

July 2008

Dear Friend,

These days, Harold is in the middle of teaching classes—four down, three to go—about Remote Desktop and MS Office 2007. Classes are once a week for a large department or a few smaller departments of the SIM USA office. Immediately after class, the attendees begin their one week of transition to using the new software. Harold helps in answering questions and dealing with issues that come up while making the change. **Pray that all will go well with this software transition in the SIM USA office.**

Harold's job managing SIM Ethiopia's Theological Education projects is taking a back seat for right now. But beginning mid-July and on into August, it will be very busy as applications are processed and the scholarship budget for the new school year is finalized. **Pray that e-mail communication will remain open and wise decisions will be made concerning all scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year.**

Becky is thoroughly enjoying life these days. Yes, she's continuing her studies, but is now teaching childbirth education classes once a month. And the really fun part is the "hands on" apprenticeship with a local midwife. Every other Tuesday, they have a full day of women visiting the midwife's house for prenatal check-ups. Meanwhile, they are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to assist at home births. Last night, after taking our grandchildren out for ice cream and shopping, Becky was called to a birth. On the way home to get her stuff, she discovered her purse was missing. Calls to our daughter's affirmed the purse was not there. When we got home, the purse was not there. There was no time to retrace our path so Becky took off for the birth without her purse. Harold went to Target and Baskin & Robins. We thank the Lord that at Baskin & Robins, the man who had served us earlier, reached behind the counter and held up Becky's purse when Harold started to ask him about it. By the way, the baby was born forty minutes after Becky got there and she got to catch him as he came out! (Midwives "catch babies" since the mothers are the ones who actually "deliver their babies.")

Becky has now been to thirty births and has caught five babies under the midwife's supervision. Becky has a lot of interesting birth stories. Here is one for you animal lovers. She was at one home where there was a Labrador dog. The family claimed he was very smart. He was all over the house during the labor and possibly in the room when the baby was born. Becky wasn't paying attention to the dog at the time of the birth because she was busy catching the baby. But, afterwards when Becky was downstairs talking with the midwife, the dog came over and put his head in her lap and sat next to her for a couple of minutes. She thought it was funny at first, but later realized that that dog must have known she'd helped an important member of his family and wanted to thank her. Becky thoroughly enjoys learning about God's creation and watching how HE is in charge of seeing these babies come into the arms of their parents. What a blessing to be doing this! **Praise the Lord for the fun Becky is having. Pray that she continues to learn midwifery skills well that God can use later.**

We had been considering a trip across the States this fall to visit churches and supporters. But have decided to do that later rather than interrupting Becky's apprenticeship. Lord willing, she will be able to be certified in one or two years. **Pray with us about God's direction of where He would have us serve next.**

Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and support. We appreciate them all!

In His service,

Harold & Becky Jongeward

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