



FIELD NOTES



writing to you from Nairobi, Kenya

May 2010

FURLOUGH IN FOCUS

The LCMS World Mission furlough (home-service) schedule allows for 3 months of furlough every 2 years of service on the field.

Our furlough starts at the end of September and runs through December. Our route will take us from Washington to Florida!

These are our confirmed visit locations so far (arranged by date):

- Tacoma, WA
- Chehalis, WA
- Monroe, WA
- Puyallup, WA
- Arcata, CA
- Rupert, ID
- Brentwood, MO
- Olivette, MO
- Paducah, KY
- Janesville, WI
- Country Club Hills, IL
- Shumway, IL
- Florence, KY
- Hickory, NC
- Cary, NC
- Chapel Hill, NC
- Orlando, FL
- Seward, NE

If your congregation isn't yet represented on this list, please encourage your pastor or mission board representative to send us an email!

Transcultural Mission Formation

Several months ago LCMS World Mission invited us to participate in a pilot program of training for new missionaries. The Transcultural Mission Formation Program is hosted each year by one of our partner churches—in this case, the Lutheran church in Paraguay. Pastors from Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina joined their colleagues from Paraguay as participants, instructors, and guides.



Morning Lectures at the Hotel

In this time of transition, we were a bit concerned about undertaking any further obligations, but the opportunity was too great to pass up. The program runs three years, meeting once a year for about ten days and going in-depth on two topics each year.



An Excursion to Iguazu Falls

This year's topics were *missio dei* (the Mission of God) and worldview. Anxiety rose as we attempted to procure the necessary visas. The Brazil Embassy here in Nairobi offered excuse after excuse as our visas were delayed. Brazil visas were finally issued the

last business day before we left for South Africa on the way to Paraguay! Likewise, in South Africa (home to the only Paraguayan Embassy on the African continent), we finally received our visas the last business day before departing for Paraguay! Everything seems to run down to the wire in Africa. It usually works out, of course, but even seasoned missionaries tend to get anxious as deadlines draw near.

Mornings we enjoyed excellent lectures, sometimes arranged around a particular story from Scripture and sometimes heavier on theory. Afternoons were dedicated to rudimentary field work: observing, engaging, and learning about Paraguayan people and culture. Josiah, of course,

was a hit with everyone we met. Unmeasurable yet invaluable was the opportunity to spend time with old and new friends, applying insight and learning from each other about God's amazing work across the world.



The Program Participants Visit a Guarani Settlement Mission - Ciudad del Este, Paraguay

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LCMS WORLD MISSION

The Global Gospel Outreach of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Prayer Requests

- That we purchase and legally license a truck before departing for language school
- For a safe journey to Tanzania for Kiswahili Language School
- For Josiah's first experience in a day-care while we're in language classes
- For all of us as we've come home from Paraguay with sore throats and colds

In Praise

- For an excellent experience at the Transcultural Mission Formation Program
- That our truck sold in Uganda
- That Josiah peacefully endured 27.5 hours of travel from Paraguay to Nairobi before melting down during the 1/2 hour taxi ride home from the airport



A Little Culture Shock

Culture shock is an interesting phenomena. It can be exhausting, depressing, and even offensive. We spent a lecture at the Transcultural Mission Formation Program talking about the time and energy required to function in another culture. Take a simple example:

going shopping. In America, shopping is routine. Routines by their nature take up very little emotional or physical energy: whip into the familiar parking lot, walk down the aisles generally direct to what you're looking for, and

check out. Your energy and concentration are available for higher-order, more sophisticated tasks. You can basically shop on auto-pilot. In a new place, with new foods, a lack of your familiar foods, new brands, prices in a new currency, a new way of bagging produce, and even a new way of passing oncoming shoppers (to the left in former British protectorates), shop-



Bag of Milk—Uganda

Jug of Milk—Kenya

ping is no longer routine. It takes mental and physical energy. Yes, going to the supermarket can be exhausting. But there's another side to culture-shock. Often, when you first arrive, all those new things are "cool." Or when you go from a culture with less familiar things to a culture with more familiar things you practically obsess over them! Here in Kenya we can find tortilla chips and sweet corn, milk comes in plastic jugs, and coffee shops with mochas and lattes are prevalent. We have

even found Grape Nuts and Frosted Mini-wheats, though neither are guaranteed to be in stock. South Africa was even more amazing—shopping malls, overpasses, and credit cards widely accepted. This month we are very enamored with our newfound access to all kinds of great stuff. It's cool—at least for now.

Our Faithful Truck Sells in Uganda

Shauen's work in Uganda relied heavily upon our 1992 Toyota LandCruiser. This powerful work truck featured a turbo diesel engine, bull bar, upgraded suspension system, roof rack, turbo timer, extra interior seats, two spare tires, and a winch.

But we faced a challenge when we received our assignment to Kenya. Kenya does not allow vehicles older than 8 years old to be imported. Fortunately, we found a workable solution. For individuals traveling through Kenya, you could do a temporary import of your vehicle. It cost \$100 and was good for 3 months. Then every three months you had to take your foreign-

registered vehicle across the border and re-import it again. Since we couldn't find a buyer for the truck, we had no choice. We purchased the special cross-border insurance and the temporary import when Shauen brought our household goods to

Kenya. Then, in the days leading up to our departure for Paraguay, a buyer showed up in Uganda. He was offering full asking price and would take delivery in the middle of our trip to Paraguay.

Frantically, we made arrangements for the truck to have a few minor issues fixed, a driver to pick it up directly from the shop and drive it across the border to Uganda, delivering it to our co-worker there for delivery to the buyer. We had only days to arrange it all—while we were packing and preparing and procuring visas to go to Paraguay.



Goodbye Dear Friend—Our 1992 Landcruiser

We dropped off the truck on the way to the airport and while we were in Paraguay the sale went through. Praise the Lord for His timing, for a buyer for our truck in Uganda, and for successful delivery of the vehicle! Now... we need a truck...