

The Vennell-a Scoop

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Christmas 2005

Dear Family and Friends,

As we approach this time of the year it seems as though our hearts are somewhat weakened by the desperation of others. I know for most of you it is tough to hear of a family who might have lost everything due to a house fire or the unfortunate automobile accident that claims a life. We, too, are affected by the desperation around us.

I started this letter already once and was describing some of the desperation that we are seeing here in Lesotho. I have decided that I will wait for the next newsletter to go into detail, but for now I wanted to let you know that it is this desperation that drives us as missionaries. The desperation of a world without Christ or a world that is dying of HIV/AIDS at a rate of 4 in 10 people should be enough to drive us all. It is for these people that our Lord sent His only Son to be born in a manger. He was sent so that all may know Him and the Power of His Saving Grace.

Through the ministry of MAF we are able to live here in Africa and take this Good News to a world that is desperate. It is through your prayers and ministry support that we can continue! We want to take this chance to thank you so much for your partnership in our ministry. Without your love, prayers, and support, what we do would not be possible. We think of you quite often, especially during Christmas time.

During our early years of marriage, Tonya and I were able to visit both her family and mine each year during the holidays. With her working as a teacher, and me a student at Moody, we always had a Winter break. I have to say that I miss those breaks. We find now that, as a family, probably the most difficult part of living overseas is not having as much contact with family and friends. This brings me to a favor I have to ask of each of you.

I will give you a little background first. Back in March of this year I happened upon some marked down, artificial Christmas trees. I bought one and for the first time since being overseas, we had our very own tree. The only problem was that in March there were not a lot of ornaments to come by so we were afraid that as we came to Christmas this year our tree would be quite empty of decoration. So Tonya's folks asked the members of their church to bring ornaments, with little notes of importance and even family pictures, to them so they could bring them over to us. They brought them in April and we are so excited to put these ornaments from our supporters and friends on our tree this year.

We are wondering if you would be willing to do the same for us this year before you pack up your Christmas ornaments. We would be honored if you had a favorite ornament with its meaning to you and your family along with maybe a family picture that you could send to us for our next Christmas. I think it would be very special to decorate our Christmas tree with things that come from people who love us and lift us up in prayer. If you would be interested in doing this you can send your ornament to us airmail at the address listed below.

As I close, we want to thank you again for all the love you bestow on us and for the prayers that you offer on our behalf. We pray that as you come face to face with desperation during this Christmas season, you will act. God calls us all to take care of those in need. We do it here in Africa and you do it back home! We pray the Lord's blessings on you and your family this Christmas!

With much love,

Tim, Tonya, Lauren, Lydia, Natalie, and Courtney

Ornaments, letters or personal gifts send airmail to:

Tim and Tonya Vennell
MAF-Lesotho
PO Box 931
Ladybrand 9745
South Africa

Support address:

Mission Aviation Fellowship
PO Box 3202
Redlands, CA 92373-0998
Noted for the Vennell's

Family pictures and MAF information:
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