

We Made it

After four years of living and ministering in Sydney, the Weber family finally arrived in the States on Saturday, October 6 for our year-long furlough. The fourteen-hour flight was fairly uneventful. We had fears of being one of those families with the screaming baby for fourteen hours (you know, the ones that when they finally get off, everyone applauds). But our fears were not realized, and all our family enjoyed a very pleasant trip.

When we arrived in Indianapolis, many folks from Victory (our sending church) were there waiting for us. It was a great welcome, and we were excited to see all of them again. They were so much help in getting our twelve huge boxes, along with many carry-ons, out of the airport and into waiting cars. We then drove to a house in Columbus, IN, which was already prepared for our arrival with furniture, and food to last us a week. One of our members even provided a piano for us to use while we're here. We needed to do very little to begin settling into our new, year-long home.

The next day was Missionary Sunday at Victory. In the evening, we had the opportunity to share our computer presentation for the first time with our home crowd. Afterward the church presented us with a dvd player for the kids to use in the car on long trips, and a generous love offering to get us started. We really could not ask for a more caring, thoughtful group of people as Victory.

Challenges

After settling in a bit, it was time to do all the things necessary to establish residency (start utilities, get driver's licenses, get phone and internet, etc.). Immediately after unpacking our boxes, we realized that somehow all of our important documents (birth certificates, SS cards, marriage certificate) were missing. Apparently, they accidentally got put in the "storage" pile, rather than the "pack and take with us" pile. This probably wouldn't be a huge problem, but we needed to get a ss number for Sarah, which requires a birth certificate. We have had to file for a new birth certificate. Only time will tell what else we will need these documents for.

We had to practically start over in getting our driver's licenses. We both had to take written tests. Since Rachel's Indiana license had been expired for more than three years (mine had one more month), she had to take a driving test. But we both got through it and passed with flying colours. Apart from an occasional urge to drive on the left side of the road, or getting into the car on the wrong side, or trying to use our windshield wipers for a turn signal, we've done fine.

Since we are now living out in the country (we actually live in the middle of several corn fields), getting internet service has been a challenge (which may explain our dropping out of contact with some of you for a few weeks). Since we could not get cable or dsl service to the house, we had to try and rely on dial-up. When that was just too unbearably slow, we decided to switch to a wireless internet service. Now we are online and able to keep in regular contact with many of you.

One last challenge we'd like to share with you is our support situation. Upon arriving, our "official" support figures had us short in support by over

\$1,800.00 per month. Since then, however, we praise the Lord that we've gotten calls from two new supporters (one church, one individual), who combined have committed to \$250.00 per month. A couple of churches we have visited have spoken to us already about increases in support. We thank God for this encouraging news! Would you pray with us that God would continue to lay this need on hearts, so that the remaining \$1,500.00 in support can be raised within the year.

Meetings

Upon arriving in the States for furlough, we hit the ground running. In our first two-and-a-half weeks in the States, we visited 6 different churches! We thank the Lord for such good meetings with good friends to start off our year of furlough. With October/November being conference months, our schedule still remains quite full. We actually have every Sunday filled through March. Please pray that the Lord might sustain us through this busy period.

We have already arranged a time to share with many of our supporting churches. For those of you whom we have not yet arranged meetings with, I will be calling you soon. If you have a time in mind for us to come and share with your church (maybe on a Wednesday or on a Sunday after March), please free to contact us. I will leave our contact info for you below:

Paul and Rachel Weber
3337 S. Gladstone Ave.
Columbus, IN 47201
Home #: (812) 375-9202 Cell #: (812) 344-4044
Email: webersdownunder@gmail.com

We will write again with more news soon. Thanks again for your prayers.

God Bless,
Paul and Rachel Weber
and Family