

Millers' Memo

June 2017

Since 1969



What a busy year this has been! From January until early May our lives were occupied with family events. After the birth of our 10th grandchild (Jon and Heather's 3rd child), we kept the older two so the parents could help the baby get over his jaundice. We also took care

of them while Jon was in the hospital during and after his appendectomy. Another special event was the baptism of all five of Susan and Scott's children. Life in the desert in Chad doesn't often provide enough water for baptisms and all the children were ready to obey the command of Jesus to be baptized.

On April 15, Susan's family flew out of Tampa to return to Chad for the next three years. The area in Congo where Jon and Heather lived is still very insecure, so Samaritan's Purse offered Jon a construction position in Liberia. They also flew out of Tampa on May 4.

February 23 - March 1 found us just north of Seattle, WA, for BLF Board meetings. While there, we took a couple of days to spend with our nephew Jed, wife Lindsay, and kids, Asher (6) and Nora (3).

From October 2016 until this month, Florida has suffered a major lack of rain. There were over 2000 fires in the state, some near us, but PTL, none touching us. However, several trees on our property have died due to the drought.

Russ and his brother Ray have worked hard taking them down. (See picture.) Thankfully, the rains have begun and we had almost 4" last week.

Since we finished the new offices at BLF in France last year, the plan was to remodel the old offices this year. We thought we'd do it while the BLF staff was on vacation in August, but funds weren't available to buy the materials. Now we are hoping and praying to do it next summer.

BLF in France keeps translating and publishing new books. We'd love to show you some of the new titles and

share updates on how the Lord is working in BLF. BLF USA is putting out a newsletter called "impressions" two or three times a year. Mary Ann is writing articles, editing and proofreading. The Sunday School material written for use in Africa, that Mary Ann worked on while we lived in Belgium, is almost completely gone and needs to be reprinted. The Lord has used these lessons in the lives of many children, young people, and families. Please pray with us that funds will soon be available for reprinting.



We are now planning our travels to represent BLF in the USA. A lot has been happening in BLF that we can share with a group in your church, or you may want to invite friends into your home for an evening of fellowship and information. Just let us know and we'll work out our itinerary (between August and November 1).





Ron & Shannon

Ron, Shannon, Kira and Laina are moving from Uganda to Virginia this summer. They plan to live in Mount Vernon. Ron will work in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for African Policy at the Pentagon. Shannon will complete her Masters of Clinical Social Work from the University of Southern California in August. They expect to be assigned to the DC area for the next two years; a welcome change after almost 13 straight years overseas.



Scott & Susan

Returning to Chad seemed like going "home" to the Downing family. They are happy to be there again. This time their friends gave them a big welcome! Scott's right-hand man in well drilling brought four cooked chickens and potatoes for the family. The women Suze has led to the Lord brought two chickens and bread, and the missionaries on their team prepared dinner for them the day they arrived. Scott is working on wells again and Suze is talking and praying with various women. The Lord is working and we praise Him for each one who is reading His Word and asking questions.



Jon & Heather

During their five months in the States, Heather gave birth to Judah Isaya on February 11. Now, at four months, he is alert and happy and bringing joy to each one in the family. Right after Judah's birth, Jon had an appendectomy and a growth was found on the appendix. He healed very slowly. Samaritan's Purse asked Jon to be Construction Manager for multiple buildings at the hospital on ELWA station in Liberia. They plan to be there at least 2 years. This is a "new" part of Africa for the family, with a new language (English with a difficult accent) and a somewhat different culture, so there are many adjustments to be made. They live just off the beach on the Atlantic Ocean, far different from the rain forest in Congo. Jebel began school in May with a teacher there on the station and is enjoying it.



Thank you to all who have prayed for us and supported us financially, even though we haven't communicated since January. We praise the Lord for keeping us in reasonably good health and energy, and we look forward to sharing about BLF as we travel. Your gifts and prayers make it possible for us to travel. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

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