

March 5, 2007

Hello from Sunny Manitoba.

Yes, we are still in Manitoba. Joshua's paperwork has still not been processed by the US Embassy in Canada. This week we finally decided to put on a little extra pressure and contacted US Senator John Thune's office in South Dakota. They listened to our story and readily agreed to see what they could do to speed things along. Senator Thune goes to Lisa's brother's church (North American Baptist - NAB). It just so happens that the church we cooperate with in Cameroon was established by NAB. In fact our home school program, hostel and annual spiritual retreat are all done with the NAB and also the BGC (Baptist General Conference) missionaries. We are hoping that these connections will help Senator Thune's staff to better advocate for us with the US Embassy here in Canada. In any case, keep praying that Joshua's paperwork could be completed shortly. It has been hard to live life not knowing what country we will be in in 2 weeks time!

We recently got an encouraging email from Cameroon. It was from the veteran Swiss missionary nurse who nursed Joshua back to health and first encouraged the family to consider adoption. I'd like to insert a quote from the email that was a huge encouragement to us (Fatu is Joshua's blood grandmother who cared for him when Joshua's mother died. Swaibu was Joshua's given name - we've retained it as his middle name. At the time of the adoption, Joshua's family was not very excited about us changing his name).

"A few days ago old Fatu turned up at my house with a big smile. It was perfect timing to give her the latest news from Swaibu..... and to my own surprise, she herself said: he is now called Joshua! I also told her about the skin problem and she seems very grateful that the little boy is now with you. She repeated once more that she is happy that "she gave the boy to me and I gave the child to you". (you remember the complicated stories.....) She also told me how happy she is with the picture you had sent to me when still in Switzerland. In fact, everybody loves that picture Joshua looks so happy and beautiful. I made several copies of it, keeping of course one for myself."

Moving on to aspects of our ministry, I had an incredible phone conversation last night. There is a substantial group of Oroko emigrants in the US, Canada and other countries. In today's digital world, they stay in touch with a yahoo email group. Yesterday they tried something new - a phone teleconference. They invited me to share about the language program, and asked a lot of questions. I ended up spending about 80 minutes on the phone promoting the work we're doing in Cameroon with the Oroko. Now the Oroko in the US (or at least 7-10 of the leaders on the phone) are more aware of what is happening (we've had some prior contact). One fellow asked how they could

contribute to the work. Pray that the Oroko in the US would be a long term source of support for the work that their countrymen are doing in Cameroon.

Pray for the Scotts back in Cameroon. They are wrapping up a 3 or 4 week road trip right now. Soon after returning to the village they will be hosting a SIL (Wycliffe) consultant who will be doing a consultant check of the translation drafts. This is the second visit he's made, the first for the Scotts (the last visit was when we were there and Scotts were in Canada). Pray for a positive time for everyone involved.

To conclude, we have finally got our new prayer card ready. You are free to download a copy from our website using one of the following links:

Full size (2304 x 1536, 2.36 MB), maximum flexibility
<http://Friesen.missionsites.com/MediaView.asp?id=30>

Reduced size for faster download (1800x1200, 723 KB) - adequate for printing (4x6)
<http://Friesen.missionsites.com/MediaView.asp?id=31>

When the picture comes up you can right click on it to save the picture (at least that's how it works in Internet Explorer). We really want everyone to have a good copy of this, so we will be mailing copies to everyone. So, here is how you can help us out:

- 1) IF you have recently moved (since you last got mail from us), send us your new address.
- 2) IF you have never got snail mail from us, and want a good quality copy, please send us your address.
- 3) IF you are able to print a copy and you are satisfied with the quality, email us so that we don't waste postage.
- 4) We will be distributing copies to our supporting churches. IF you pick up a copy there, let us know.

Otherwise, we'll be mailing out the cards when we do our next prayer letter, hopefully within the next month.

Thanks so much for your ongoing prayers and encouragement.

God Bless
Dan, Lisa, Rachel & Joshua Friesen