

August 2011

ACME Update



In Nepal and growing...

Hello from Kathmandu!

Dear friends and family,

We were waiting for the dust to settle before we sent out a newsletter that described our current situation. Things have been happening so fast in our lives right now that we felt anything we would write would be dated by the time you started praying for it. But, "this is Nepal", as we say, which means that you never know what will happen and you had better start praying.

Several large things are on our plate right now. A promised visa through the Ministry of Agriculture was withdrawn after much paperwork and meetings, leaving us very little time for Plan B. Plan B was to go the more indirect, expensive, research visa route. Time was tight but I was able to redo a bunch of the paperwork only to find out the university is on strike and padlocked shut. Plan C was to be thrown into jail because of our expired visa and get free food and lots of ministry opportunities, but that seemed short sighted. So now we are looking at plane tickets for Canada just in case the university does not open in the next few weeks (by the time you read this we will have 19 days left). So, please pray.

I am just getting over Hepatitis E which is an unpleasant liver disease contracted from either dirty food or water. After a crescendo of symptoms we ran some tests and discovered what I actually had going on. Fatigue, nausea and loss of appetite were the norm for a while but all of sudden it passed. We are so thankful that it is seemingly over. For those of you who heard about this, thank you very much for your prayers- the speed in which my symptoms left last week seemed miraculous.

Another piece of bigish news is that we have given notice to quit the farm. It was a very, very hard decision but rocks continued to be thrown at us from the steep hill/cliff above our house and it was getting dangerous, especially with the babies. Other things like a flourishing scorpion population in our house and not feeling like we had enough time for certain relationships also affected the decision. Our American friends who recently moved to Jumla have offered us some rooms in their house for the fall while we figure out what to do. Not having the work, enjoyment, and food from the farm will be difficult.

The largest and most significant piece of news is in relation to our ministry in Jumla. Around 2-3 months ago, I was called to a meeting with our church leaders. They are asking us not to ever go or be a part of their daughter churches in outlying villages. As one of our primary goals was to help the poor in these churches, and especially their pastors, this came as a pretty big blow.

We love hearing from you:

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A few more pictures on our blog: (last updated August 2nd)

<http://www.burks-burks.blogspot.com/>

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They stated that foreigners can be detrimental because believers and seekers are drawn to the possibility of money or a project and lose sight of Christ. We are glad that they are honest with us and we have accepted and honoured their request. However, we are now very confused. We felt directed to Jumla and to the work and ministry there but we feel like very little of what we hoped to do is left. Please pray for this. We do not want to make a rash decision so we are planning on returning to Jumla this year and focusing more on our relationships. I will continue with the work with the bees which doesn't require much land and try to spend more time with farmers on their farms.

I haven't mentioned Maya and Elise hoping that you would plow through our difficulties in the previous paragraphs hoping for some news of them. They are healthy and doing great. Elise is sporting 4 teeth and loves to stand and flap her arms. Maya has little curls and loves to furniture walk. They are growing fast and are starting to play with each other and chase after one another, going on small trouble-seeking excursions as fast as they can crawl. Colleen and I are doing pretty well. We look forward to clarity with our situation and either a renewed or different vision, or perhaps direction to return to North America. We value your prayers more than you can imagine, especially now as so many things feel uncertain.



In Him,
Andrew, Colleen, Maya and Elise

And now to the girls....



