

The Smith Soundings

Quarterly Update

March 2010



Judah Andrew, 10 months

Dear prayer partners and supporters,

We want to thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers over the last few months! If you have been getting our monthly updates through email, you know that we have had a very exciting start to 2010!

In January we reached **100%** support level! What a blessing to see this very climactic end to our deputation journey! It amazes us that even in the midst of these current financial times, that God's people are still being sensitive to the call of God to support missionaries either individually or as church bodies. As awesome as it is to currently be at 100%, we anticipate that it may not last long as we just found out that our health insurance costs are increasing by 20% next month. We are seeking God's wisdom and direction as we work with our budget to accommodate this new expense.

Also this year we found out where our first building project will be! In our update last month we told you that we were going to Wakefield, MI in the upper peninsula for our first project. This project has since been canceled due to financial circumstances. It was fun thinking about going to the UP, but maybe that day will come sometime in the future. However, we are still going to Michigan next month for our first building experience with CBM. We will be going to the CBM home office in Rockford, MI to help on construction of a staff building. While we are parked at the home office, we will also be in close proximity to a church building project going on at Maranatha Baptist Church, located just 5 miles away from the office. This church needs a new roof, as we understand, so Andy will be helping to do that as well. Andy is really looking forward to working at the home office amongst some seasoned builders and learning many things about the building ministry! We would love to have your prayers over this transition! We plan on leaving our spot here in Tama, IA on Monday, April 12th and arriving in Rockford, MI on that same evening, Lord willing. Pray for safety in travel with our home hooked on behind us! Pray for an easy transition to life in Michigan and for Andy as he starts this new phase in ministry!

We have been able to wrap up lots of loose ends recently: things that we wanted to accomplish before getting on the field fulltime. We were able to sell our "little red truck" to a happy customer last weekend. This is not the truck we use to pull the trailer, but rather one that we had left over from before we purchased our "big truck". We praise God that it has been sold!

Also this year we have managed to almost completely move out of the parsonage where we used to live. The only things left of ours in the parsonage are things that we plan on selling in a garage sale this spring or summer. We will have to come back to Iowa some week in the coming months to organize and administrate this garage sale. We pray that most everything sells. We will have to store the rest someplace or give it away.

It has been exciting for us to see Elizabeth finish her transcription schooling! She started this process shortly after Collin passed away back in 2007 and has been working on it steadily amidst our deputation travels. As of yesterday, she is done! This means that she can start looking for a job as an at-home medical transcriptionist if she wanted to. Her current thoughts are to not pursue that with too much fervor right now, but it will be there as an option should our support level decrease substantially. Praise God that this is done and off her mind for the time being!

This year we have been requesting your help in praying for God's will as we are looking for some land to purchase in the Marshall county (Iowa) area. It is our desire to have a "home base" to come back to should we have some down time between projects or around holidays. Thank you for praying with us! We are looking seriously at a plot of land just South of Marshalltown, where we grew up and where our son, Collin, is buried. We have put in an offer on the land and should find out soon if it has been accepted. There is a lot involved in developing land to how we need it to be—both time and money! Most of you know that better than we do! So please pray for us as we start this whole process!

