

The Vennell-a Scoop



Mission
Aviation
Fellowship

October 2008

2008: A Year of Changes

For many of you this year has brought changes and variety to your life like no other. We are not at all an exception. This year has been marked with major changes and it is high time that I told you about some of the most important ones. First of all, we had 5 beautiful kids turn a year older. I suppose that mom and dad also gained a year, but let's not talk about the upcoming 4th decade.

Probably the greatest, and most unexpected change is our recent departure from the Lesotho program. Yes, that is right, there were some major changes to the program and as a result our family was asked to come home on a furlough in late August. At the end of furlough, which will be concluding in

I have to admit that leaving Lesotho was one of the most difficult events that our family has gone through. I know you might find this strange, but our family loved almost everything there was to love about where we lived. Yes, there were the crazy third-world things that we did **not** enjoy all the time, like 3 hours less electricity on a daily basis, or the grocery stores not having what it was that we needed in the time frame that we ex-



Baylor College of Medicine has 11 pediatricians working in Lesotho and here the kids are with Dr. Kathy on our last day in Lesotho. Kathy is from Houston.

December, I will be spending the entire next year working on a Master's degree in Strategic Leadership that I have already begun.

What about Lesotho?



pected, but we really loved the work that was going on. I would ask that you pray for the work of MAF in this great country. We had the wonderful privilege of working with such great organizations as Baylor Col-

This decision was not our initial desire, but we can see the Lord's working in some of the details that have allowed the transition to not be so difficult. This means that for about 14 months we will be staying in "America" as the girls refer to it. We will be basing out of Spearfish, SD, and you are welcome to come and visit at anytime.

I will spend the next year learning and growing through this Masters course and I hope to be able to bring some fresh ideas back into the organization at the end of the studies. I have always had a heart for leadership and this will allow me a chance to fine tune my strengths, but better yet, to hone up on my many weaknesses.

lege of Medicine, and Partner's in Health. The passion that these doctors have to treat the sick in Lesotho was contagious and inspiring. In a world where 3.5 people die every hour from HIV/AIDS, it was a joy to work with doctors and support staff who wanted to make a difference. We pray that God will continue to keep the door open to serve the medical needs of the mountains as well as open up the hearts of the people to receive the Gospel.

MAF Changes

Some of you may not have known this but there are many branches of MAF around the world. We have an Australian branch, a South African one, one from the UK, one from Holland, Germany, Switzerland, USA and so forth and so on. Well this year all of these MAF organizations are becoming one and it will be called MAF International.

The transition has already begun

with a new President having been chosen and started in September. Ron Pritz, will have the awesome task of creating vision and unity strategies for the many different cultures now represented in our MAF world.

As the organization begins the long transition this could not be a better time for me to be studying about Strategic Leadership.

We ask that you pray for MAF and the leadership as they try to bring together the different operations and practices with hopes of finding the BEST practices. The goal is that with unified strategy and focus, more lives will be reached with the Gospel and the resources that advance God's Kingdom.



Traig and Laura Friedrich (above) came over to install satellite communications at many of the mountain clinics. Here he is drinking an ever cherished root beer float. Made with syrup from a friend in "America".

(Below) We were all celebrating Tonya's birthday. And from the looks of the cake to the right that was a hot fire.



Alan and Babs Dial (above) are missionaries serving in the mountains with the Southern Baptists and were great friends of ours. (Below) Peter and Carrie Koens were in Lesotho for a short time and were a great help when it came time to pack up and come home.



Support address:
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Schedule:

- Oct 15-Nov 3- Amarillo, TX
 - Nov 4-6 Round Rock and San Antonio
 - Nov 7-10 Houston, TX
 - Nov 14-17 Amarillo, TX
 - Nov 19- Dec 26 Spearfish, Rapid City, SD area
 - Dec 27-Jan 4 Amarillo
- More areas to come later. If you are in one of these places please call or email us so that we can get together:

We want to thank all of you for praying for us like you do. I know that through all that happened over the last year, we could not have made it without your support and prayer. Please continue to pray for us when you think of us! We hope to see many of you very soon!

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Blessings,
Jim and Tonya