

18 January 2011

Greetings, Friends and Family!

Praying you are warm and enjoying the beauty of winter wherever you are. We have managed to miss most snow and ice this trip and are so very grateful for it. Hard for these sand, mud and dirt driving Zambians to adjust to the cold and all that goes with it.

We have so much to be thankful for this trip. New friends, more prayer warriors and especially, traveling mercies. We have traveled thousands of miles without incident or accident and we are so thankful! We praise God for this and for the contacts we have been able to make during this trip. As we begin to wind down we look forward with great anticipation to going home to Zambia. Many things sit on the horizon and await our attention when we return. Ahhh, but first the preparation.

As we plan for our trip back, we begin our packing. We are allowed 2, 50 pound bags with 1 carry on and a backpack each. We pack them full to the brim and try everything we can to make those pounds work for us. I get all the "stuff" out and then Butch begins the trick of packing them into the boxes. This is not a time when you want to be around us as we both vie for our things to get packed and not left behind for it to be sent later (whenever that is). This is where a new situation has come into play.

Many books have been donated to us this trip. We are searching for a way in which to have them sent to Zambia. The US Post Office can deliver books to us at the cost of \$222 for 50 pounds. We have enough books right now to fill about 8 boxes. So, we are asking you to pray with us for a better/more economical way to send these much needed books (for Butch's library and for the preschool library, teaching tools, and Bible studies) to Zambia. I keep asking myself why God would send such great resources to us if He didn't already have a way to get them to us. So, please, will you join us in praying for transport for these tools?

This is the year that we need to renew our work permit. At 15 years, we are also eligible for residency. Please pray that God will give us wisdom and favor as jump through the hoops of paperwork and meet with those in authority to get these important documents completed and approved. With a residency status we will not have to continue to apply for work permits and are given more grace when looking for land. Did I say land? Yep. We need prayers for the land we are trying to obtain for the Agape Retreat Center and Challenge Course. We must have City Council approval, Ministry of Land approval and then we can file for a deed to the land. After the deed is approved we will begin building the camp, staffing it, etc. Transition time also is lurking as we move back into a teaching mode. Pray for our classes to come together quickly, to grow and for more opportunities to share the Good News and grow God's Kingdom.

Lastly, please pray for our health and for a business meeting that is on our agenda for next week. Pray for wisdom and favor for us and for God's will to be done.

Recently, I was talking to a friend's child. She asked where my children were. I told her we didn't have children. She said she was mad at God because He didn't give us children. I was taken aback by her honesty and forthcoming. My only response was one from the heart...God knows best. This is something I find myself repeating in times like this...God knows best. Truly, I don't confess to understand that simple phrase, but at the same time, it is a truth we can all hang our hats on. God knows best. As you continue to pray for God's best for us, we ask He do the same for you. How can we pray for you, friend? Let us know so we can partner with you in believing God for His best be bear fruit in your life too.

Butch & Janet Berner - Missionaries

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