

Arensman Archives - April 2008

8-week countdown!



The past two weeks have been eventful. We have finalized plans for our stateside storage as well as our overseas shipping. Scott gave an extended notice of resignation to his employers, which they accepted. However, they told him not to return to work the next day. Although they are paying out part of his notice, the timing is not exactly what we had in mind. But God's plan is always perfect and we are finding that his being home is exactly

what we need in order to do all that we must to prepare! Also, this shortened employment means that we must move out of the house we are renting. In His perfect providence, God provided a place for us to go before we ever knew we needed it.

A dear friend, who herself is leaving for the mission field in Thailand at the end of this month has extended an invitation to our family to live in her home on Lake Norman for the six-week period between moving out of our house and leaving for New York. This move is unlike any we have done before. Our belongings are going in three different directions! One shipment is going to Belize, including our family vehicle. A small portion will be put into storage here in North Carolina. The remainder of our things, mostly furniture, we plan to sell over the next two weeks. As you can imagine, this makes packing and planning a more difficult task!

In three weeks we will attend a conference sponsored by MTW as part of our pre-field training. The children will be farmed out (once-again) to family and friends while we attend this weeklong event. After that, we will return and clear out the final portion of our things, turn in the keys to our landlords and settle down in the house by the lake. We are hoping that after three intense weeks of planning, packing and finalizing details that we can relax a little, spend some time together as a family and prepare the kids and ourselves for a month in New York.

As we begin to get details about what to expect there, the reality of what we are about to do has set in. Our whole family is going to be adapting to a very different life! The list of changes we can expect in New York include: the logistics of traveling with 6 young children into a city like New York, navigating the city, using public transportation, living in an apartment, shopping **WITHOUT** a van, attending classes daily, being apart from the children during the day and attempting to serve in ministry for a short period of time, among others. Just the thought of

some of these is enough to shake us up! Truly, we will experience a dependence on each other and the Lord unlike any time before.

Prayer Requests

Please lift up in prayer:

- That God would uphold us through the next few weeks of transitioning out of this house and protect us from anxiety and fear.
- That our time at the conference in Ridgehaven would be a time of strengthening and drawing closer to the Lord and one another.
- That we would be able to raise the last of our necessary monthly support before the end of June.
- That our children would feel secure in the midst of so much upheaval and that we would have wisdom, as parents, to encourage them, lead them and point them to Christ for all things.
- That all the details and possible pitfalls of moving our household to a primitive country would be smooth and uneventful.

Our Timeline

April 14 – April 30 – preparing all our items for international shipping and placing them in temporary storage. Selling most of our furniture and other items. Packing those possessions that will remain in long-term storage in N.C.

May 4 – 9 – “Living in Grace” Conference at Ridgehaven, N.C.

May 10 – transport our possessions to long-term storage near Lenoir, N.C.

May 12 – complete moving out of our rented house and turn in keys.

May 13 – June 30 – living in Denver, N.C. in our friend’s home. Finishing up raising the last of our support. Seeing friends and family for our final visits and good-byes.

July 1 – 31 – Pre-field training in New York City.

August 2 – load our overseas shipping container and send it to the port in Savannah.

August 9 (?) – say goodbye to the U.S.A and arrive in Belize.

Recently, I read The Hidden Smile of God by John Piper. This book, which highlights the reality of suffering in the lives of God's people, recounts the lives of three men, John Bunyan, William Cowper and David Brainard, who all suffered in different ways in spite of (or perhaps because of) their faith in the Lord Jesus. In it's pages, I found the history behind a hymn that I had recently discovered which moved me deeply. I can hardly make it through listening without tears. The verses speak with painful honesty about the sovereignty of God over human suffering:

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform.
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.
Deep in His dark and hidden mines,
with never failing skill,
He fashions all His bright designs,
and works His sovereign will.

Oh fearful saints new courage take,
the clouds that you now dread,
are big with mercy and will break,
with blessings on your head.
Judge not thy Lord by feeble sense,
but trust Him for His grace,
behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.

God's purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan His work in vain.
God is His own interpreter,
and He will make it plain.

My prayer is that these words would become the desire of my heart and that the reality of their meaning would be worked out in my life. May it bless you in some way too!

PS – If anyone who lives nearby has any old luggage that you would like to get rid of, we are in need of extra suitcases! Please give us a call or send us an email if you would like to help in this way. We will come and get them!

We are so thankful for all of you; for your prayers, your words of encouragement, your practical help and your financial support. We could never have gotten this far without God's provision through all of you!

Scott and Sarah

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From May 13 – June 30

our U.S. mailing address will be:

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Please remember to reference our account number with all your financial gifts:
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