is difficult to put into words the simultaneous turmoil and joy of seeing our little boy Finley make his way out of Singleton Hospital neonatal unit after arriving 11 weeks early (the baby cave, as Bethany calls it) and into normal life as a happy bouncing baby. He continues to grow and thrive and miraculously has no ongoing health concerns! We are extremely thankful for the care he received in Swansea, and the close attention to detail given by the staff.



We have a couple of final health checks as a family before we return to Liberia in June. Please do pray that we will adjust well to the sudden change in climate on arrival. Finley has enjoyed meeting his grandparents and other relatives and friends over the last few months, and we have had time to regroup after an extremely busy 5 years.

ELWA children's program

The last 6 months is the longest we have been out of ELWA hospital. This we believe has allowed the staff on the paediatric ward and under 5 clinic the opportunity to step up and continue to serve. The numbers have been incredibly high since October 2021, and the staff are treating more than double the numbers of patients predicted. Much of this has taken place as the MSF hospital across town is being closed in the coming months. Without the presence of the ELWA children's program, there is very little available to treat these children in Liberia.

We currently have 32 beds on the ward, 5 paediatric emergency beds, and an under 5 clinic which doubles as our outpatient feeding program. The beds are constantly overfull and we face a challenge in finding space for the many sick children who come, as well as sufficient trained staff to treat them. The ELWA malnutrition program alone is the busiest in Liberia.

While in the UK, Mikey has continued to engage very actively with this program, carrying the responsibility for managing the budget, monthly reporting to our partner organisations Samaritan's Purse, Swansea Bay Health Charity and LIVE 2540, as well as continuing medical education for staff via zoom. On the ground in Liberia, we have been greatly blessed by the presence of an American nurse practitioner named Louise Omdahl, who has held the program together courageously in an

extremely difficult setting. Some numbers for the first 4 months of 2022 to show how busy our team have been:

- Under 5 clinic: 4639 children.
- Outpatient feeding: 671 children
- Inpatient feeding unit: 251 children
- Inpatients general paediatrics ward/paediatric ER: 589 children.

We are extremely thankful for the 23 staff members who are missionaries to their own Liberian people, focussing entirely on the needs of the poorest children in the country. Many are relatively new Christians themselves, and it is a privilege to walk alongside them as they journey in their walk with Christ. Here is our team working to feed malnourished children:



We have also established a new website: www.ELWAchildren.com, which provides updates to work ongoing in Liberia.

Please pray for:

- Strong partnerships in the Gospel between the many organisations serving the children in Liberia at ELWA.
- Improvement to the hospitals systems for treating children presenting in emergencies, especially those needing blood transfusions and oxygen.
- The children who come to the hospital to experience the love of Jesus for themselves.
- Energy for the staff to persevere in difficult circumstances.

Jesus Loves Me Children's Hospital, Gbarnga

Jesus Loves Me remains under construction. This hospital was born out of a strong desire to serve the most vulnerable children in Liberia in Jesus' name, with a special focus on the least reached people. Bong county, where the hospital is being constructed, is very impoverished and has little coherent healthcare for children. Unwell children there face a 4 hour journey to get to ELWA, and as a result are less likely to come to hospital at all. Too many have not had access to basic medication.



The hospital will be a much smaller project, with the goal of hosting 20 paediatric admissions overnight at any one time in addition to a large outpatient clinic treating 1000 children monthly. The outpatient component of Jesus Loves Me is already operational. It operates as a close partnership between LIVE 2540 and a smaller mission known as Hope for Home, who already operate a foster home for disabled children.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom for all of us as we work together to build the hospital in a way which glorifies God.
- The physician assistants, nurses and nurse assistants to practice in a way which shows Jesus' love to the most vulnerable children in a very vulnerable part of the world.
- Good supplies of medication and nutritional support.
- The installation of the new oxygen system and blood transfusion fridge.
- That every child who comes would know Jesus' love for them and would feel His healing touch.

Ministry

We are extremely thankful for the many Churches, organisations and individuals who are currently helping the sickest and most malnourished children in Liberia know God's love. To see so many different people join hands across the world to serve those who Jesus gave His life for is incredibly moving. Each day we wake up and are thankful for your blessing for the children who we serve.

We fly back to Liberia on 13th June. We will be returning to a situation familiar yet changed by our perception as a family. Pray that we will seek God's Kingdom in our family life above all. Balancing the heavy workload in Liberia with being parents will be a challenge and we will need wisdom as we seek to serve in a way which makes good use of the time God has given us. Please pray for us in this.

There are also many decisions to make about our future in Liberia, how long we will stay and how much time we will spend in each hospital. In all situations we need the Holy Spirit's leading. Pray that we would have the mind of Christ as we approach very hard situations and many extremely sick children.



Support

Our biggest need right now is support for the local staff who serve Liberia's poorest and most malnourished children on the ELWA children's program in Jesus' name. To sign up to support them share Jesus' love, click on the link below, select the amount to give and frequency, and select, "to help a particular ministry". Write "under 5 Liberia c/o Bryant" in the textbox. Keep entering your details.

<https://sim.co.uk/support/donate/direct-debit/>

To give one-off donations, follow the link below:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michael-bryant11

Alternatively, transfer funds into the account details below:

Number: 71392409

Sort Code: 40-13-17

Feel free to e-mail or call me more for more details:

mikey.bryant@sim.org

(+44) 7415417954

Many thanks and God bless!

Mikey, Bethany and Finley Bryant