

We find it hard to believe that already three months of 2004 have passed. I have been meaning to send an update for several weeks, but I know you all can identify with the busyness of life that we've been experiencing, and suddenly it is April. Since our trip to Tanzania last fall, God has directed our steps and things have been changing quickly in our lives.

During our five weeks in Tanzania, God began revealing His plans for our involvement with the International Evangelism Outreach ministry, which had previously been somewhat hazy even though we

believed we were called to be a part of the mission. Before we returned to America, Dave knew he wanted to help with plans and implementation of a ministry airport that will allow the mission to take evangelists, Bibles, and medical supplies to remote areas of East Africa. The airport will also be available for other ministries and missionaries to use, and it will facilitate travel to the more than 1,000 churches planted by graduates of International Evangelism Center in Tanzania. Currently the preliminary plans are in the final stages of the government's approval process.

We sincerely thank all of you for your faithful love, prayers, and financial support, each as the Lord has guided you to pray, support, and give. As of the end of February, the financial gifts we had received were enough to cover all of our travel and ministry expenses for our September-November, 2003 mission trip to Tanzania! As of this writing, we have received an additional \$600 toward our next trip. We praise the Lord, and we thank Him so much for you. He is so good!

Why Tulsa?

We enjoyed the two years we spent in Oklahoma during Dave's military career, but we never imagined we'd be back, especially not in an unfamiliar part of the state. The Lord had other plans, and what an adventure we're having discovering some of His reasons!

Within a few weeks after our return from Africa, God began putting together pieces of the puzzle. It didn't take long to see that if the village of Sakila, Tanzania is going to have an airport and airplanes, it will also need pilots and aircraft mechanics. Dave has always enjoyed anything to do with flying, and he has a great mind for figuring out how and why things work. We started researching aviation and aircraft mechanic training programs around the country but became confused by the options and disheartened by the costs of some of the better schools.

Around the beginning of December, a few people at different times mentioned that we should look into Tulsa's schools. We brushed it off at first because we had looked in the

area of Oklahoma where we previously lived and didn't find any options there. We had no reason to want to move to any other area of Oklahoma and hoped to be somewhere close to friends and/or family.

I remember Dave saying, "Why would we look into Tulsa? The only reason we would move back to Oklahoma would be for Riverside, and there aren't any schools in that area." (You may remember that Riverside is the name of our church in Norman, Oklahoma that has been accepting donations for us.) I also recall a slight sinking feeling in my stomach and the thought *Never say never* running through my mind.

The next time Dave prayed about where we should go, the small, still voice of the Holy Spirit said, "Tulsa." He asked me to pray in earnest that day about where we should go, but I didn't feel I could say anything for certain by that afternoon. Dave decided to start researching Tulsa's schools on the Internet, and the first one he found was Riverside Campus at Tulsa Technology Center. It is one of the

best schools around but by far the least expensive we had seen as it is state-supported through Oklahoma State University. We were on our way to Tulsa.

We spent about 24 hours in the area to check out apartments and jobs before we drove straight through to Florida to visit our friends there one last time before settling down. We found an apartment that allows pets of any size half a mile from the school and airport, and we were excited to be able to bring our dog back from Florida with us.

Prayer Requests

* Provision for a trip to Tanzania this August (airfare \$3,000; room & board \$200)

* Favor and a good memory for Dave in his upcoming aviation knowledge competition

* A church family and ministry opportunities for us in Tulsa

God's Provision

We moved to Tulsa January 3rd. Of all the resumes and job applications I had sent out, I only got one response for an interview before we actually moved here. I had the interview two days after we moved. Although I was initially told the company would not be ready to hire for two or three weeks, "somehow" that changed in the few days following my first interview. I was chosen out of 27 applicants as one of the final three to return for a second round of interviews, and exactly one week after my first interview, I started my new job. I'm told it may have been the quickest hiring in the 87-year history of the company.

I have now been the publications coordinator at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for three months. I enjoy the job and love the people. I was a little concerned because the salary wasn't what we had hoped for, but the signs that I belonged there were obvious. I soon saw that I had more catching up to do than what could be accomplished in 40 hours a week, so I was able to work quite a bit of overtime during my first two and a half months. Thanks to a friend I used to work with in Norman, I am also doing some freelance writing and editing on the side.



Crystal and Rogathe

School Days

Dave is doing very well in school. He has met several believers and some other students who are interested in missionary aviation. At the end of this month he will compete in a state-level competition for his program, Airframe and Powerplant systems. Most of what he'll be tested on won't be covered in class until later this year or even next year, so he's staying late after school and studying extra at home. If he places in the top three, he will get a \$1,500 scholarship. If he places first, he will go to a national competition. He'll also be able to compete next year (after he has actually learned the material in class), so this will be great experience.

Dave hopes to resume training for his pilot's license next month. A fellow classmate who is also an instructor has offered to teach him at no charge, so he will only pay airplane usage and rental fees.

Returning to Tanzania

Every day I ask myself, "How could I have doubted that the Lord would direct us and provide for us?" It has certainly become easier to trust Him as He has come through for us time and time again throughout this journey, but we also know there are tests and trials ahead.

We have been requested to perform the honor of being best man and matron of honor in the wedding of our Tanzanian friends Brighton and Rogathe this August. They set the wedding date before we knew Dave's school schedule. It just "happened" that his summer break this year falls during the week immediately preceding the wedding date they chose.

We see this not only as an opportunity to be in a wedding but also as a chance to touch bases with



Dave and Brighton

the friends and contacts we made in Tanzania and be involved with the planning process of the airport. I continue to study Swahili almost daily and hope to be able to do more interactive ministry and to talk with natives even more than I did last time. We weren't certain how long it would be before we returned, but we don't want to wait so long that the work we did and friendships we built will have been forgotten. We would like to be able to pick up where we left off.

Dave finishes school in June of next year. We don't know what the Lord's plans are for us after that. We hope to be able to build a house in Tanzania and spend much of the rest of our lives there, but we only want to move forward in God's timing. We know we are where He wants us right now, and that is enough for today.

Thank you again for your time, love, and prayers. Please stay in touch. Let us know how we can pray for you, too! n

In Christ,
Crystal and David

Check out our Web site:
www.geocities.com/crystallizing
Our friend and Web master has uploaded new photos, all of our newsletters, and e-mails from our trip to Tanzania. Please stop by and sign our guest book!