



Dziku Newsletter

March 2011

Greetings from Ghana! Since our return to Ghana in September, we made one more trip to the US over Christmas. Max got to see snow for the first time in December, went skiing, sledding, and had a lot of time with my family. By God's grace he also got his green card without much hassle and this will permit him to come in to the States and leave without having to apply for a visa every time...YAY! He also got to experience an American Christmas and enjoyed every minute of it. We are back home in Ghana now and back to ministry work. Max is teaching school and also serving with the base. I am serving with the Fountainhead Christian School in the PR department and being personal assistant to the directors.



CURRENT HAPPENINGS:

Our organization finally got the authorization to start a university and we are currently working on securing some affiliations to progress with program accreditations. We are trusting God for the university to begin by end of this year. By beginning the university our aim of helping impact the young generation will continue, only this time we will be able to work with a broader audience—from kindergarten to university level and give them both quality education with godly morals. The work of setting up the structure for the new university has kept both of us, but especially Maxwell, very busy researching and establishing the documents needed for that process.



In a more general sense, Ghana has been going through a time of growth and change. The current president—J.E.A. Mills—has come out with some strict policies to battle corruption that seems rife in the system here. This is a huge leap forward, although Ghana in some ways is seen as “better than others”, it's not yet to the level it could reach. It is also an essential element of the country's economic growth—the oil recently discovered will only do so much to help the country if left in the hands of a corrupt system. The president is also seeking for the spiritual well-being of the nation—calling for the second annual National week of Prayer, Fasting and Thanksgiving which ran from March 6th to the 13th and culminated in a service in the capitol and the regional capitols on the 13th. Please join us in praying for corrupt officials to be exposed and removed from their positions, as well as for economic and spiritual growth for Ghana.

MINISTRY GOALS

Working on raising funds to send some food items and clothes to the orphanages we've been working with on a regular basis. While we're not yet where we'd like to be as far as giving to these orphanages we were able to take some food to one of them—Marfo Children Care Foundation. It was a real blessing to see the children there growing and happy and healthy, and we look forward to continuing this important work. While it is a blessing to take food and play and pray with the children, it can also be heartbreaking at times. When Maxwell and I visited last weekend we met one of the new babies—Asantewaa, a four month old girl. She is adorable of course, but she is not growing as she should be. The reason for this was recently discovered: she has a hole in her heart. The caretakers have been taking her to Korle Bu hospital in Accra to find out the necessary treatment. Needless to say this is a considerable weight on their shoulders and will likely require costly treatment.



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OUR PERSONAL GOALS/PLANS

Max is preparing to start an MBA program and do some database software courses as well. These are needed for his role in the university project and all the work here. I am also doing a lot of personal studies on cross-cultural issues and may be taking up some other courses later in the year, which would help in the Mercy Ministries work. My main focus at this point is to explore ways the Mercy Ministry can be grown this year and in the future.

Aside from education and ministry goals, we're also planning a trip to the States this summer. This is due in part to the restrictions on Maxwell's current visa—he cannot be outside of the States for more than a year at a time or he loses the permit. The trip is of course also to visit family and friends in Michigan. We're also working and praying toward getting a new car. Our current car gets us from point A to point B (most of the time), but is costing us close to Maxwell's teaching salary every month in maintenance, repairs and fuel (not the lowest fuel consumption). Obviously, this is not ideal. We're trusting God for a new(er) car that will cost less to maintain and will not need so many trips to the mechanic. ☺

We want to conclude by thanking you all so very much for your support which we so much cherish and are very grateful for. We are praying for you all the time and know God is already blessing you, your family and work. We thank

Please pray with us on the following points:

1. Growth in our new marriage.
2. The orphanage ministries, especially baby Asantewaa at Marfo Children Care Foundation—for healing and healthy growth from this point on.
3. God's provision in finances for our education and other needs (including a new car)
4. Ghana's leadership and efforts to improve living standards for people
5. Both our families at home
6. Fountainhead Christian School's growth to university level
7. Our travels



Our honeymoon in San Francisco (July)



Maxwell skiing with Rachel's brother and nephew



Our apartment in Ghana