

NEWS FROM THE PEACOCKES

MISSIONARIES IN BOTSWANA

Dear Friends,

We are so thankful for each one of you and for your partnership with us in our work for the Lord here in Southern Africa. We value your commitment to us through your prayers and your financial support. We are especially thankful for those of you who have been praying for us as we have waited on the approval of our visas to travel to the USA for furlough. We know that your faithful prayers have sustained us during these difficult times.

Unfortunately, the news I have for you is not what we were hoping for. However, we understand that God's will is good and acceptable and perfect in every area of our lives. After visiting the US Embassy in Gaborone, Botswana for the second time, we were advised that they would be unable to grant us a visa. Their reasoning is that since we previously lived in the States for 4 years (while on deputation) and given that we are currently applying to remain for a year on furlough, that this constitutes, in their understanding, an "intent" to remain in the United States! We have tried to show them that this is not our intention but the authorities are adamant and unrelenting! We, and the IFM Home Office, have pursued various other avenues but it seems that this door is closed to us at present.

Of course this development affects many things – we moved out of our home at the end of March and placed our belongings in storage in anticipation of our departure for the US. For the past month we have been staying with friends and house-sitting for others. God has been gracious in providing us with places to stay while waiting.

We have also had to cancel the meetings we had scheduled in various churches in the US and also give up the home we had reserved for us at Siloam Missionary Homes in North Carolina. We are very disappointed but again know that God's ways are good. We will certainly endeavour to get these visas approved and will continue to look at the various options open to us.

As a result of these developments, we have decided to remain here in Francistown and continue with the work here until such time as we are able to travel to the USA for furlough. Just yesterday, we found another home to rent and will be moving in at the end of May. Until then, we will be travelling to South Africa to spend some time together as a family to refocus and refresh. It has been a very trying and unsettling time for us, and we all need some time to recover from it all! We are looking forward to settling down again in our new home at the end of May and resuming our normal school and family routines. Living out of suitcases can become very tiresome!

Again, we want to thank you for praying for us concerning the approval of our visas. God has answered and has shown us that it is not His will for us to travel to the US at this time. When His time is right, He will open the door once more. Please continue to pray!

We had a great Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, meeting out in the dry Botswana bush at 6:30am and watching the sun rise over His beautiful creation. It was a great setting to be reminded of God's great love for us in sending His Son to rise over our hearts. Afterwards, we enjoyed a great breakfast and time of fellowship together. We trust that you all enjoyed a great Easter celebration as well.

We will keep you updated on any developments from our side. In the meanwhile we would covet your prayers for us and for our work here in Francistown, Botswana.

May the Lord Bless you all!

The Peacokes

Graham, Joanne, Daniel, Joshua, Megan & Christy

