

"Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart..."  
Ps. 10:17

I love this verse. When you study the Hebrew, it exposes the intimacy of God's relationship with those who are not self-seeking. "The desire" defines the things that we long for, the private search in our minds for a satisfying resolution to whatever is yet incomplete. Just think of it --the Lord is listening to these personal conversations of heart, these yearnings! And He is so responsive to our desires! He prepares the most intimate part of us to ally with His own lovely ways and plans. (Phil. 2:13) Selah that one!

I don't know the things you are craving for God's kingdom, but I know that we find ourselves most often mulling over the needs of the church here -it's growth, health, future. We long for her maturity. We see the infant works out in the bush, and we inwardly groan to be with them, to help bring them up. Then we lift up our eyes and look at the ministry in front of us. When we are out in the bush church, the young Salvation Baptist church toddles and trips along, waiting for our (I speak of the team, not of the Chambers) return. We long for hearty laborers. We long for training materials in the local language -as that is most useful; and we cannot seem to translate materials fast enough! We long to see disciples made into disciple-makers, and that takes extended time among the people. We have personal desires for our people, particularly for some who are beginning to bud; some who are losing focus; some who suffer; some who are self-deceived. All these desires have been heard by the Lord. In these "quiet" months, God has been preparing us with vision and hope. We'd like to share a few updates on preparations that God is making to fulfill the desires of our hearts.

#### TRANSLATION:

Songs and worship: Our team is working on a new edition of our Tonga hymnbook. The old one has 86 choices, about one-third of which no one knows. (There is no written music in hymnals.) Fresh additions will expand opportunities to express our love, faith, and worship at church.

Tonga Bible coursework: We just learned that missionary friends have been working with their translator on the ROGMA INTERNATIONAL Bible classes. Their translator doesn't type, and our friend struggles to read his scrawl in a language not her own! Kudos for completing the first eighteen lessons. Now we can come alongside and accelerate the production of this wonderful tool for long-distance learning in the villages! (i.e. We've longed for Mr. Moono to get Bible school training, but he cannot get beyond "hi" in the English language, He is godly, humble, elderly, and has potential as a pastor, but lacks depth of training.) God has HEARD our longings and prepared a way!

FAMILY CONFERENCE: Jim and I are writing workshop and children's sessions. We're having fun. This conference is going to address some of the issues that crumble families and subsequently weaken the church and the nation. A visiting graphic artist prepared a beautiful poster to promote it.

RENEWAL: Arthur came back from his Pastoral Block class at Central Africa Baptist College so pumped! He just spilled over from abundant experiences with lecturer, Dr. Fox; other pastors; and encouragement from Director, Phil Hunt. His refreshment is our refreshment. He also learned that he can get educational credit for taking these classes -something HE has been longing for. While he was up there, Zambia played the semi-finals of the Africa Cup, then went on to WIN in a tough play-off match against Ivory Coast. National spirit has been flying high here, and we are part of THAT refreshing high, too!

MIA -We are still looking for a willing and faithful Tonga man whom God would call to the bush work or to cover at Kamunza during team excursions to the bush. We spent several hours Valentines day with the director of a Bible school in Livingstone, a Filipino. He is praying with us and making inquiries for that rare find. We're also preparing to make some changes in teachers, getting more involvement where possible.

HOUSING- We've been longing to be among the people, to share their lives and disciple more consistently. As we begin to build up the mission property behind the church, pray the Lord will make us wise in where to live and to store our belongings during the construction and furlough. We found a dinky, unfinished duplex two weeks ago (a rent saver and close to our work). If we take it, we'll have to store most of our belongings elsewhere, but housekeeping should be a breeze. I think I can dust every surface in the house only taking a few steps! No problem. We only have a few pieces of furniture now anyway. Let's keep life simple!

UPDATE: the well on the property is still unfinished, but is producing good, clear water now. We'll bucket up the water for mixing cement and mortar. Our goal is to get the walls up before leaving in May. Once the walls are up, we can start the SLOW process of getting electricity to the property, hopefully having it there by the time we return from furlough.

Thank you for preparing much of this ministry ahead of us by your prayers. We'd be dishonest or neglectful if we avoided asking for prayer for ourselves, for preparations for furlough. We do long to be with our families Stateside, and at the same time, we feel torn from people and places and experiences here. Pray that hearts will be prepared now -by the Lord- to thrive and stand strong in our absence.

Desiring to delight the Lord,  
Jim and Rachel

For the express version of our letter, here's a summary list for partners in prayer:

1. Pray for efficiency and accuracy in translating a hymnal and ROGMA training materials.
2. Pray for prepared hearts for the FAMILY CONFERENCE April 13-15.
3. Praise the Lord for refreshment for Arthur, for partnership with C.A.B. College, for the revived patriotism!
4. Pray for leaders and teachers, and for Jamie and Mandy to complete pre-field support. We need them.
5. Pray for a place in town to live, to store our belongings, to

be near internet and cell signal and, in particular, our church people in Kamunza.

6. Pray for furlough -for things and people to be in place- to stand strong.

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