



The Huckabee Family

Missionaries to Uganda

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Howdy, one and all!

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

Welcome to this, the first Huckabee family prayer letter. Happy Thanksgiving and upcoming Merry Christmas, particularly to those of you who can't be with family this year. Lots happened in recent months, so I'll try to bring you up to speed. If you're a detail person, you can read our ongoing Deputation Journal over at the website, at missionuganda.com. Just click the link along the top that reads 'Deputation Journal', and it should take you right on in. For the sake of brevity herein, tho', I will summarize.

We completed BIMI Candidate school back in June of this year. We'll be heading back next June to finish up the second week. We kept a grueling schedule, which was meant to help us wrap our brains around the finances involved, the transition to deputation from a secular job, how to lay out prayer letters, how to do slide presentations, and lots of other knowledge we'd be needing in the months ahead. The big deal of the week was coming before the board of BIMI. We'd already been approved by our Pastor, Ken Spilger, and our church, Grace Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO, but this was an added layer of accountability. First, we took a Doctrines test. Having passed that, we went in before a Screening Committee, to retell our testimonies, and to answer some questions. Typically, your Pastor sits on the Screening Committee, along with your Director (towit, Ron Bragg, untowit), but ours was visiting his Father-in-Law, Burton Brush, whose cancer appeared to be winning at the time, so another Independent Baptist pastor from the area filled in. We apparently did well, because they recommended us to go to the last phase of approval, which is going before the Board. This is a room full of Pastors and veteran missionaries, many of whom Anna had known from childhood. It was very humbling. We were reminded of the well known verse from Hebrews about being surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses". What a privilege, to join the ranks of the called of God in the worthy profession of fulfilling the Great Commission. And no, neither one of us felt worthy, but God's calling is sure nonetheless.

In the months that followed, there was a flurry of activity as we got all our literature prepared (prayer cards, and the requisite family picture, letterheads, logos, slide presentation script, brochure, et al). Anna did pretty much all of the design on her trusty Mac (a word of advice to would be missionary men - marry a graphic designer), thus making it all uniquely ours, and saving hundreds of dollars. Meanwhile, I wrote the slide script, and did all the design work for the website, while eaking out a living fixing computers. We took another trip to Chattanooga in August to get the slides whipped out in two days instead of the usual week required to get it done. This was thanks mostly to the ministry of Jerry Dwire, whom God has called to help missionaries like us with getting a good slide presentation put together.

We came back and got the display assembled, just in time for our first meeting in September, and have been attending meetings weekly ever since. It's Kyle Guimon's old display, and Noel Foster's rock solid handiwork (thanks guys). I joke that if we ever get caught in flood waters, we could use it for a life raft. All levity aside, it's survived it's second trip to Alaska now, and appears to be none the worse for wear. God has graciously helped me fill our calender solid for the rest of the year, and up through March of 2005, with several meetings scattered throughout the rest of next year. I'm busily working on filling the gaps with meetings at the moment, while working a full time job and attending meetings on the weekends. Lord willing, we hope to go full time in January. We're trusting God to provide the 15% support level we need to be able to pay the bills, while paying our more volatile expenses, like gas and food, with love offerings. To this end, I took a month off in mid-October to go up to Alaska, where I was in eight churches (five conferences and three meetings) over 27 days. It was hard work and great fun, and an awfully long time to be away from my family, who stayed at home

because of the expense of getting up there. The churches of Alaska are very generous and missions-minded, and provided more than enough love offering to cover the cost of coming to Alaska, and to pay our bills while I was up there and away from my job. I look back now, and still can't believe I got to do something so incredibly cool, no pun intended. :)

As of now, one church other than our home church has taken us on for support, and two individuals, which puts us at 5% support. Praise the LORD!

Current goals:

- 1) Continue working hard at my secular job (to keep a good name).
- 2) Continue aggressively pursuing meetings and filling up our calendar.
- 3) Refresh my knowledge of Biblical Greek and Hebrew, in order to be an effective Bible translator in Uganda.
- 4) Complete the transition phase to full time deputation in January, 2005.

Prayer needs:

- 1) Safety while traveling.
- 2) That our support would come in quickly.
- 3) God's provision as I transition from secular employment to full-time deputation.
- 4) That I'd be able to get in touch with pastors, and get meetings to fill my calendar with meetings, for at least the first six months of 2005, by the end of the year.
- 5) A buyer for our blue, 88 Chevy Astro, which we will no longer need once I quit my job at the end of this year.
- 6) That God would use us to call others to missions, ministry, and more faithful service in their church.

Financial needs:

- 1) \$2000 for a laptop (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) Funds to fix up our blue, 88 Chevy Astro so we can sell it next year after I quit my job.

Merry Christmas to all! God bless and keep you.

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