

July 2006

Dear Friends,

If any of you have written us over the past few weeks, you would have received an automatic reply indicating we were in the States for some vacation. We arrived in the US on May 8 and that weekend found us in the northeastern Pennsylvania area. We headed out to Clarks Summit where our daughter is a student at Baptist Bible College. We helped her move from her dorm room to an apartment for the summer. She will be returning to the campus this fall to finish up her studies. We enjoyed this special time with our daughter.

We have been in contact with a surgeon friend of ours who agreed to help Mary Jo out with some corrective surgery. The same day of her surgery, our son David arrived in the US and Steve went to Chicago and meet him. They returned to Michigan and stayed with Mary Jo as she began her recovery. However, it became apparent that age has its own way of catching up with us and she felt rather wiped out. It also became apparent that she wasn't going to bounce back as quickly as we had anticipated and needed more involved care, by Steve. After discussion with our sending pastor, colleagues on the field and our administrator, the decision was made for Steve to stay and continue to help her with her recovery.

With Steve in his new Team Leader position, we took advantage of this unforeseen extended time home. He met with various people who are interested in missions and considering this as a full time ministry. He was able to go out to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and participate with the Medical Missions Interface hosted by A.B.W.E. This was a great time for Steve and other medical missionaries from other fields to interact with doctors, medical students, nurses and PAs who have a desire to be involved in missions. The 2 ½ days were well attended and were a blessing to all participants. Steve took advantage of being in the east and drove up to see Kellie as she continued her residence in the Clarks Summit area. We continued to see Mary Jo's doctor and then received clearance from him for us to return to Togo. So, here we are in the London airport en route to Togo and preparing to enter back into a busy schedule.

We were treated with a very nice surprise on our Detroit to London portion of the trip, we were bumped up to the highest class this flight had. We sure enjoyed this treat on British Air. Now as we wait for our next leg of the trip, we will be returning to the normal economy section and travel as most missionaries do.

As we mentioned, our son David was able to be home with us and is returning to his research work in Botswana. Please continue to **pray for his safety** as he works with the lions and leopards. Please also **pray for Kellie as she saves** up her pennies for her last year of school at Baptist Bible College. Would also pray for Mary Jo's continued progress and recovery. She's ready to get back in the saddle again but knows she can't take the fast horse yet...and that's tough for her to do.

We would appreciate your **prayers for our financial needs**. We've had some increases and loss of support putting us a bit under the minimum amount needed for our ministry. We would appreciate your prayer for this area as well as our on-going needs for our outfit and passage.

Also, an area we would ask for your prayers in. Once again, with Steve's new position as Team Leader, the Lord has allowed us to be back into church planting activities once again. He has met with several of our National pastors in helping them with "normal" church growth problems, helped a young pastor with his first baptism at their "new" church facility-even though the walls are not all up, the baptism place was made ready for use. What a special service it was to go and help with and rejoice with these people who have made a stand for the Lord. These pastors haven't had anybody for a period of time to help them, so the Lord has placed Steve in this position now, and he loves every minute of it. Pray for Steve that he would have wisdom that only the Lord can give him in helping these people. What a blessing to be once again in this area of ministry, that of church planting, once again. The demands are going to be great, as he is going to be pulled in the direction of church planting, then helping the new short term surgeon adjust to "Togo", Team Leader responsibilities, business manager responsibilities, helping in an advisory roll with the new administration of the hospital as Harry Ward has stepped out of that role altogether now. There are many hats for Steve to wear, but none that the Lord cannot equip him to handle. We praise and thank the Lord for the privilege of serving Him here, and are confident that He will enable us.

We are excited to announce to you another new way for us to maintain contact with you. With the aid of A.B.W.E.'s web assistance for missionaries, we now have a website that Steve is putting together. If you would like to swing by the site, you'll be able to stay current with prayer requests, prayer letter, financial needs and pictures along with other items. You can find this site at: <http://www.mills.abwe.org>. If you have any suggestions or comments, we would love to hear from you.

Please continue to pray for the hospital and its need of a surgeon. We are thankful for the offer of help by Dr. JoV, a Pilipino surgeon who has graciously offered one year of her time to help us out. This doesn't mean that we don't need surgical help. Steve will be helping her from time to time but we would also appreciate surgeons who would be willing to come and spell Dr. JoV for a short period of time. If you know of someone, please have them contact us.

Again, we feel blessed to have folks like you who have followed our ministry with prayer and financial support. Thank you so much. We trust that your summer will be a time when you can get some much needed rest and time with your family.

In His Service,

*Steve & Mary Jo*