

Sept 25, 2021

Dear Kids (*& any others who care to read some family news J*),

Yes, it's really me, back to writing my *dear mom letters*. Being in the states and in a similar time zone as each of you kids is one of the perks of home assignment! Our first month of travel & seeing family and getting a chance to hug you guys & our grandkids was so beyond wonderful.

The missionary home here in western NY is an answer to our prayers. It's so accommodating, fully furnished, quiet & a real gift of love from our Grace Bible church friends. Our house backs up to '18 Mile Creek. On a rainy night we often hear the sound of the '18 Mile Creek' waters rushing toward Lake Ontario. It reminds us of our Papua New Guinea village home on a rainy night. There we often lay in bed & listen to the 'Gira river' at flood stage rushing through the jungle on its windy path out to the Pacific Ocean.

Yum, it's the apple season in this corner of NY. After sending off this letter I'm hoping to make some delicious applesauce! We may be in rural NY but there's always something happening. We've visited Niagara Falls twice already, walking on the USA side & through Goat Island, feeling the spray & midst of millions of gallons of water pouring over the top. I even stuck my toes in the raging Niagara River headed down to the falls. It's a wonderful testimony of God's creative power.

The 'Wild Game' dinner, hosted by our church next door, was a hit. It was my first time to attend & truly an experience, even though I could never shoot an animal! Local hunters & fishermen came to enjoy a 5 course meal (venison, salmon, fish, goose, alligator gumbo), followed by an evangelistic message where 13 people raised their hands expressing a desire to receive Christ as Savior.

We feel a little overwhelmed realizing what's ahead as we are scheduled to speak in 30 some churches & visit close to 60 individual partners and friends all over the USA. Our 3 weeks-Oklahoma road trip had its hic-ups along the way, hic-up#1, with you guys in NE dealing with Covid. Sorry we cut our visit short & stayed in a hotel instead of your home. Keeping distance & not hugging our 4 grand kids was rough. I doubt if little Mani & Millie really understood why we couldn't hold & hug them. (I promise to somehow make it up to themJ.) On our way out of Oklahoma we had to stop an extra day (hic-up#2) for a required oil change. The Lord helped us get back on schedule and we were able to see the Creation Museum & Ark in Kentucky. It was something to see just how big the actual Noah's Ark must have been.

Our next road trip takes us south to TN, down to FL & back again to western NY on a 2 ½ week road drive. We are seeing some amazing people & making such good memories along the way. What a privilege to spend time with our partners in their home areas. These friends are a very special part of the Binandere Bible Translation work and have prayed & supported us for many years. In December we are scheduled to travel much farther west to AZ & TX. Those locations will require flying & car rental along the way.

The biggest challenge we battle on furlough is 'a lack of routine'. God is good to give us space to breathe in between trips. We are praying that our pre-scheduled Sunday speaking here in western NY will not be complicated with covid cancellations. This has been the case with one of our supporting churches & we are scrambling to work out another date in our already packed schedule.

I'm praying for God's protection for you kids & our grandkids each day. Praise God that little Millie is out of the hospital & recovering from Covid just days before her 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. And thanking God for sending Isla's guardian angel to catch her on the 15 feet fall out the kitchen window down into the sand pit (... looking for a moose). I pray continually that God will give your families work so you can eat & pay the bills. Praise God that Brady was hired for a full time teaching job this fall there in AK. So grateful for Jonita & Icey who are spending several months out in Nebraska helping Justin/Kelsie at the Danish Bakery & working to remodel J/K family's house. How awesome if Justin's family could move in by spring! (I think you two are wonderful to help your big brother in this way.) Proud of you all & asking God to strengthen you in your faith & love for Him.

Love & Prayers,

MOM