

New Year's greetings from Swaziland!

Mary Jean and I are back in Swaziland, - - since a month ago already. We traveled 11,000 miles on US & Canada roads, from late September to early January. We saw many of our ministry-support friends, spoke in a wide variety of church groups, and actually enjoyed seeing so much of the western North America from interstate highways. We regret that we were not able to see all we had wished. Hurricane Ike caused us to avoid southern Texas.

We did enjoy being with all our children and their spouses during the Christmas season. It was the first time we'd been all together for Christmas since 2002. Colorado laid on a very 'white' Christmas, which was unique, fabulously beautiful, and without mishap on the roads.

Please keep us in your prayers:

(1) Mary Jean has started a school at the New Life Homes farm. She is the teacher. There are 11 students, in a split 1st & 2nd grade. Mostly bright boys, she has her hands full and comes back with new stories of their antics everyday. So far we are only able to have space for the children of New Life Homes, as we are using the living room of a small 2 bedroom cottage.

Our gang of seven boys who went to the local school last year (now in Grade 2) are now actually behind those coming over from our pre-school, meaning they lost ground during the past year. With their keen attitudes, that won't last for long!

We do plan to start on a two-room school building in March (funds permitting), with expected occupancy sometime before June.

(2) This means we are at the farm from Monday thru Friday, leaving our home in Mbabane in the hands of our Swazi daughter, Sakheni. She is busy with her work, as well as additional business and family interests. Pray for God's protection over her and our property. With the economy in such decline here, house burglaries are on the upswing. We've borrowed a big dog from friends to help us.

(3) I leave today for almost two weeks in Zambia, training trainers for the Zambia Leadership Institute. Teaching two courses each week, to 15 men in each of two centers, with an all-day public bus ride to the second center in the north. Both groups are new cadres to the program. Pray they will deliver on their commitment to provide training to at least 100 pastors and church leaders in their respective areas over the next 6 months.

All our children are well, keeping very busy doing good things. I hope to give more details in our next news & notes edition.

Thanks for your interest in our lives and work,

Peter