

Dear friends and family, greetings and many thanks for your prayers, words of encouragement and gifts of support. As you can see, it is 9 PM. I'll be boarding the plane bound for Raleigh-Durham in just about 10 hours to begin the 36 hour, five flight trip to Entebbe Airport. What an incredible privilege and joy it is to be able to return to Uganda and I am looking forward to sharing some of the highlights of the mission with you via email and digital photography.

My next communication will probably be in two weeks, during the stopover in Kampala on the 15th through the 17th. Also, during that stop, I hope to spend some time with the Turumanya children, many of whom live in Kampala.

Preparations have gone very well, thanks to my stalwart and very thorough packmaster and helpmate, Brenda. Please keep her in your prayers. She'll have her hands full while I'm gone, with our son, Jim, now back home, Laura Carpenter's good friend Divetta, a new guest with us for a few weeks (as she transitions from life in Chicago to life in Grand Rapids), our foster daughter, Amir, AND our friend Richard Blaine with his two toddler children.

I am looking forward to meeting the Grace Community Church Team tomorrow morning. Pray for me that I will find the place God has made for me among this group and that I serve among them faithfully, patiently and humbly.

I had a slight mishap as I was packing today. While cutting the plastic security label off a new pair of bifocals, I managed to cut a finger on my left hand -badly enough to need stitches. The doctor was very encouraging about my not being concerned about travel to Uganda with a fresh wound - but quick healing with no infection will be key. Especially in regard to my usefulness on the Construction Team. Please pray that I will be more vigilant. There IS an enemy seeking our confusion, discouragement, hurt and destruction. It was a moment of haste and inattention that led to this cut.

May you all enjoy God's favor on your family life and work during the weeks ahead. Again, thanks for love, prayers, encouragement and support.

In His love and service,

Bob