

June, 2006

Dear Friends,

In a few days we will depart for Africa. All the packing, preparing, good byes, typing up of loose ends, etc., will soon be behind us, and Congo will be in front of us. You are a part of every turn: praying giving, and waiting with expectancy to see the awesome Hand of God move in all of our midst. For this we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We leave Detroit at 4:20 p.m. on Sunday, July 2, fly to Chicago, on to Washington, D. C., arriving in Johannesburg, South Africa 16 hours later, overnight, and then go up to Kinshasa, DRC. This last leg is only 3 1/2 hours. We will stay in Kinshasa for a week and then take the MAF caravan on up into the bush, some 400 land miles due east.

Once we arrive at Nkara, a most blessed sight will be to see the 32 students from the Women's Literacy Center, in its second year now, who use the Bible as their text. After the official welcome at our airstrip, nicknamed O'Hairy, we travel down the hill to our home built by Dr. Smith, who died while working on a rafter on our upstairs porch in 1953. The welcome will include lots of singing, great enthusiastic handshakes, and hugs.

Much housecleaning will be required after a long absence. Meetings with our leadership will be frequent. Graduation of about 25 Bible college students will highlight our stay. Evangelism will be a thriller to experience. Reading hand delivered letters from Radio Glory listeners is something we look forward to. Perhaps this former witch doctor will visit us once again. He heard about Jesus on Radio Glory! Jim is shown here presenting him with a Bible last year. Encountering harassing State people will challenge us to the core because they think we have a money tree in our back yard in America. There will be much praying and seeking God's face concerning staff problems that have arisen in the last several months. We will do this over breakfasts, lunches, and dinners with people we love dearly. They will help us with all kinds of decisions we must make, many of which we will not know until we get there.

Joys await us that we cannot even imagine, as we present to our staff the bounty of God's provision for the various departments this year. Pastor Mbuku, Dean of Evangelism, is going to be so delighted with the 2 new guitars, PA system, microphones, extension cords, 15 barrels of fuel, 2 barrels of gasoline to run the brand new generator, a mixing board, two amplifiers, and 3 tambourines we are bringing to Congo, thanks to a couple in California who have given so sacrificially that the team's efforts will not only be able to continue but be greatly enhanced.

The musicians will have sweatpants and sweatshirts thanks to a church in Morenci, Michigan as well as 50 solar radios donated by a lady at that church and others in the Detroit area. A local foundation provided a beautiful new video projector to replace their 9 year old machine, which has shown the Jesus Film time after time and has seen tens of thousands of people come to Christ. The Women's Literacy center has been given sewing machines, needles, thread, material, patterns, 32 Bibles, scissors, costume jewelry, dresses, personal items, and tin to help cover the new school roof thanks to concerned women in Georgia, Indiana, and Michigan, many of whom are widows.

Radio Glory will thrive on new sound equipment which will replace the much used and worn goods

they broadcast with 10 hours a day, seven days a week in torrid temperatures, which we will now be able to temper with a 12,000 watt air conditioner. Macomb Christian School has provided pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, markers, erasers, toys, backpacks, and beautiful gifts for school children. Another lady gave a trunk of assorted gifts for the thousands of Sunday School children in our area.

Clothes have been provided for our orphans, one of whom is attending medical school in Lumbumbashi. His tuition is paid in full this year by a young local couple. Wood-Mizer saw blades and other needed parts are going with us as well as truck parts. 100 T shirts and 70 pairs of shoes that have been sitting in our garage for 3 years are finally making their way to Congo. For all of the above, how about a hearty PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Some of these things are being shipped DHL Danzas, and the greater portion (23 trunks) are accompanying us on South African Airlines. Your loving hands enable us to make these great blessings available to our people in Congo. We now ask you to pray for the replenishing of funds it has taken to ship them and for the continued need of salaries for our wonderful 100 national staff. These practical supplies will give our people a great shot in the arm, raise their dignity, provide hope, and renew courage as they serve our Lord under extenuating circumstance that would fill many Christians with despair and weariness.

God bless you for being so kind to people you may never meet here on earth. Proverbs 19:17. God is no man's debtor. Hallelujah. We are amazed and deeply grateful for your standing with us. We covet your prayers for the disarming of Satan and the continued unleashing of God's power, for health and strength as we all put in long days, for many souls to respond to the Gospel which will be proclaimed with great fervor, for discernment with those we know and those we do not know, for God's glory to fill the place, and for the big vote coming up on July 30, which will be a first. Total confusion and anarchy could break out. Thank you for standing with us. We go as your representative and as ambassadors for Christ. And all God's people said, "Amen!"

In His Amazing Grace,