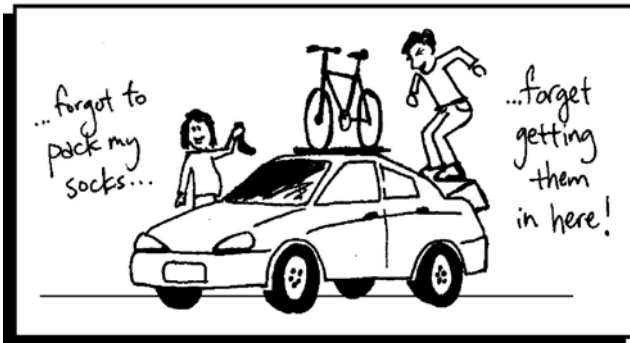


On the road with the Beckendorfs

A new title?

Those of you who are sharp-eyed, (or who actually read the titles of newsletters) may have noticed that we have a new title. Not to worry; the quality writing, the deep insights, all the news is still here. We just felt that as creative and descriptive as "Beckendorf Prayer Letter" was, we could do better. And while this title describes us for now, don't be surprised if sometime in the future our masthead changes again. (Any and all suggestions in this area you care to give are appreciated.)

The Beckendorf Chronicles



Carla Krazl

Our travels thus far

In July we packed up everything that we'd need for the next six months into our car and began traveling for partnership development and so far have been through six states and have covered just over 5000 miles. On the way we experienced record low temperatures for southern Minnesota in August, witnessing early morning frost in the middle of the month. We have seen the highest point in Wisconsin, Timm Hill, which "towers" over the country side at 1951.5 feet. In August we helped Tim's parents juice 250 pounds of pears from their tree, and in September had a wonderful tour of the John Deere sites in East Moline, Illinois.

Although these were certainly high points of our travels, the best part of all this has been to visit with many of you. Speaking at school chapels and

witnessing the excitement children have when they hear about different cultures and the work foreign missionaries do is a real high point for us.

Another exciting part of our travels was taking part in LBT's Cultural Fair in September. At the LBT service center in Aurora we spoke to about 1100 elementary students and their teachers, giving them a taste of the linguistic training missionaries go through prior to beginning work in the field. We taught the kids some of the symbols for the International Phonetic Alphabet and then had them read and write a couple of English words using the new alphabet. We were impressed at how well some of the kids caught on to spelling only what they heard, and felt as though we were in the presence of future linguists. Then for fun we taught them five of the 'clicks' that some of the people in Botswana use as part of their speech—they really enjoyed those and were often heard 'clicking' their way to the next station at the fair.

Sounds like 'partnership development' is just another way to say 'traveling vacation,' doesn't it.

Just what is Partnership Development?

Besides spending a lot of time driving, Partnership Development is about visiting with you: at worship services and Bible studies on Sundays, at LWML, LLL, and Ladies Aid meetings during the week, at mid-week chapel services and evening confirmation classes. This gives us the opportunity to share with you the type of work and life that awaits us in Botswana and to offer you the opportunity to become partners in this mission to bring God's Word to those who don't yet have it in the language of their heart. All of our fund-raising for this mission is being done at this time (yes, that is why we are looking for 'partners in mission'). You can find out more information by going to our web site (www.LBT.org/beckendorf) and clicking on "partners in mission". There you will find our

Tim and Lisa Beckendorf

schedule, prayer requests, and information on how to support us.

Frequently Asked Questions

There are certain questions which keep popping up just about everywhere we go. This section is an attempt to answer a few of these questions since they seem to be things many of you are wondering.

Why is your income goal so high (\$5,000 – \$6,000 per month)? While our salary and benefits (insurance/retirement) are part of the over \$5,000 needed each month, other ministry expenses such as travel, continued education, housing and vehicle costs overseas all help to make up the total. Just as every church has budget for doing ministry, so we also have a budget for our ministry both while we are here in the U.S. and when we go overseas. Our goal is based on our annual budget figure.

What kind of house will you be living in? We don't know yet. Tim is going to visit Botswana in December to introduce himself to the people who have invited us to work with them, to start the visa process, and to generally scout out the place, seeing which villages might work for setting up house, etc. Both concrete and wooden houses are common in Botswana, or another possibility would be to live in a military style tent. We will more than likely NOT be living in a stick shack (or a tent if Lisa has her way).

When are you leaving (or, Where is the baby going to be born)? This question is usually asked when people find out the baby is due in February. We were originally hoping to be going to Botswana next June, but the expected arrival of the baby clashes with a class Tim needs to take before we go over. This has pushed our whole schedule back several months. We are now hoping to leave for Botswana next August or September, depending on when the airfares drop after high season and provided all our funding is in place.

Please pray for us:

- Safety as we travel and for successful partnership development

- The Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the people whom we will be serving
- Continued health for Lisa and our baby
- Lisa's Uncle Bill who is receiving treatment for pancreatic cancer, and Tim's dad, who is receiving kidney dialysis.
- The family of friend Jo Mirly. Jo was suffering from ALS and entered her eternal reward in September.

Give thanks for:

- The wonderful reception we have had at all our speaking engagements.
- Our safe travels thus far
- A safe pregnancy thus far

Schedule for Speaking

Here is the current list of the places we'll be speaking over the next few months. Please join us if you are in the area.

November

7th, Trinity Lutheran, Foster, NE

14th, St. James, Northrop/Zion, Frazer Township, MN

20th, 21st, Trinity Lutheran, Grand Island, NE

28th, Christ Lutheran, Falls City, NE

From December through March we will be in the St. Louis area. We are currently working to build our schedule for those months. If you are in the greater St. Louis area and would like us to visit you, please contact us and we will make every effort to do so.

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