



The Huckabee Family

Missionaries to Uganda

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And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ~II Timothy 2:2

February 8, 2005

Greetings one and all! It's been an eventful few months since last we wrote. December came and went. We enjoyed Christmas and time spent with family. I finished up my job with Computer Nerdz! (computer service company, geek-for-hire, that kind of thing). My last day was December 31. I hated to say good-bye to everybody, but on the other hand, I was glad to have the freedom to do what was needful as a missionary on deputation.

January was one of the most interesting, exhausting, busy, and eventful months to date. To recap a little, we had received word that Anna's Grandfather, Burton Brush, had taken a turn for the worse health-wise. When we heard that, and that his church wanted to have us in for a meeting, it seemed apparent to me that God was wanting us to drive up there for a visit. So, I scheduled a meeting in Scottsbluff, NE, and another in Rapid City, SD for the first week of January. January 1, 2005 we made the 15 hour drive up to Scottsbluff. After the meeting on Sunday, we drove down to Rapid City, and spent the remainder of the week with the Brush's. I'm glad we did, because a little over a week later, on January 14, Grandpa Brush died.

While in Rapid City, the Midwest was hit with successive snowstorms. Sioux City, IA got ice, and then snow. This set the stage for what was to come next. Anna drove for a bit in order for me to get some sleep, because I was having trouble staying awake. She pulled over to find a bathroom at the Sioux City Welcome Center (turned out to be the un-Welcome Center for us). She came around a bend, where another van coming the other way was taking up more than it's fair share of road. When she pulled over to give them room she hit the curb that was concealed by the snow. This caused her to skid back toward the center, with the van moving that direction on the snow-covered ice even though the wheels were pointing the other way. We glanced off the other van, and in an instant, the spacious, comfortable conversion van that God had provided for us to travel in was destroyed.

It was 4:30 PM, and getting dark, and was already three below zero, not including windchill. We were stranded in a strange city with eight hours of driving yet to go and a meeting to get to on Sunday. Fortunately, Anna's Uncle Brad and Aunt Cynthia lived about an hour away, so we called them, and they called friends of theirs who lived nearby. They picked us up, along with our stuff, and got the kids out of the cold and to their house 'til her Aunt and Uncle could arrive. We towed the van to a body shop, and then loaded up to make the drive to their house. Next day, I spent most of the day on the phone trying to find a rental car. I finally located a Chevy Impala in Omaha, NE, two hours away. Meanwhile, I got the news that the van was irreparable, so we sold it for \$200 and left it behind. Her Aunt drove me to Sioux City to get all the remaining stuff from our van, and then to Omaha to get the car. So it was that around 11:00 PM, we were finally on our way back to St. Louis. We crammed everything, including ourselves, into the little car, and drove through the night to get home. What a trip! At one point, around three o'clock in the morning, I was so tired that I began to sing every song I could think of under my breath in order to stay conscious. By God's grace, we made it back without issue around 7:00 AM Saturday morning. Never was home ever more dear to our eyes! I crawled into bed and quietly slipped into a coma. The very next day, we had to drive to our Sunday meeting.

Through it all, I had peace. I guess that's why it's called "peace that passes all understanding". By rights, I should have been furious, and in the past, that has usually been my response when stuff like this happens. I had immediately emailed everybody on our list to let them know to pray, and they must have been, because I just knew God had a purpose, unknown to us at the time, inevitably for the good, and yet

to be revealed. Don't get me wrong - we needed that van. A lot. God gave it. God took it away, and we remain confident that He will provide something else as good or better in time. Nevertheless, He used this to show us that no matter the crisis, He is in control, and is able to supply all our needs, truly, and that it's not just a cliché. He is preparing us for the mission field, and that's OK.

A week later, we were in the middle of a missions conference here in town when we received the news of Grandpa Brush's death. We decided that Anna would go to the funeral with Elizabeth, her sisters, and her cousin, and I would remain with the three boys to finish the conference and to attend a scheduled meeting on Wednesday. Anna left after the morning service, with a miserably sick one-year old, and wound up getting sick herself. I remained, and tried to get things in order here so she could rest when she got home on Wednesday.

I taught a lesson in Childrens' Church Sunday morning, and a nine-year old got saved, and then, after preaching on John 3 at a nursing home in the afternoon, an 81 year old man got saved! What a blessing! This was in spite of a flat tire on the way to church, and near-exhaustion for the four of us that afternoon. It was a great conference, which is probably why the Devil fought it so hard.

January was a month filled with car issues. We had a meeting on January 30 in Kahoka, MO. Our little Chevy Astro had had to have a new alternator earlier in January, and the replacement failed on the way back home. After the crash of the old van, I decided to get us AAA Plus, and good thing too, because as it turned out, we had to be towed 150 miles back to St. Louis. Think of it - two adults and four tired children crammed into the cab of a tow truck for three hours. I'll let your imagination fill in the details. The tow truck driver was very gracious, and our children, as always it seems, handled it remarkably well for being as young as they are. We made it back safe, and the van is fixed. Thanks to a reschedule, we have a few weeks to recuperate, the first chance we've really had all month.

I have to say, in spite of all the car trouble and car rentals and expenses and what not, God has provided abundantly through love offerings, and we have lacked nothing. It is still more confirmation that we are truly doing what God wants us to do, and that He fully intends to take care of us every step of the way. For all you who have prayed for us in all this you have our deepest thanks and heartfelt gratitude, because it was God's grace alone that got us through it, with our joy intact.

Oh, before I forget, one spot of **very** good news: we are going to have another child! We expect delivery of the 2005 model on or about September 14. Neat! That brings us even with Musa, the governor of Soroti, so that's all good. Ugandans think big families are cool, and brag about the number of children they have. God has seen fit to bless us with five now, so we should fit in over there just fine. :)

Current goals:

- 1) Continue aggressively pursuing meetings and filling up our calendar.
- 2) Refresh my knowledge of Biblical Greek and Hebrew, in order to be an effective Bible translator in Uganda.
- 3) Be an encouragement to pastors and churches, and be used of God to call Christians to faithful service.

Prayer needs:

- 1) Safety while traveling.
- 2) That our support would come in quickly.
- 3) That our calendar would fill up for 2005, and on into 2006.
- 4) The progression of this pregnancy - health for the baby and mother, and an uncomplicated birth.

Financial needs:

- 1) \$2000 for a laptop computer (going to need one soon)
- 2) \$500 for books (I'm going to be working on my Greek and Hebrew language study between now and Bible translator's school in 2006, and will need to get the necessary training and reference materials).
- 3) \$400 for software (there's a collection of Greek and Hebrew training courses available on CDROM, which I will be using to brush up on both languages)
- 4) \$8000 to buy a new conversion van, or else the provision of such a vehicle outright.

God bless and keep you all,

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