

Dear Friends and Family, greetings and happy new year!

Just before Christmas we were given information from the Christian Reformed Partners International organization about a US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs grant opportunity. A review of the prospectus has convinced us and the Encounter Uganda leadership that the grant is targeted perfectly to accommodate some of the short and long range goals we have had for the Kibbuse Vocational Center.

Therefore, we are delaying our departure long enough for me to put together a rather long and detailed Grant Application and have it to the BECA office by Feb. 15th. Please join us in praying for God's wisdom, favor and guidance as I do this.

Sandwiched in the middle of this endeavor, we are taking an already planned trip to Pittsburgh, Washington DC and Tavares, Florida for both mission support and family visits. In Sewickley, we'll attend the Encounter Uganda 2008 Team meeting on the 3rd. Then we'll spend a day of planning and discussions about the BECA grant with Graham and Eileen Hodgetts.

... Please pray for our health and stamina. We're really looking forward to the trip because of the wonderful people we'll be seeing (some for the first time in years), and we're in good health - we'll just take each day as it comes.

Thank you for prayers for my recovery from hernia surgery (two weeks ago tomorrow). It went well and the recovery has been normal. Because it was a minor hernia, I have been given permission to live and lift normally (within reason) as of this weekend. My legs and feet are almost normal again, though they get stiff if I sit around too much (something I don't have to worry much about for the next ten days!).

...We sincerely thank all of you for your prayer support and encouragement throughout 2007 and especially since I was injured. And thank all of you who were led to support us and the Kibbuse School financially. Oh, on a financial note, we just found that we cannot get coverage for prescription drugs on our Medicare Plans unless we are resident in this country at least six months of any calendar year. This is no problem for me, because I am fortunate enough right now to not need any prescriptions. But for Brenda, this has come as a major shock and dilemma, because we have found that if we were to order her prescriptions and have them shipped overseas, it would cost us nearly \$8,700 plus shipping for the two years. Please pray we find a solution to this problem and financial resources to meet whatever can be worked out.

No matter. We're getting excited, folks. Not long now, and we'll be in Uganda working with a bunch of young people again. We are humbled and a bit intimidated at the prospect, but confident that where the Lord calls us, He will give us wisdom and strength to fulfill His purpose. We know that we're likely to experience emotional swings and be much tempted to anxiety about various things. Additionally, we're likely to encounter more intense spiritual warfare as we move closer to embarking. Your prayer covering

will always be important to us, but we will be especially blessed to know your are interceding during the next six weeks.

Finally, thank you to all who have sent encouraging emails in response to my prayer letters. Please feel free to share your own prayer requests. Brenda and I pray at length each morning and will be happy to include you and whatever need you share.

Blessings and love, in His service,

Bob and Brenda