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Dear Friends,

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In our last newsletter we told you about an upcoming trip to Belize. We had a very good visit. Van was in Belize from March 15th to April 7th while Nancy joined him from March 22nd through March 29th. Belize shows great potential as a location for a Central America training base. While there we were able to show several young men how to drill wells using the hand auger. We also showed them how to construct a solar cooker and a solar water heater for the showers at the camp. There is a small pond on the property which we were able to stock with tilapia and two kinds of water plants to serve as fish and livestock feed.

The area around the campground is well evangelized; that is, there are a number of local evangelical churches nearby. But Belize is a small country with a varied population and several unevangelized people groups within a short distance of the campground.

However, we learned that the lease from the government for the campground property expired two years ago. Before we can proceed with any plans for a training center, this situation with the government lease must be resolved. We will keep you posted on developments.

When Van returned from Belize, he went straight to work for Corning Cable Systems on a project at Ft. Meade, MD. This was a help to our budget and also provided several opportunities. While in Maryland Van was able to meet with a missionary home on furlough from Peru, Jeff Morgan. Jeff and Van have been corresponding for some time about "El Burro," a homemade motorbike designed to provide transportation, especially transport of stretcher patients, for villages in the developing world. Due to health problems, Jeff has asked Van to take over the development of El Burro. More on this later in this newsletter.

On May 5th while in Maryland Van experienced a tightness in his chest, so he went to the Veterans administration hospital in Baltimore. Thirty-six hours later he was discharged with three new stents in his heart and instructions to take it easy for a few days. The cardiologist cleared him to resume "hard physical labor in the tropics" after the recovery period was over.

In late May, Van began to have an episode of extreme fatigue, similar to problems he has had numerous times in the past. Many tests at various military hospitals have failed to determine the cause. These episodes usually resolve themselves after a month or two. Because of this, not much has been accomplished this summer. However, design work on modifications to El Burro has gone on. In early August, Nancy commented that Van's symptoms were very similar to when he had previous episodes of Amoeba while in Africa. Since he always brings back from trips abroad enough medications for two or three courses of treatment, Van began treatment with Tinidazole, a medication not available in the USA. Voila! Two days later his energy and strength began to return. Praise the Lord!

Van is currently in Ohio house-sitting for our daughter, Vicki, and her husband George. They are going to Greece for two weeks to let Vicki meet more of George's extended family. George is 1st generation Greek-American. They are also expecting our first grandchild Nov. 30th! Are we EXCITED!

September will be quite busy for us. We go to Van's 45th high school reunion in Macon, GA, Sept. 10, followed by our church's Global Impact Celebration missions conference Sept. 15th-19th. From Sept. 20th through 28th we will be out West visiting Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier National Parks as an early celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary (actually Jan 23, 2011. The snow is too deep to drive the rental car through Yellowstone then!)

Water development classes begin with Water Filters Oct. 3rd followed by Well Drilling, Pumps and ending the week of Oct 24-29 with *W*ater, *S*anitation and *H*ygiene (WASH).

Here is the current configuration of El Burro. Several previous testers (Jungle Aviation And Radio Service [JAARS], Servants In Faith And Technology [SIFAT] and ECHO [Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization]) have voiced concern over the engine location leading to high center of gravity and the low ground clearance causing problems. We will be looking at moving the engine back to a location in front of the rear wheel. We also want to transfer the stretcher-carrying function to a one-wheeled ambulance trailer to be pulled by El Burro.



We envision El Burro being used as part of a micro-enterprise delivery service (village UPS?) during the week providing an income producing business for a local pastor/church. The Burro would also facilitate pastoral visitation. Additionally, it would be available to take stretcher patients to the nearest medical facilities. All of these functions could be done using existing footpaths in the areas without roads. Finally, we believe that with the trailer it could transport a two-man well drilling team and their equipment, including the small powered percussion rig we developed last year!

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support.

Because He Lives, we serve,

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Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10