

Dear friends and family,

We wish you God's richest blessings during the weeks ahead. As you give, may you find your burdens lightened and as you receive, may your hearts be encouraged. And through it all, may the grace and peace of Christ prove once again to you and your family that He is our Lord Christ Immanuel!

We are greatly rejoicing in His love, healing grace, guidance and providential care as we move closer to the time of departure for Uganda. First, good news about my feet; we know many of you have been praying for me since my accident - already six weeks ago! Healing and rehab progress has been steady and pretty fast. Yesterday, I was x-rayed and declared fit for walking on both feet again! I didn't waste time questioning, but walked out of the doctors office with both feet carrying their own weight (well, my left foot did need a little favoring from my right one, which is much further along in healing and practice at walking). And, once home and moving about, I resorted to a cane. Yes, a cane.

But what a joy. I began some specialized phys. therapy at the Y this morning, including my favorite - swimming. It was so, so good to be swimming again and I truly believe my feet will be hastened toward full recovery through that wonderful form of exercise.

And another praise to God! Our big old Home Street Home is sold - or more accurately - traded to Senez and Sheri Rodriguez, long-time friends and members of our church, people much given to offering shelter and hospitality to strangers and needy people; who, in fact, are just now finalizing adoption of their youngest son (of four) Sheldon, who hails from Haiti. They also have a young foreign exchange student till June, who makes it five boys, now living in what is essentially a one-bath, two bedroom home with a den.

Their house is very nice, well-built and all on one floor - just what we are looking for as a retirement home - but not nearly adequate to the needs of five sons. It is in a more expensive neighborhood than ours and so the two houses have almost identical equalized values in the state appraisal records. Although financial stuff requires that we each buy and sell, it is essentially an equal trade that will serve both families well. We hope to be able to get the move accomplished by the end of the first week in January. Please pray for grace, good health and quick agreement on financial details, especially for the Rodriguez family, who are hastening with this arrangement to accommodate our scheduled departure for Uganda.

And pray for Brenda, who is in excellent spirits and good health. She is very methodically packing, discarding, giving, and in general mercilessly reducing our worldly goods to manageable proportions for the coming moves, both to our new house here and the one in Uganda. She is also on a tear (and has me working on it, too, in my less than much-to-offer state) to prepare this house for the Roderiguez family - painting, cleaning, rug shampooing, etc. We have never left a place messy and she's not likely to start now. What I can do in support, and do fairly well, is cook, write emails, make out applications, return phone calls and convey messages - oh, and give massages, too.

We're both tired at night and ready for sleep, but full of joy and thanksgiving. In the paradox of God's blessings, I told a friend recently, we are enjoying life - and each other - more since the accident than ever before. There may be something of relief at work, too, since our Home Street Home is an empty nest - no guests or children at all - for the first time in nearly ten years!

Our son, Jim, who himself has twice visited Uganda, is doing well - going to college, living with a couple of bachelors (when he's not with his girlfriend) and working on a new business opportunity. He is glad we are going, but we will sure miss each other. We've really been enjoying many good times with him. He is rapidly maturing into a delightful young man - very helpful and encouraging to us whenever we can extricate him from his busy schedule.

We just received an email from Rev. James Adyeeri, who reports that 22 students will graduate and receive certificates of study THIS WEEK! There follows a long Christmas break for the school. In January, Rev. James expects an intake of 40 to 50 new students, which will represent a nearly 25% increase in total enrollment. This is both exciting and challenging, since we know how limited facilities, equipment and supplies are at the school. But there is no lack of FAITH! So, please join us in helping make this little school a big winner for the students and faculty whose lives we will be privileged to touch. He and his wife, Aidah, send their greetings and thanks to all of you.

We continue to be blessed financially, but have a long way to go to meet our goals for a new truck, laptop computer(s), propane refrigerator and the means to help finish and furnish the new KIBBUSE classroom building. We're edging up toward \$20,000, but would like to have at least \$35,000 in the bank before departure. If you have hoped or intended to invest in this work, we invite your response at this time. It will be good for your 2007 tax return and even better for KIBBUSE.

Remember to make your check out to "Christ Church at Grove Farm," and annotate it "ENCOUNTER UGANDA" at the lower left corner or on an attached note. If you've already given, thanks so much. We are excited as we move ahead - and very grateful for the large number of partners already praying (and paying) toward helping KIBBUSE students grow, learn and thrive (and the Schuylers survive!)

We hope, pray and trust you will all have a joyous, abundantly blessed Christmas and New Year. We'll write once more in January - then we're on our way!

With love,

Bob and Brenda

P.S . I (Bob) am working on a blogspot. Right now it's not looking very good. I have to figure out the way to effectively format, properly title and identify it. You will find it if you google "Kibbuse", but you'll just see my text and pictures. No mention of our names. Pray I get it straightened out soon!