



At the Well

Tim and Lisa Beckendorf, LBT missionaries in Botswana



Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:13, 14 (NIV)

What are we doing here?

This past month has involved project planning for 2008. We have been looking at all the goals that we want to accomplish in Botswana and devising strategies for realizing those goals. So with goals and objectives occupying the forefront of our minds, plans and planning naturally spilled over into this prayer letter. So, guess what, we are going to look at some of the goals we had for this furlough in the United States and see how we are accomplishing them.

We had four main goals for this furlough:

1. Lisa's dad suffered a stroke on March 31 and was hospitalized. We came back to the States earlier than originally planned with the goal of helping out Lisa's mom during this difficult time.

Lisa's dad, Leroy Eckert, is still in the hospital. He needs hospital care because he still has a trachea tube and has secretions in his lungs that need to be suctioned out periodically. However, he is also doing rehab and is getting stronger. We had hoped he would be home by now, but it looks like that probably won't be happening for quite a while because of the the trachea tube and the infection in his lungs.

We stayed with Lisa's mom from the time we landed in the States in the latter part of April until the 5th of July. Lisa and her mom drove into St. Louis everyday and Aaron and I a couple times a week or so to visit Lisa's dad in the hospital. Lisa and her mom began using public transportation (metro link train and buses) once her dad was in a facility reachable by public transportation. Lisa's mom continues to go into St. Louis almost every day to visit and is getting quite adept at "riding the rails", knowing where the various bus lines connect with the trains, etc.

Our prayer is for speedy healing which would enable dad to come home soon.

2. We were expecting the birth of our new child around the middle of August and our goal was to be up in Appleton, WI for the birth.

When Lisa found out she was expecting, our first concern was where to give birth. Do we stay in Botswana, go to South Africa or Namibia (better hospitals), or should we go back to the States? After much thought, prayer, and advice we decided it would be best to come back to the States. The health care system in Botswana is not all that wonderful and we had been told horror stories from colleagues in our area about birth experiences. We also knew of many births that ended in the baby or the mother or both dying. While these can all happen anywhere, the frequency seemed much higher in Botswana. Going to Namibia or South Africa would have involved expenses for lodging and such and we didn't know anyone there so it would have been challenging.

We wanted to be in Appleton for the birth so that the Beckendorf side of the family could be there for his birth. Aaron was born in St. Louis near the Eckert family.



Andrew Alexander Beckendorf

Well, this goal was accomplished quite nicely. Andrew Alexander Beckendorf arrived two weeks earlier than expected on July 30th, but everything went exceptionally well. We received fantastic treatment from the staff at the hospital and Andrew was off to a great start. He entered the world at 5 pounds 14 oz and was 18 inches long. At his one month weigh-in he had already gained two pounds.

Praise God for a safe and successful birth and please pray that both Aaron and Andrew will remain healthy and strong, in body and in faith.

3. Reconnect with our partners in this ministry and hopefully gain some new partners.

We have been having a thoroughly enjoyable time visiting with as many of our partners as we are able. It is a real joy to share with you the work that is going on in Botswana thanks to your support. We regret that we are not able to make it to all the places that we would like and pray that if we haven't visited with you you'll understand our limitations this time around. We are in the process of making our presentation into a self running computer based presentation so that if you'd like us to "visit" electronically we can. Please let us know if you'd like to try this out.

Also, you can view our current speaking schedule online at www.lbt.org/beckendorf. Click on "News" and there you will see a link to our schedule. If we are in your neighborhood, please stop by to see us. We'd love to see you!

4. Spend some time with our families.

From April 25th until July 5th we stayed with Lisa's mom in Red Bud, IL and did very little traveling outside of the St. Louis and Southern Illinois area. This gave Lisa's mom (and dad, when we visited the hospital) some grandparent time with Aaron and lots of daughter time with Lisa. Since then, we've been based in Appleton, Wisconsin near my family, which has given them a lot of opportunity to get to know their grandsons, Aaron and Andrew. We also had the pleasure of joining them in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at the end of July. It was a most memorable event.

We praise God for our families and ask that He would continue to bless and keep them all safely in His care.



Aaron, enjoying himself as he checks out the tractors at Mark and Shirley Maschoff's farm in Minnesota!

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Your servants in Christ,

Tim, Lisa, Aaron and Andrew Beckendorf