



My Thoughts

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed." 1Peter 4:13,14

As I sit down to write this, I am filled with regret that it has been so long since I last sent out a newsletter. It is so easy to fall into Satan's trap when we don't live up to our own expectations or the perceived expectations of others. I am truly blessed that the Lord has walked with me over the last few months and carried me on numerous occasions when my strength waned.

Elizabeth was in and out of the hospital from October 22 through November 8. They originally thought she had the contagious form of spinal meningitis. She ran a very high fever for ten days and her neck locked up. It was very frightening. The final prognosis was a very bad case of the h1n1 flu. She had to have four different spinal taps. The first two were done without any anthesia. It was also discovered that she had a fistula on her spine, an opening on an old scar, that was very serious and it had to be closed surgically.

The hospitals we encountered on our journey were horrifying. I tried to keep a diary of our experience and I will send it out later. For me, I learned that leaning on the Lord is very real. He gave me the peace not to be angry and the wisdom to be silent when I wanted to scream.

Volunteer News

When Elizabeth and I return to Namibia, we will be living by ourselves for the first time since we became a family. Miss Claire has returned to England and is preparing for her marriage to Ali in August. Thankfully Amanda will continue to help us in the afternoons. She was married On January 17, but will continue to teach and serve as headmistress for the pre-school.



We got to visit with Pastor Alice, who spent a month with us last summer, when she was in Orlando for a ministry training. We are excited that we will get to see Miss Lea from Germany the day

before we leave. She is coming to spend the month with Miss Sandy here in the US.

Aunt Sharon has returned for her yearly time in Namibia. She and Miss Juliana will be helping out at the school. Aunt Sharon also comes alongside the foster mommies,

We are looking forward to the annual team that comes from Boca Raton and a team of teachers that will be coming from New Hampshire. Both of these groups have been long-time supporters of the Children of Promise Ministry. Miss Jackie, a volunteer from New Hampshire, will return probably in late February or early March to spend a year with her Namibian foster family: Riaan, Smithley, Queen and Ismael.

Once again this year the volunteers that come thorough MVI will be individuals or very small groups. Now that Elizabeth and I are a family my focus has to be on her and hosting teams takes too much time and energy away from this blessing the Lord has given me.

Talitha Kumi News

In September I shared with you my excitement that we had two excellent Namibian teachers on staff. At that time it looked like we would move into the new year with them. Two days before we left Namibia in early December, we found out that one of our unmarried teachers was pregnant. This is a common happening in Namibia, but our policy does not allow us to continue to employ her. School has begun for TKCA with only llanda, our fourth grade teacher, in place. My first grade class is being taught in my absence by Miss LaToya. She is working on her lower primary credentials and will be my assitant when I return. The third grade class has a substitute. We are praying for a full time Namibian teacher. We do not have a second grade class as we did not have any ministry children in that grade for the 2011 school year.

This year there will be approximately 50 pre-school students and 23 primary students. We continue to operate on a provisional registration for grades 1-4. We continue to pray that we will have adequate sponsors for our foster children and enough community children to pay the Namibia teachers' salaries. We are also looking for elementary school teachers who the Lord will call to come and serve long-term with us.

Family News

Boniface joined Penine in the Oseri refugee camp in early October. Obtaining visa's to be out

of the camp had become a real problem and they felt called to minister in the camp. Elizabeth and I were very sad to see them go. We were able to see them right before we left for America, Their little girl, was born on November 22nd. She is a beautiful baby and they seem to be flourishing in their new surroundings.

Elizabeth successfully completed third grade and is looking forward to grade four. She has made remarkable progress in the two years she has been in school. When she came to me two years ago, she had just finished grade one. She continues to be filled with joy and excited about all the things that happen in her life. Her doctors' visits have gone well and she has a new prosthesis and is now walking with Canadian crutches. I expect her to be running and dancing in the years to come.



Our time in America has been fruitful and restful. Christmas was a time to see friends and enjoy family. We were able to spend the day



with Brenda and her three children at Miss Linda's home in Palm Coast. We had a wonderful time on a cruise that Miss Sandy arranged for us. We have taken care of various doctors' appointments. We have had the wonderful opportunity to go out-riding with my sister, Aunt Terrie. Elizabeth has become quite the horse woman. The President and CEO of Busch Gardens was on our flight down from New York. He provided a VIP tour of Busch Gardens for us that was over the top.

We return to Namibia on February 9th. We are both looking forward to the new school year.

Praises:

- Elizabeth is in excellent health.
- Baby Sarah, Penine and Boni's baby girl, is healthy.
- The lord continues to raise up the funds needed to support Talitha Kumi and the foster families of Children of Promise Ministries.
- The resilience that the children exhibit as their family support systems change.

Prayer Requests:

- That we, along with Brenda's family, will have safe travel home.

- That the Lord will continue to give me the wisdom and the strength I need to be a good mommy to Elizabeth.
- That the financial support needed to ensure that Talitha Kumi becomes self supporting will be provided.
- That the Lord will continue to mold me in His image and release me from any doubts I have that His perfect plan will be realized.

Ministry Support Information



Please consider supporting one of MVI's approved on-going ministries here in Namibia:

- **Pre-school Teacher Stipends
- **Feeding Centers (E-Pap for pre-schools)

Please make sure that you note the ministry you want to support by placing a posted note on the check. Tax-deductible contributions can be made through Missionary Ventures International by credit card or electronic transfer via the website, www.mvi.org or you can mail your checks to:

P.O. Box 593550 Orlando, FL 32839



All donations to MVI are given with the understanding that the organization has full discretion over the processing and distribution of the funds.

If you are sponsoring a child or would like to do so, send your check to His Promise Ministries, 1106 Old Mill Run, Deland, FL 32720. Be sure to include your child's name on a post-it note attached to the check. His Promise Ministries helps support Children of Promise Ministries Namibia and has been approved by the IRS as a 501c3 Nonprofit Charity and all donations are tax deductible.



Please plan to join us on Saturday, January 29th for a special Christians In Public Education Meeting From 10:00 to 12:00 Noon Community United Methodist Church 4921 U.S. Highway 17-92 South Casselberry, FL 32707