

Pretend you're a mountain climber. If you were about to head over the tallest peak you'd ever approached in your life, you would feel consumed by the challenge. Maybe it would be hard to force yourself to sit down, rest, and write in your journal. Maybe it would be hard to even stop for a drink. You just want to get the thing **DONE!**

That's a little of what we are feeling, and it's been hard figuring out what to write, even though we feel the need for prayer like never before. Since our recent short furlough, we are so glad to be back that we have a hard time sitting down to write to you about everything.

What is this peak ahead of us? Well, like usual, it is the next turn of life. First of all, it is a new baby coming (due April 1!). It is also the start of a new season at Gladstone—a busy and exciting one. It is getting close to acquiring our permanent residency in Canada. It is seeing the new growth in our church, and wondering what is next there. Whew!

Life Changes: We are currently preparing for Baby number 3 (due April 1!) Please pray for a safe delivery and for the entire family's adjustment to this special new person.

The Two Month Road Trip: We were on "furlough" from mid-November to mid-January, on the road to Illinois and Michigan visiting people we very much love and appreciate—friends, family, and partnering churches. We only regret not being able to see everyone in that time. The biggest blessing of the trip was being with people who really pray for us, and who care about this ministry.

Other highlights of our trip include:

- God miraculously supplying snow tires for my work truck
- God opening doors to put us on a cable tv show (2 - 30 min. segments) to minister with testimonies and songs
- seeing all the kids we know that have somehow grown to become a foot taller!
- staying with family most of the time (good grandparent time!)
- a Christian Native elder making a hand drum for Ann
- smooth border crossings (whew!)
- safety on our return trip through Canada, where we had heavy snowfall at times, and windchills of up to -58C.

(Ha Ha) side note—I've been telling people that if we have a boy we are going to name him Miles after our furlough trip. Only 6000 miles in 2 months...

Joe: A while back we asked you to pray for Joe. Praise the Lord, our friend has made a serious commitment to God. Now pray as he puts away the old life and grabs on to the new.

Immigration Update: We have sent in our permanent residency application to the Canadian Consulate and have completed all the requirements. At this time they are not requiring an interview (which would mean a trip to New York or Seattle, their choice). All that's left is to wait and pay the rest of the required fee (we need to raise approximately \$1000 more). Our work visa expires in October of this year. Please remember to pray, for this is not a sure thing.

Work teams for 2005: We have a full year lined up again, with the first work team arriving in May, and we're very much looking forward to three teams from supporting churches! Here's a rundown of the schedule:

- **New Lenox, IL team**-----**(May 20-29)**
- Washington work team-----**(June 4-11)**
- Nags head & Mount Currie work team-**(June 11-18)**
- SMI Orientation-----**(June 21-27)**
- Kids camp----- **(July 4-8)**
- **North Michigan work team**-----**(June-July?)**
- Jr. Camp-----**(June 11-15)**
- Discipleship camp-----**(July 16-18)**
- **New Baltimore Youth Team**-----**(July)**
- Teen Camp-----**(July 18-22)**
- Family camp-----**(July 23-31)**
- SMI recap -----**(Aug. 11-15)**
- Colonial/Mt. Currie work team-----**(Aug. 27-Sept. 3)**

Gladstone Mentoring: One focus of Gladstone that has surfaced is to work with young people who show promise and who may be future leaders of their people. One very practical aspect of that vision is for me to bring in young men from the reserve to assist with some of the endless physical labor at Gladstone. Gladstone is not able to pay them; however, we have been given permission to start a special fund so that he can offer a stipend for their work. If you are interested in giving towards such a fund, you can send a gift to NAIM with the designation PN #7256.

Purchasing Gladstone: The corner section of the property of Gladstone, which includes a good portion of the lake, is due at the end of December 2005. Please pray that the \$300,000 needed would be received by that date (or sooner!).

Prayer Focus for the Reserve: Our reserve, Piikani Nation, is going through some very difficult times. There is currently a lot of division and hopelessness there. At Gladstone we will be blessed yet again with so many wonderful, godly work teams coming to serve this year, and I would like to take some of them to the 4 corners of the reserve to pray. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12

Elliot and Erica: Both just celebrated birthdays—Elliot is now 5 and Erica is 3. They are so fun at this age! Please pray for them as they adjust to a new sibling. Pray for Ann as she homeschools.

