

August 25, 2007

## Landing in Texas

There's another "Malachi" in Malachi's second grade class. I wouldn't have expected another one in his whole elementary school, so when we asked ? and ? Hall their son's name, we were quite surprised. The two boys hit is off well while we filled in forms Thursday night at "Meet the Teacher." Mrs. DuBois (pronounce the "s") will be teaching Malachi this fall. Cars were lined up on both sides of several streets for a few blocks out from Nance Elementary. Though it was built only two years ago, it is already more overbooked than an American Airlines flight.

The hundreds of parents and kids overwhelmed Malachi, and he clung to both our hands. He's used to a school of 21 students from pre-school up to 10th grade. We are hoping that this fall and future furlough experiences will minimize the difficulty of re-entry shock whenever we do return to the States. We were blessed this Thursday with Libby Hall, the office manager at Nance. She had given us a tour three weeks ago and remembered Malachi. In the midst of the demands, she dropped everything to take Malachi by the hand, walk him to his class, and introduce him personally to his teacher.

The night before we participated in a special prayer service at Richland Hills for all those working in education in the Metroplex. Bob Griggs gave addressed those gathered to pray, and Nikka Maples shared a moving testimony of how God uses teachers to illustrate Christ in the schools, whether they are allowed to speak the name, Jesus, or not. We are already praying for our kids' educational experience this fall and invite you to join us.

On Friday, we ate dinner with our very good friends: Keith & Lana Shelton and Todd & Sherry Atnip. Keith grilled chicken, and Lana baked a Texas Sheet Cake (it has cinnamon mixed into the chocolate). Both families have been great encouragers of our family for many years.

We began the week in Newcomerstown, Ohio, winding up our visit to Laura's uncles, aunts, and cousins. Memorable highlights of our last two days included riding in Uncle Walt's 1931 Chevy (and playing on his other big toys: a golf cart, a back-hoe/front end

loader, and a bulldozer), seeing the house where Laura's mom grew up, and having a last play day with the cousins.

Now we're ready to settle into a schedule in Fort Worth and begin working on our objectives for this furlough. I've commandeered a cubicle up at the church office and look forward to developing a support network for the construction and opening of Messiah Theological University back in Uganda. After almost a decade of ministry, the time is right for taking our work to the next level and adding a significant new project to equip and prepare Africans to evangelize their own nations. Pray with us!

You know you are a furloughing missionary when:

You can't find your blue dress socks on Sunday morning, but those handy airline foot warmers come to mind as a suitable stand-in. (Yes, I really did wear them to church.)

Your kids are confused as to how cartoons play on the television even when there is no DVD in the machine.

You're outside on a clear day and your kids say, "Oh no! It's about to rain." But it's not thunder; it's just one jet after another flying overhead.

## Schedule Update

Aug 23–Dec 25

- Based in Fort Worth, lots of travel out for reporting and fundraising

Aug 28

- Malachi's school starts (Israel and Annalise will be in preschool)

Sept 10

- Harmony Project, International meeting

Sept 23

- College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado, AR (Phillip only)

Sept 30

- Heritage Church of Christ in Fort Worth, TX

Oct 1–Nov 10

- At RHCC in preparation for Harvest Sunday

Oct 7

- College Church of Christ in Searcy, AR

Oct 14

- Fortress Church of Christ (afternoon and evening)

Oct 24

- Harvest Summit

Nov 10

- Harvest Dinner

Nov 11

- Harvest Sunday

Dec 26–Jan 4

- In Searcy for holidays and packing up

Jan 5

- Fly back to Uganda

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