

Under Construction

Buildings & Lives

August 2008

Greetings to all from sunny South Africa!

It feels so good to be home! As usual we had an experience getting here. Our first flight of the morning at MSP was cancelled, so 2 hours later we are finally on our first flight to Chicago. Once in Chicago, our next flight was delayed, putting us in D.C. past the time the dog was supposed to be there to go on our flight. We hailed a taxi to rush us over to cargo, checking Lili in and being told that she would have to spend the night at a kennel and go on the next day's flight. We rushed back to the airport and to our gate to find that our flight to Johannesburg had been CANCELLED! They were giving out vouchers for motel rooms and dinner (a % of the actual cost) and they drove us to our respective motels. We ended up in a quite swanky place with 10 items on the menu – so you can guess the price! It was nice to have a good night's rest though. As we checked out in the morning, we were told that everything was taken care of and we did not owe anything – PTL!

We were all told to be back at the airport at 7AM, where we all stood in line for over 2 hours before they started rechecking us in. The upside was that we met some interesting people to visit with, showed our power point and discussed our ministry. There was a couple from Denver heading to Africa for a hunt and to visit a game park – we have exchanged information and they are very interested in what we are doing and returning to help in the future. Coincidence? I don't think so!

Our flight finally took off about 1PM and the flight was not full so we were able to have a row of 4 seats for the 2 of us – which meant that we were able to take turns laying down and getting some sleep. We arrived in Johannesburg around 1PM. We had a fellow missionary waiting to pick us up – but spent time waiting for them to bring us Lili. After quite some time someone else went to check on her and then informed us that we had to go to cargo to fetch her. So off we go in search of cargo, finally locating the place and sat for 2 hours waiting for the vet to return to sign the paperwork. With signed paperwork in hand we were sent to customs – through an underground walkway, thankfully there was a man at the gate with a card to let us through and took us straight to where we needed to go, brought us back through to pay our fee, and then to the warehouse to pick up Lili. The local guys there argued with him for a bit and finally went back and got her before they were closing up for the day. Needless to say we tipped the gentleman well.

We left the airport just in time for rush hour traffic, which we all know is never an hour! Arriving at the Kuehl's home, Bob & Sandy had a warm meal waiting for us. Tim & Luann are in the states right now. In a weeks time Marv & Bob were able to fix the roof where there had been leaking problems

(Tim & Luann – it looks really nice!) and replaced a toilet. We rented a vehicle and headed to Bethlehem to see Lyle & Sandy for a couple days – always an enjoyable and relaxing time and Marv got to do a little farm work.

On our way to Sunbury we stopped at UBI (Union Bible Institute) Pietermaritzburg where the Binions are and where we will be spending the next 2-3 months. There is a bathroom needing much attention and the dining room on the other side of the wall where water has been leaking and they even grew a few mushrooms there – not on purpose!! There will be much to keep Marv busy and Marie has already been given a number of places to be involved, children’s ministries and computer stuff.

So here we are at Sunbury spending a few days in the warm sunshine, getting reacquainted with fellow workers, going through our things for what we will need with us, letting Lili acclimate to places & people (as she will be staying here while we are at UBI) and Sunday Marv will be preaching at the local church we attend when we are here.

We left the states in July and it is already August! Time goes by so fast. For those of you that know the Seelhammers – they seem to be adjusting well in a short time – that is when we know we are where we the Lord wants us! I think the kids were excited to see some familiar faces that they knew before getting to Africa, but it also made them a bit rambunctious for their parents.

We are looking forward to being in a new area, meeting new people, and getting involved in some new ministry. The downside is that then we will have to leave it all behind. Unfortunately there is no way to be more than one place at a time! Continue praying with us to be doing what the Lord’s has for us and safety in travel.

In His Service,

Marv & Marie

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For those of you that have and keep track of our phone numbers here – Marv’s new cell is 072 110 6332 in country 011 27 72 110 6332 from the states.

