

Greetings,

Well, what an adventure. We are definitely in a foreign country. You would think living in a country that speaks English, we wouldn't have a problem. You would be surprised how much difference an accent makes in pronunciation.

Anyway, starting from the beginning, we had a great send off from Tulsa. Two of Paul's children, his mother, sister and brother and a host of friends came to see us off. Then we never even made it out of Tulsa on time. Our flight was canceled after we were already seated and ready to fly. The PA system wasn't working, so they canceled the flight. God was watching us already. We were one of the first ones off the plane and second in line to get rebooked. We left only 30 minutes later, while most of the others were still waiting to be rebooked. We flew through Atlanta instead of Cincinnati, which messed up our 5 hour layover in Dulles. We had made arrangements to meet with friends in Dulles for lunch, but there wasn't enough time, so they picked up fast food and met us at the airport, and we ate in the baggage collection area. It was good to see them again. Then our South African flight was two hours late. We discovered that they considered canceling the flight altogether, because the flight crew had to clean the plane and were putting in too many hours, but the flight crew agreed to work, with the stipulation that the service would be limited. The service wasn't too bad, but it was noticeably less than normal.

We arrived in Jo'berg with quite a crowd to greet us, and amazingly all of our luggage arrived, in spite of all the flight changes we had. We spent the next 5 days in Jo'berg shopping and getting acclimated to the time change. Our second night, there was a going away party for a missionary couple who were moving back to the states after over 30 years of ministry, and they also made it a welcome party for us.

We did quite a lot of shopping in one day, and found the perfect low mileage truck on the third day, but it needed to have a cap put on the back and some safety features added to it. So it would not be ready immediately. We arrived on a Thursday and left for Vaalwater on Tuesday. We unloaded all our purchases at our new apartment and discovered the water was off. So we packed a few things and went to the farm with Stu and Marilyn to stay the night. That night a storm came through and the power went off. But came back on later the next day. On Wednesday we did the soup kitchen all day, with a trip to the post office between feedings. That was an adventure. We were dropped off there and thought how hard could it be to get a mail box. First she told us there were no keys available for the boxes, so we couldn't get a mail box, and they didn't know how long it would be before they got the keys. We asked for a form anyway, since we thought surely we didn't understand what she was saying. We attempted to fill out the form, and we were able to get our last name on it. The rest we didn't understand, or didn't have the information they wanted. When Marilyn came back to see how we were doing, she helped us fill out the form and we asked her to stand in line with us to get a better understanding of what the clerk was telling us. Turns out they don't have the keys to the boxes because it is closed boxes and that the box was not renewed, and the other owners still have the keys. Anyway, I think the clerk just didn't want to put any effort into giving us a box, but with Marilyn with us, and a filled out form, she took our form, gave us a box number and told us we would have to call for our mail at the counter until new keys are available. Our next quest was for a home phone. When we started to ask around, the rumor was that it had an 18 month waiting list. Then we met Peggy, who knows

everyone, or knows the person who knows the information. We got a phone number to call. We have to drive an hour to another town to fill out the application. At this point we have no vehicle, so we are hoping to go there next week to fill out the application. This woman (who is in Cape Town), told us there are a few numbers available, so we must hurry before they are gone. But we are already learning that you can't believe anything your told. So we might have a phone in a month or two, or in 2 years. Which means we are cut off of communication. We signed up for Skype, but until we get a home phone, we can't use it. We can only access the internet occasionally at the internet café, which means we can't use the laptop, so we will continue to send out our updates from the hotmail address for now. We can still check the princeministry e-mail, and reply to them, but not use it for regular mailing. So if you don't hear from us for awhile, that is why. I am writing this in the van on the way back to Jo'berg, and will send it out tonight. We haven't had access to e-mail since we left Jo'berg 3 days ago.

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 1265  
Vaalwater, 0530  
South Africa

We are hoping to pickup our truck today, and also a cell phone that was donated to us by a local phone company. Cathie, who is Stu and Marilyn's daughter does business with this company, and was inquiring about us getting a contract with a cell phone company (non-residents are limited in what they can do here). They agreed to give us a reconditioned phone with some time already on it. We will have to purchase minutes as we use them. We can't get a phone with a contract. We have been told that it is cheaper for you to call us, than for us to call you. Please remember we are 8 hours ahead of you, so if you call, try not to call after about 1 or 2 pm your time. The cell phone number is: 011 27 84 967 6022

We are also hoping to get some more shopping done before we leave Jo'berg tomorrow. We have a bed, but no living room furniture. Plus a lot of odds and ends that we overlooked in the massive shopping we did last week.

We have heard rumors about the water problem we are having at the apartment. The water comes and goes, but we were finally in the apartment at a time when it was on, so we filled the tub for flushing the toilet. Anyway, it's been said that the water may stay this way or even get worse. Something about reservoirs having leaks, and pipes not being the right size, and the other town who is responsible for the funding for our town has spent all our money, so it can't be fixed anytime soon. What fun!

We moved into our apartment Thursday so we could start unpacking, and be ready to go early Friday (today) for the ride back to Jo'berg. We got about half our suitcases unpacked. All the dishes we bought are still sitting out because we needed water to wash them.

We will leave Jo'berg sometime Saturday. We have a meeting after church Sunday to discuss the future of the soup kitchen. They want to build a permanent building there, to replace the tent. Stu told us that his son-in-law had talked to someone in the government of our area about building an orphanage, and this person was very rude and said she would rather have the kids living in the street, than to take them

out of the village. Some others lower down in this area of government couldn't believe she had said that, but this tells you what we are working against here. Personnel change at a whim in this country, so some day, the mind set could change. In the meantime, we will find our niche in this very needy area and care for the children as we can. We have already in this short time in Vaalwater met quite a few people who have their own ministry in the area.

For those who knew about my (Micky's) medical problem, the results were good. I do not have cancer. I had a bad pap come back just before we left, and had a biopsy done two days before leaving the country. She said I have mild to moderate dysplasia with free margins and will need to be checked every 4-6 months to make sure it doesn't get any worse. It may even clear up on it's own over time.

We did get the vehicle today. Because the Rand rate is so good right now, and the vehicle business is not so good, we got a very good buy. It's a 2005 Toyota double cab truck for just under \$30,000. A lot cheaper than we expected to get, and it has very low mileage. I have attached a picture of us and the truck you helped pay for.

God bless, and stay in touch.

Paul and Micky Prince

