

Dear Friends and Family, warmest greetings and happy New Year!

Brenda and I want to express our thanks to you all and our hope that you, like us, have enjoyed a joyful, peaceful, family-full Christmas holiday. Last weekend, we traveled to Erie with our son, Jim, to share in a family reunion at my younger brother Stan's home. He and his wife Karen welcomed a couple of dozen Schuylers and close friends for a deliciously pleasant Christmas party, complete with a wide variety of finger and bowl foods, refreshing drinks, good conversations and warm embraces. It was one of the best family gatherings in years and especially sweet for Brenda and me as we prepare for the Uganda chapter of our lives, which will take us so far away. We will visit Brenda's brother in Virginia and sister in Florida next week.

We had an especially good time with Jim on the way up and back. He entertained (and occasionally - and gently - challenged) us with stimulating conversations on a number of topics ranging from politics to money to Christian spirituality to generational conflicts to human sexuality, keeping me from wallowing in the discomfort of my hernia surgery incision, just three days old. He had a great time with his cousins and uncles and it was a joy to watch and listen to him interact with family as an actual adult. He's far from fully formed, but he's made great strides in the last couple of years and is a very skillful communicator.

We're also praising God for my quick recovery from the hernia surgery last Wednesday. It is now a little over a week and I have regained almost full flexibility. Now I just have to resist picking up anything heavier than ten pound for the next six day (no easy task for me as we continue to pack and organize our household stuff)! I have been most fortunate, as my body has been more severely tested this past half-year than ever before in my life. It appears now that both Brenda and I have been thoroughly tested, examined, poked with needles, prodded, sliced, braced, rehabbed, etc. - and finally declared healthy enough to move on to the airlines! Thank you all for your prayers for us. We have been buoyed up throughout all this by God's Spirit and have found ourselves growing more and more confident as we move forward with this new call on our lives.

We have not yet booked our flight to Uganda, however, because we have been unable to make firm plans for the disposition of our house. We are still hoping to depart before the end of January. Please pray for confirmation in discussions we are having with a student leader and the housing coordinator for Calvin Seminary, who would like to rent the house for seminarians who wish to live and minister in the inner city. We have a meeting with them on Monday. We are praying for a clear plan and firm enough commitment to enable us to book our passage with confidence.

As soon as we have finalized our reservations, we'll send a final email. Our trip next week will take us to Gaithersburg, MD, Fairfax, VA (Church of the Apostles, where we were married), Ashburn, VA and Tavares, FL. We are looking forward to meeting John Booth while in Florida. John and his wife have been generously supporting Kibbuse for a

number of years. We return to Grand Rapids on the 12th, in time for our Madison Square "send-off" on the 13th.

We hope as many of you as live in the area will join us for Madison's evening service, at 6 PM on Sunday the 13th, which will be largely dedicated to our mission to the Kibbuse Vocational School in Nyamarwa. We'll show a part of our DVD about the school, share about our hopes for service there, the jobs we anticipate doing and our hopes for discipling and mentoring students and other staff members. Madison's elders will pray for us and commission us as ambassadors for Christ to the people of Nyamarwa. We would be so blessed if you can come.

Many of you have made contributions and we thank you so much. We've received a couple of comments and two checks from people who couldn't find the address for Christ Church and other information for making gifts in recent emails. Since this is the last chance for gifts to be made during 2007, I don't want anyone to be hindered. Please make checks out to "Christ Church at Grove Farm" and annotate them "Kibbuse-BBS". Send them to:

Eileen Hodgetts  
Christ Church at Grove Farm  
249 Duff Road  
Sewickley, PA 15143

Hope to see many of you on the 13th at Madison Square. To all of you, Brenda and I want to declare our hope and trust that you will be blessed with peace, joy, good health, ample provision and fruitful activity throughout the new year.

Blessings and grace, in His love,

Bob and Brenda