

THE *Wendy and Mike plus* **W.A.M. REPORT**

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There's no place like home!

After 3 ½ years away from the USA, WAM plus David returned to native soil on June 16th, at Dulles International Airport in Washington DC. While standing in line to get our passports checked, Wendy had an overwhelming urge to break into song, singing "America the beautiful". America is not perfect but it is still home. We were met by Mike's parents, and enjoyed several weeks with them. We then proceeded to South-Eastern Pennsylvania where we visited for several weeks with friends and supporting churches. Then after a 20-hour non-stop drive, we arrived in Iowa, 3 days ahead of schedule and surprised Wendy's parents. After a month in Iowa, we drove to Colorado to visit Wendy's grandparents, and a dear friend. Then it was on to Oklahoma City, Dallas, Arkansas, North Carolina, visiting friends and family, and back to Maryland. David was really excited to be back. It's the first home he has stayed in twice since being in the States! Thank you all so much for your prayers for David, through all the traveling and adjustments. He did beautifully, and got used to playing with new toys every other day, as we stayed with friends along the way.

What's happening in Congo (Brazzaville)

Much has happened since we left Brazzaville on June 3rd. Two days after our departure, a civil war broke out between the former president and the current president. It caught everyone by surprise. There was heavy gun fire and rockets flying which kept escalating day by day. As the fighting increased, all Europeans and Americans were evacuated from the country, by the end of the week. Most of the Congolese have also fled the capital to other parts of Congo.

At the present time, it is unknown when a peace agreement will be reached, or when Wycliffe missionaries will be able to return to Congo. Many houses were looted during the fighting, including those of our fellow missionaries, and Wycliffe's newly remodeled offices. We have no word on our apartment. For the moment, some of our colleagues are working in nearby Cameroon, while others are taking a furlough. We will also be taking a year furlough at this time. Our home assignment beginning in October will be in Waxhaw, North Carolina where Wycliffe's center for Jungle Aviation and Radio Service (JAARS) is located. Michael will help teach computer training courses for translators, and take some classes himself, while Wendy helps out in the day-care center there.

First impressions of the newly rediscovered America

A "given," in living in other countries, is that you will experience culture shock- the euphoria and distress as you realize there are more ways to act or do things than just the "American" way. After being out of our home culture for 3 ½ years we have experienced some reverse culture shock since returning to the USA:

- the mind numbing number of choices at the supermarket, should I buy low fat, low sodium/no fat, no sodium, or lite, just to name a few of the choices. It is quite overwhelming after only one choice on most products.
- no pot holes to keep me (Mike) alert and awake; I find I have to really work at not falling asleep at the steering wheel.
- it seems like every restaurant has an all you can eat buffet - giving the message that excess is the in thing, go ahead and indulge!

Did you catch the WAM Plus Plus at the top?

Wonder why there are two pluses? No, it is not a typographical error. We are anticipating the arrival of another bundle of joy around the 1st of June. That's right, Wendy is PREGNANT! We are of course very excited, as is David, at the prospect of having a little brother or sister. Stay tuned for further developments.

New address (again)

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