

The Murray Family

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"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."
2 Timothy 2:2

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Greetings from the HOT side of the world! This is the hottest month; it gets increasingly so until the rains become steady. It has rained twice already - complete with thunder, lightening, and hail. We all love to go out and watch the deluge. Isn't it amazing that God sent a family that takes pleasure in rain storms to a place where they occur three months out of a year?

When reading missionary biographies I often read of those who sacrificed greatly by giving up friends, family and home to travel to a far off land. Sacrifices, hardship and sickness- body aches, high fevers, delirium, tossing, turning, dehydration, diarrhea, vomiting, UGH!!! The diagnosis-Malaria. I always wondered what it would be like. Wonder no more! I have found out ☺ Just before Mark left for the States I came down with a severe case. However, we serve a great God and there were many blessings to count. Our pastor's wife is a nurse/midwife at the local clinic. As soon as she heard I was sick she was at my bedside starting IV's and 'jabbing me' with who-know-what in order to alleviate my symptoms and speed me to on recovery. She remained by my bedside for most of the next 3 days. However, she did agree to go home at night when assured that I would be in good hands with Nurse Mark who was trained to work the drip and administer the medications at the appointed times! I have fully recovered now, but I will be more careful what I wonder about in the future.

Life is very full these days, but it is a good kind of fullness. A friend in the States asked Mark what my biggest frustration was. My response - There is simply not enough of me to do all the things I wish I could be doing!

I think my biggest joy is teaching reading to the kids at the orphanage near by. Three months have made a tremendous difference in their lives. Their self-confidence has grown so much that the director even made mention of it to me. Because of their experiences they have learned to be very self-centered; little sharing or cooperation exists when you struggle daily just to stay alive. There is no thought of helping the other guy. One of my goals is to teach the kids to work together. Instead of laughing at their



friend when they make a mistake I want them to encourage. The idea of working in pairs to drill with flash cards is totally foreign to them. Rebekah and Aaron have been a tremendous help in reaching this goal as they each have their own reading group. Abram now goes a few times a week to help with math skills as well. They are planning to open a school in January, with hopes of improving the education of their own children while bringing in income by educating fee-paying students as well.

The heavens overhead seem to be less polluted from this side of the world. God hears and answers prayers in fast and amazing ways that I never experienced when in the US. Four amazing things have taken place in just the past few weeks.

1. Aaron reached the 6'7" mark. AAAGGGHHH! I am not sure if this is praise or a prayer request ☺ He made himself a shirt that says "TOLLO" - the word for "tall one" in the local languages. He raised the basketball pole to 10' in order to practice dunking and enjoys the basketball challenge when he plays with two other friends over who are both over 6'5. Here he is pictured with Madonna (age 17), the shortest girl in our youth group.

2. We were able to get a land line phone, along with internet service. Granted it is dial-up and we can't use SKYPE, but if the monkeys and zebras run in fast enough circles we get a good connection. Somehow I feel a bit closer to everyone over there knowing that I can send and receive emails from my own home.

3. The exchange rate is great right now. When Mark and I came the first time it was about K4,000:1. It dropped shortly after we moved here and has remained at K3,500:1 until now. Yesterday Abram was able to exchange dollars for K4,500:1 which is like getting a pay increase of 25 cents on each dollar.

4. Abram has had 2 amazing experiences. On his way home the other day he experienced the usual: cars or trucks broken down on the road. There are no shoulders to pull onto, so the stranded motorist breaks off tree branches and lays them in the road about 25' behind their vehicle! This time there were 2 buses and a car broken down in a distance of about 100 yards. While maneuvering his way through the congestion he felt the Holy Spirit urging him to move over into the next lane. Within 5 seconds, a large semi came barreling past him and careened into the 5 cars in front of him. Abram says he is sure he missed the back of our bus by inches!!!! I have heard stories of people getting the sudden urge to pray for someone not knowing what danger they may be facing. Thanks to whoever was praying for him at that moment.

His other experience was not quite so nerve-racking, but exciting-never-the-less. Before he moved home Noah mentioned that it would be good for our family to get a smaller car, such as a Toyota Corolla. It would be cheaper to run and parts are easily available. Abram decided to start praying specifically for a Toyota. A month ago we met some missionaries who were returning to the States, then relocating to South Africa. Two weeks ago, just before their departure they delivered their Toyota Land Cruiser to us, free of charge, and left it in our care until the time, if ever, they return to Zambia!!!

“Exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think” (Eph 3:20) is the way our God likes to answer prayers. A Land Cruiser is definitely the car to drive in pot-holed Zambia. With the rains coming it will be a tremendous blessing, and furthermore, we now have an ‘almost normal’ family size as Abram calls it, and everyone can fit in the car.



PRAYER REQUESTS

For Mark’s safety and success as he travels though out the States seeking opportunities to share what God is doing thru us in Zambia.

For wisdom as Tracy and the kids run the household without Mark for another month. Pray for protection when moving about every day and for good health as they continue to get hit with many of the flu bugs that pass through.

For Kirstin and Sam as they seek God’s direction for Sam to begin school. For financial provision and for discernment as Kirstin considers a job in the field she studied in school, Teaching English as a Second Language in the coming new year.

For Micah and Sarah as they plan their June wedding. For safety as Sarah drives an ambulance in her job as an EMT, for Micah as he balances school, employment as a photographer, and his relationship with Sarah. Pray they will find strong friends and couples who will encourage them in their Christian walk.

For the country of Zambia as it transition to the new president who should be in office, barring any major riots or illegal complications, by the time you receive this update.

For Berean Baptist Church as they forge ahead under the strong, prayerful leadership of Pastor Saul Mweilenge, spiritually rebuilding the wall, as Nehemiah did in his day, is the biggest challenge.

For the Awana children’s program that is restarting at church. Pray it will be a strong evangelism tool that will help to build the church and the spiritual lives of the kids and leaders.

For the children at Vine Branch Children’s Home. Pray for their hearts to be open to the Gospel message brought thru reading lessons and for financial provision as they open a school to improve the level of education for the children and provide additional income from outside fee paying students.