

## Update on Africa Trip Preparation March 2009

A couple of days ago, as we read Psalm 25, God encouraged us through verse 5: **Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

God continues to teach us His ways as we seek His face. What a joy to serve an all knowing and all caring God. The last couple of weeks have been full of surprises, some good, and some not so good. Let us share the joys first:

1. God provided a really nice laptop gift for a senior student God has called for widow ministry. We are so blessed to be a channel of blessing to those in need.
2. Someone, himself a missionary needing support, gave us a check for \$300 to buy food for the widows when we go. What a responsibility we have to use it wisely.
3. God has provided \$1500 toward our expenses while in Africa, so that brings the amount down to \$1500 still needed by March 13. Continue praying. We plan to write one more letter just before we leave March 13, to let you know of His provision before we leave Ohio. We praise Him!!!
4. Both of us find such joy in preparing seminars or messages for pastors, church leaders, churches, women's groups and widows. Just keep praying God will keep our hearts pure and full of joy, so we can communicate well for our Savior and be an encouragement and challenge to those whom we contact, whether in groups or personally
5. It looks like we will not have to spend \$11 per anti-malaria Malarone tablet for each of us for 59 days while we are in Zambia and Kenya (and two weeks following), as first anticipated. At the U.S. price, it would have cost us \$1298 just for anti-malaria tablets. Since we are trying to be good stewards of the gifts God's people give us, we asked the Lord to show us a better way to purchase these medications. Hopefully, He has provided that venue through a tropical disease specialist we know in Nairobi. We will know in a few days.

Now, some not so good news:

1. David's rash continues to be persistent, although a suspected complication has been cleared up.
2. This week, he starting having severe pains in his right hip. Our doctor diagnosed a slipped disk and sciatic nerve pain. She prescribed a Prednisone dose pak to decrease the inflammation. This may also take care of the rash. Monday David starts physical therapy 3 x a week until we leave for the trip. The hard part of the trip will be hours in the car and plane. He will have to change position and walk frequently, also continue exercises daily. He cannot bend over or lift anything heavy.

3. We have had other unexpected issues take time away from preparations. We are sensing the devil's interference to discourage us and do all he can to keep us from going. We are not discouraged and claim victory in the name of Jesus.

Rejoicing in Him,

David and Sylvia De Jong