

## Furlough 2007

Monday morning we were swimming in the Indian Ocean; Tuesday night we were munching Big Macs in Arkansas. Such is the blessing and burden of modern air travel—forty hours, four airplanes, and I can't remember how many x-ray machines.

In the past few days, we've been blessed with chances to visit several dear friends: Bret and Johnna Raymond, Eloise Muncy, Mona Lee Garner, Maurice and Lois Lawson, Don and Dion Diffine, and several others we've run into in town or on the Harding campus. I've had a chance to go with my father-in-law to drink coffee with the guys at Hardees. Mostly, we've been alternating between recuperating from travel and sorting through boxes of clothes and stuff we left behind last furlough.

Extreme exhaustion always makes me philosophical, so here are a few of my musings on beginning our fourth furlough.

You know you are a furloughing missionary when...

...you drive to the City Park and play for half an hour before realizing that your children are the only ones not wearing shoes.

...your four-year-old son sees a bushy tail in a tree outside and says, "It's either a monkey or a squirrel."

...as you rush through a busy airport, you drag your gawking kids away from the automatic doors and say, "Come on! I'll explain the doors later!"

...your wife has to drag her gawking husband away from the free wireless internet in the Little Rock Airport as you mutter over and over, "It's just so fast!"

...you have to explain to your almost three-year-old, "No, that's not a playground, that's just our neighbor's yard."

...you think all the new cars look like spaceships.

## Schedule

There are still many visits and events to put on the calendar, but here is an outline of our furlough schedule. Please pray for us as we adjust to America for five months, travel to report on the work, raise funds for ministries and Messiah International University, and do the myriad other tasks that arise along the way.

July 24

- Arrive in Little Rock

July 25–30

- Visit the College Church and Laura's family in Searcy, get over jet lag

July 31

- Drive to Fort Worth

Aug 1–3

- Register Malachi for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Nance Elementary, several meetings

Aug 4–12

- In Colorado visiting Phillip's sisters

Aug 13–22

- In Ohio visiting Laura's extended family

Aug 23–Dec 25

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

Dec 26–Jan 4

- In Searcy for holidays and packing up

Jan 5

- Fly back to Uganda

Other important dates:

Aug 28

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

Sept 23

- Heritage Church of Christ in Fort Worth, TX

Sept 30

- College Avenue Church of Christ in El Dorado, AR