



Our Work for the Lord wherever there is opportunity -- August 2018

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Dear brethren,

First of all I must apologise for not sending a newsletter last month. We sent a newsletter to our brethren in Africa, and somehow, in our busyness, forgot that we also needed to do one for the congregations who support us.

We are beginning to feel much more settled and “at home” after a very busy and stressful time of trying to figure out how things work in the USA: utilities, taxes, insurance, etc. The most time-consuming settling-in challenge we faced was having to get driver’s licences “from scratch.” Since I struggle with dyslexia, and since, by the grace of God, I have now reached the age of 78, I had particular trouble studying for the written exam. Not only was it hard for me to picture who must yield when the question says a vehicle is on your right at a stop sign, but in South Africa, one actually yields to a vehicle which is on the left. The American driving vocabulary is quite different, and the test also contained quite a bit of technical questions about points, fines, prison sentences, stopping distances, etc. I spent virtually all my spare time for 2 weeks studying for this test as well as making some parallel parking practice poles and practicing for that. Fortunately, we were both able to pass the test, and fortunately the officer who administered the driving test *pointed* as well as spoke instructions regarding making turns! It was not until we received our first utility bill that we were allowed to take the driver’s test, and it was not until we had a licence that we could buy car insurance, and it was not until we had insurance that we could buy a car! So we sincerely want to thank the Gershenson family who lent us their car until all those things could be in place.

We are also thankful to God for many other brethren who helped us in so many ways with furniture and appliances, money for furniture and appliances, money for our move, good advice, and prayers. Our personal items are due to arrive in a few days: the ship has docked and is waiting to clear customs. The total cost of shipping our personal items was \$4764, and we received a total of \$3450 for our move from congregations and individuals, as well as enough money from a special sister in FL to buy some new items (bed, sleeper-sofa) and everything else we needed second-hand.

I am also very grateful to the Kirkwood congregation who has given me some opportunities to be of service. During October I preached two lessons in the absence of LA Stauffer, and also began teaching the adult Wednesday night Bible class the second week of October. I also preached a lesson for the Ellisville congregation when their preacher, Ryan Boyer, was away. A young couple approached us about teaching them some marriage lessons, starting after the Thanksgiving holiday. I joined with two of the brothers at Kirkwood, who started a Meet-Up in a nearby location on every second Tuesday evening. At our first Meet-Up in this suburb we had a visitor, a young man about 30 years old. We were encouraged that he came back to the second Meet-Up, but I actually was not there. We were in Florida to visit our newest granddaughter, Lydia Louise Maydell, born October 15th to our son Joseph and his wife Kristen, and we praise God for Him blessing both mother and child with good health. LA graciously stepped in for me and taught my lessons on the two Wednesdays we were away.

About 3 weeks after our arrival, Linda’s mother had some kind of medical event where she seemed slightly ill and had a lot more trouble with hallucinations and confusion than usual. The doctor’s tests were inconclusive, but Mom’s cognitive abilities dipped further to the point that she needs to be phoned and reminded when it is time to do certain things like go to the dining room to eat. We are so thankful that we are in the USA now. Even during our time in Florida, Linda was able to phone her at least three times per day to remind her of mealtimes – something that would have been very difficult to do in Africa, considering the time difference. When we are in St Louis, Linda

visits her mother for a few hours every day, frequently finding things that need attention. For example, she noticed her mother frequently scratching her back and discovered a non-aggressive skin cancer that is scheduled to be removed next week.

We don't know exactly how to express our thanks, but we are so thankful that you brethren were willing to help us make this new adjustment in our lives by extending my support until the end of this year. I suppose that Paul said it best in Philippians 4, "I rejoice in the Lord greatly that your care for me has flourished...I am full, having received the things sent by you, a sweet-smelling aroma..." We are now receiving \$2000 of our retirement income, but the rest will only be available in July. Therefore, if each congregation could continue to supply me with 2/3 of what they have been sending in 2018, from January – June, 2019, we would greatly appreciate not having to dip into our retirement savings which we hope to invest as part of our retirement income. However, if you feel that the Lord's money could be put to better use elsewhere, we will completely understand. When I say "retirement," I do not mean that we will sit back and stop working, but simply that my work will no longer be full-time preaching, but doing whatever we find opportunity to do for the Lord for our brethren in the USA and southern Africa.

Your grateful servant in Christ, Les Maydell