

Random Thoughts, Steve Style

Arriving in the United States after a season in Africa (once considered the Dark Continent), reminds me of how good God is to the one as well as to the other. As we got to our son's home in Modesto, the reality hit me that we could drink water from the tap. Do you appreciate clean water? Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The word pure can also be translated clear or clean. There is some very good theology in a verse like this. When getting ready for bed I wanted to be sure and know where the candle and matches were, and I began looking around for the mosquito net but realized, they're not normally needed here. Just think with me for a moment about a candle. The Latin word for light is "lux," from which we get the word, "luxury." God has given light to those in Africa but it seems like much more here in the good old USA. What favor, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6

Adjustments



Steve trying to stay warm in California!

Yesterday was our first visit to a U.S. grocery store... why should that be a big deal? We've done this so many times over the past 15 years overseas we didn't really gear up for it this time. In the middle of the second aisle Steve's eye caught mine and we burst out laughing; we knew each other's thoughts, "Quick, let's get out of here, there's too many choices it's

confusing!" Some of you might relate. I guess there are no short cuts to reverse culture shock so it's best

to keep our sense of humor and give you a heads up if we act a little "strange" around you! So if it's Steve marveling over clean, pure tap water and no need for a candle, matches and mosquito net, or me in shock over too much stuff, you'll understand.

Itinerary

We appreciate those of you who have contacted us already. We'll do our best to get back with you. We now have a cell phone number where you can reach us: (209) 622-3016. We'll be in Costa Rica from February 1- 25, but that phone number will leave a voice message on our email. So even if we are not able to take your call, we will get your message. Our plan is to be back in California the month of March and half of April before returning to Africa. If anyone has a car (compact if possible) we could use for March-April please let us know. At this point it looks like we'll be planning a trip to southern California and Arizona during the end of March, so if you're in that neighborhood, let us hear from you. Thanks

What's Next

We experienced the power of your prayers during our whirlwind of packing up the Drop-in Center. Thank you. To our delight Calvary Chapel Lakeside has taken over the compound, plus our dog, cat, and two of our volunteers who will stay on temporarily as guards/caretakers! Everything went smoothly with barely anytime to process emotions. (Which was better for me, Dianne, at the moment.)



Another joy is that the outreach to the streets is continuing, barely missing a beat. One of the first nights circulating

around the various bases many of the street boys were able to sit around and ask questions. "What's going to happen to 'Kumbyah'?" (Their name for Steve) "Will he be back?" Pray for Abel as he establishes the route and contacts. Before we left two new boys were taken to Agape! We are confident that this is God's heart and He will sustain it.

What will we be doing when we return to Agape in April? Steve will be involved in the spiritual development of the boys on campus. The creative wheels are already turning with ideas for projects, activities, and ways to make this practical. It will be exciting to see what the impact will be. Maybe we'll see more strange "bicycles." (reference to previous newsletter)

I, Dianne, will continue to write curriculum for the orientation program and a foundations class as well as work directly with those teachers and students. Besides these specific duties, we want to help get the Transition Center up and running as soon as possible.

Well, enough for the time being. You'll probably hear more from us as we interact these next few months. If God puts it on your heart, please stand with us in prayer for the continued outreach to these boys living in



darkness. If God wants to do something significant, He moves His people to pray.

We want to thank each and every one of you who support the work in prayer and gifts. Jesus said in Luke 12:48 "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." We trust the Lord to give much fruit that will remain.

"Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out your heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward Him for the life of the young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street."

Lamentations 2:19

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