



Tim and Lisa Beckendorf



On the road with the Beckendorfs

Greetings from St. Louis. Yes, we are still in St. Louis, though not for much longer. We have been holding off on writing a prayer letter until we could tell you our confirmed date of departure and we finally have one. We will be leaving from St. Louis on July 13th, flying to Atlanta and then over to Johannesburg, South Africa. After 23 hours from the time we leave St. Louis, we will arrive in Gabarone, the capital of Botswana. From there, it is a short drive to the village of Thamaga where we'll be living for the first 6 months or so while we learn the national language, Setswana.

- We give praise and thanksgiving for finally reaching this milestone and for all of you who have made this possible.

Prayers for Health

In May Lisa noticed a lump in her neck which turned out to be the result of an underactive thyroid. The doctor who checked it out didn't seem too concerned about it, apparently this sometimes happens to some women after pregnancy. The result is that Lisa is now on medication and as of her last blood test the dosage seems to be correct so we have the doctor's permission to leave for Botswana. Hopefully this thyroid condition will be something that will eventually work itself out. In six months Lisa will get tested again, at which time we'll see if her thyroid has returned to its normal activity.

- Please pray for recovery and improved health and energy for Lisa.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

The big news (besides our departure date): we have purchased a vehicle! Thanks to Richard Cook, a fellow missionary with LBT in Botswana who found out about the opportunity, we were able to purchase this from a missionary family who is leaving Botswana.



The bakkie (as pick-up trucks are called in southern Africa) is a 1995 Toyota Hilux Raider. It has quite a few miles on it but is in good condition and should serve us well at least for our first term. Moreover, we were able to purchase it with the funds that we already had received thanks to our generous supporters. We are very thankful to all who have enabled this piece of the puzzle to come together.

- We offer prayers of thanksgiving that we now have a vehicle.



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Aaron



Aaron continues to be a delight—99.9% of the time. Even though he is only five months old, he is already growing and changing too fast for his parents. We were told to enjoy every moment with him since babies grow up too fast—and we’re seeing just how true that is. He has started rolling over from his back to his tummy, which is a mixed blessing. He hates being on his tummy and has a tantrum when he finds himself in that position too long.



- We continue to thank our Lord for so richly blessing us with Aaron and we pray that He would give us wisdom and guidance to be good Christian parents.
- We are also thankful that Aaron has enjoyed excellent health thus far and we pray that God would continue to preserve and protect him as we travel and begin life in Botswana.

Leaving Family and Friends

As we mentioned at the beginning of this letter, very soon we will be leaving for Botswana and that means saying “so long” to family and friends, which is not something we look forward to.

- Please pray for emotional strength for us and our loved ones as we bid farewell.
- Please pray for health and safety as we travel to Botswana and get settled in.

Botswana Bits:

The Tswana people are the majority people group in Botswana—in fact the prefix “bo-” in the Tswana language mean “land of,” so Botswana is literally “land of the Tswana.” Other prefixes are:

Mo- = single person

Ba- = many people

Se- = language

Using these prefixes, what is the word for

A) The language a Tswana person speaks

B) A Tswana person

C) A group of Tswana people

(Answers are at the bottom)

Sala Sentle!

Stay Well!

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A) Setswana B) Motswana C) Batswana
(Unfortunately, learning the rest of the language isn’t this easy. ☺)



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