

Miller Monthly Memo

November 2013

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This summer Ron and Shannon gave us a most special gift—two weeks with them in Zimbabwe! We got to enjoy the twins and see many of Zimbabwe’s specialties. For example, Ron has friends who own

a yacht on Lake Kariba and made it available to us for three days and nights. We parked in Metusadona National Park and “lived” among the wildlife. Hippos were in the water around us, herds of impala, Thompson gazelles and waterbuck ran through the fields/forests near the lake, many interesting birds and families of elephants came to the water, oblivious of our presence.



The twins were 6 months old at that time and were such a joy to play with and to watch as they played, ate, and got baths. Ron took each of us for a flight in his microlight airplane, and we experienced his expertise as a pilot.

We took in some interesting places around Harare: Domboshawa (mountains of granite rock), Balanced Rock National Park, two different parks with wildlife, a large mall, a few great places for lunch, and a refuge for endangered species. We flew Air Zimbabwe 50 minutes up to Victoria Falls where we viewed the falls from every angle possible, enjoyed a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River, ate wild game at the Boma, stayed at the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, and saw more wildlife, even at the lodge! We



have many good pictures we can share with you when we see you.

In September we planned our BLF travels for October, which included the BLF Board meetings in Wheaton. Many good things are happening in BLF.

1) We have a new cover on our New Testament. Besides paperback and hard cover editions, we now also have a pocket edition which is less expensive and is planned to be used for evangelism. There are also several other new titles. See www.blfusa.org.

2) BLF Europe and France for Christ leaders are redesigning the team experience. In the meantime, Russ was asked to bring a construction team to finish the remodeling projects that have been started, but not quite finished. Also a choir from San Diego Christian College asked to come as a team and also give concerts. Others have asked to go on a “regular” team in 2014. We haven’t set exact dates yet, but hope for dates in May and June. Neither the construction nor the regular team is full yet, so we’re still looking for more team volunteers. Can you join us?

3) As we travel, we are beginning to visit Christian Colleges that offer a major in French, to present BLF to the professors. So far they are happy to see the quality and titles of BLF books. Many of these schools have a study abroad program. They are interested in discussing how we can work together for the profit of their students, especially those who’ll be missionaries in French-speaking places.

Ron & Shannon

The government shut down has effected work at the embassy and AFRICOM. The ripple effect is still being felt. It is very difficult to re-invigorate programs that came to a stand still while Congress took their time coming to a temporary budget agreement. Additionally, Ron and Shannon are still not authorized to travel to the US for the holiday season. It is not clear if funds will be available.

After living overseas for eight years, they hope to move back to the US in the summer of 2014. But, again, assignments are delayed because of the shut down and a slashed budget.

The girls are doing great and enjoyed their first Halloween!



Laina is a spooky bat.



Kira is a creepy spider.

Jon & Heather

Jon and Heather returned to DRC November 1st



as a family of four. Jazira Niara was born in Nairobi Kenya on October 3rd. In Arabic, Jazira means island, however in Hebrew it means "One whom God brings back" and is referenced in 1 Chronicles 9:12 as

Jahzerah. Niara is Swahili for "With Utmost Purpose". After much time spent apart as a family due to health concerns during pregnancy, they are grateful to have a healthy baby and be together again in their home at Bunia. Jon has returned to work, Heather is settling into a routine with two little ones, and Jebel loves having a little sister.

Scott & Susan

Downings have been back in Chad over five months and God is working. Perhaps you remember the German family, Rudy and Barbara Noh, who helped Scott and Suze settle in to life in the Chadian desert, then Rudy was killed when a desert bus slammed into his car coming around a curve. Barbara and her children as well as her sister and children returned to Chad for a 10-day visit and stayed in Downings' guest house. Many friends came to visit and Barbara was able to share in depth what God has been teaching them over the years. It was a time of emotion and healing.

Two of Suze's friends recently said to her, "We've been watching the road you're on and we want to walk on it too!" Suze has spent many afternoons sharing with these women over the past seven years. They have been interested and have asked many questions, but never made a commitment until last week. We are rejoicing at this answer to prayer! Please join us in praying for growth and understanding as they continue to study the Book.



Scott is drilling wells again now that the roads are dry. Last week he drilled a well for a village whose people had to go a distance even to get dirty pond water! (see picture) Scott hit water at 37 meters, but drilled on to 54 meters and installed the casing. He'll return later to place the pump. A government agent has asked him to place pumps on four wells, dug by the Chinese, but never completed.



We praise and thank the Lord for each of you who prays for us and/or gives financially. We praise Him for keeping us healthy enough to continue traveling.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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