

PRAYER LETTER

Letter 4, November 2005

To the Praying Family of James & Heidi Roland

“And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.” Acts 16:9-10

Dear Family,

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." What a wonderful way to greet loved-ones in the faith (as Paul does to Philemon's church), to remind and extend God's tender affection and good will as the bond of our earthly relationships. Grace to you!

At our home, the pace is picking up as we move closer to our departure from the States in December. This next week will be busy with preparations for a L'Abri conference we are hosting in West Bend, Iowa. Also, James will be preaching at churches over the next several weeks, so lecture and sermon preparation is adding to his task list, but he maintains that it is all a work of pleasure!

Heidi is busy making the kitchen smell heavenly with cookies and desserts for the conference. The children are active making cards and letters they want to mail to their friends before they leave for Kenya. Today is cooler with cloudy skies that tell us that summer is gone and fall is here.

Audio Interview

On October 28, 2005, Jay Rudolph of KJYL Radio interviewed Wachira Ngamau, executive director of PACE International. The interview touches on the work we will be doing with the Bible College in Nyahururu in 2006. We have posted the interview on our website. Three files in mp3 format, each about 4 MB in size, so a broadband connection is necessary for download. The total interview is about 12:31 min. To listen, go to www.cafezanzibar.org/pace.html. Our sending churches are welcome to use this interview for their congregational mission updates. We hope you enjoy hearing from Wachira in Nyahururu!

Another development is the new website James designed for PACE. You can check it out at www.pacekenya.org.

God's Providence in All Things

This summer we began talking with Africa Inland Mission about sponsoring our work with PACE. They recently accepted our proposal. However, disappointingly, but understandably, AIM is unable to process our assignment according to our December arrival date. Due to our nearing timeline, and rather than disrupting Wachira's school schedule, we have decided to proceed independently.

What this means is that we will not be under a mission board, but the Africa Inland Church will apply for our entry permit. We are sorry to miss the support and accountability of AIM, but they have offered to provide us consultation and advice on an informal basis. Perhaps by God's providence, this means that we will need to lean more on our relationships with PACE, AIC and our sending churches for team spirit, accountability, advice and encouragement. AIM has graciously kept the door open for us to reapply as long-term missionaries, as has Evangelical Free Church International Mission.

Praises

What a privilege to share our praises and requests with those who will gladly join us in upholding them before the Father. We recently received the following email

from Wachira and want to share it to God's glory:

“We have over 50 pastors and elders here for our October leadership conference. They are all excited to hear that you shall be coming this December. I have even secured another teacher to be teaching with you. We're working now on fee structure and courses to be taught. We praise the Lord for bringing together this vision.

“By this time next year, your school shall be sponsoring the leadership conference. Thank you for stepping in for us. And by the way, you have students from Rwanda and Tanzania that are waiting for your arrival. Do not be scared.”

The fact that Wachira tells me not to be scared makes me



wonder if I should be! ☺ Praise the Lord for these forthcoming students!

The oral defense for my thesis took place on November 4 at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. It was a good time to hear from my professors. They made some very encouraging comments and okayed me for graduation--too bad we will be in Africa during the commencement!

Also, we just purchased our missionary family health insurance. It came to only \$2,300 for the whole year! It will cover us both in Kenya and here in the U.S., so we are thankful for God's provision.

A New Home in Kenya!

We are thankful to the Lord for the house that Wachira has found for us at Nyahururu. It is a single-story addition to large home. The rent is about \$160 per month including water. The house is partially furnished with a dining table and eight chairs, two complete sofa sets, a wall unit, a gas stove, and five bedrooms with four beds. All of the windows have curtains. The master bedroom has its own toilet and bathroom and the rest of the house has a toilet and bathroom. The enclosed yard will allow us to keep some goats and chickens. There is also a small garden and open area where the kids can play. The local church people have already offered to supply us with bedding, cooking pans, plates and utensils until we get settled.



The Roland's home in Kenya

"Let the Little Children..."

Today, our seven-year-old Sophia came to me [James] while I was working on the computer and brought a piece of notebook paper wrapped up in a bundle.

"This is for you!" she said with a smile. On the outside she had written, "To MAMA and PAPA." (She is learning how to read and write so we have been receiving many(!) such letters and cards from her and Maria.) I thanked her and opened it to find six dollars and a handful of change. Inside it read in child's scrawl, "Deuteronomy 13:4 'It is the Lord your God you must follow, . . . Keep his commands and obey him.'"



The Roland's home in Kenya

"This for you, so we can buy our tickets to Kenya!" she explained with joyful anticipation. This demonstration of honest affection was preceded by a similar event the day before when she held out her dime-store wrist watch and declared with an epiphany, "Papa! You can have my watch to sell; it's *real* gold and we can use the money for Kenya!"

~ Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Petitions

Lord willing, we plan to depart on Christmas Day. However, to purchase tickets, we need a total of about \$8,300. We have received about \$2,200 so far and will use a little we have saved ourselves. Our sending churches have proposed some very generous and loving gifts of support for our work, the problem is that most of the churches don't normally approve their mission budgets until January, so we are trusting the Lord for what's needed in the present.

Also, please pray that James's entry/work permit will be issued without creating problems for our December arrival. More information may be found on our website, www.cafezanzibar.org, under "Africa Project." There, you can view a project budget, past prayer letters and other documents.

Proposed Documentary Project

Some of you have asked for more information about the documentary project we (Lord willing) will be working on. It is still very much in the idea stage. Initially, we heard that Dennis Tongoi, Africa Director of the Church Mission Society, wanted to write a book to recount the incredible spiritual and social challenges and developments in Africa.

Tongoi also leads the Africa Working Group, an association of African church leaders. Together, these leaders are strategizing to bring the messages of biblical worldview and holistic ministry to the entire African continent through a program called Samaritan Strategy (see www.samaritan-strategy-africa.org/).

If the Lord allows, we would like to help Mr. Tongoi in the writing of his book. We would also like to produce a companion documentary film which could document the story in a powerful way to a wider audience. The film could be distributed with the

book on DVD.

The documentary is a secondary project, dependent on "vision" giving (as detailed in the website budget). In the secular humanitarian or academic fields, such a project would be financed through a grant by a philanthropic foundation. In our case, we are praying that the Lord will bring forward men and women who share this vision, from among His own people, to finance and complete the project.

We see this film project standing in the tradition of Francis Schaeffer's 1970s classic film series *How Should We Then Live?* and *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?* Ken Burns set a standard for artistic documentary with his PBS series *The Civil War* and we plan to follow his story-like narrative, interview, art style.

Thanks to the recent technological advances of desktop computers and professional-grade digital camcorders, a self-producer can get film-like results with equipment costing under \$5,000. We plan to use a new high-definition electronic format called "24P" which renders 24 frames per second just like film cameras but in digital image.



Equipment needed: Canon XL 2 Digital Camcorder

Glorifying God Through the Art of Filmmaking

Filmmaking is a powerful medium because it combines music, photography, acting, history, literature and storytelling. We naturally turn to art and entertainment for pleasure. Stories fulfill our needs for romance, adventure, humor, excitement, intrigue, and friendship which we don't get enough of in real life. However, in our kind of filmmaking, we're going to take those wonderful, God-given desires and turn them into paths to Christ *in the real world!*

Because the Biblical worldview rises out of God's Great Story, it is uniquely equipped to explore the depths of human imagination and desire. By bringing insight to the human condition and the need of acceptance, love and joy, this worldview can inspire stories that are psychologically sophisticated and emotionally fulfilling.

Michael Moore's award-winning *Fahrenheit 9/11* demonstrated that the documentary genre can be adapted in a popular way for persuasion. We hope to use this genre not only to change people's minds, but even more to affect their souls. The goal of this art would be to "make Christ look as wonderful as he is." Ultimately, our work is to glorify God, and this project will be a direct way of showcasing His greatness and goodness.

If you think of it, please send us photos of yourself and family for the album we will take to Kenya. We will pray for you when we look at your pictures. God's love to you all,

James, Heidi, Sophia, Maria, Peter & William

Proposed Time-Line 2005-2007

November

Around \$8,200 is needed to secure airline tickets. If the Lord provides \$3,500- \$8,500, we will purchase video, computer and recording equipment for a documentary project with Harvest Foundation and Church Mission Society in Kenya.

December

Dec. 25, depart for England. About \$12,700 will be needed for visas, duties, automobile, start up expenses, textbooks, miscellaneous, etc.

January

We will arrive in Nyahururu, move into our new home and begin adjusting to the culture. James will meet with representatives of Daystar University in Nairobi to finalize the class schedule and discuss accreditation issues. Applications will be accepted and a school catalogue with the term calendar and start dates will be published. Around \$1,861 will be needed each month for our personal living expenses.

February

Course material will be prepared and student applications processed. James will meet with Dennis Tongoi of the Christian Mission Society to plan out the documentary project.

March

Classes will begin at PACE Bible College.

For more details about the Roland Mission Project, you may visit www.cafezanzibar.org, www.pacekenya.org or contact James Roland at 712-848-3214, roland@cafezanzibar.org.

PACE is not-for-profit, tax ID 36-3853122. Donations to the Roland Mission Fund are tax-deductible. Checks should be made to "Algona Evangelical Free Church," memo: "Roland Mission Fund" and mailed to:

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