

## CLARK KENT, VICTORY GARDENS... AND FURLOUGHS

Some of you may wonder how these missionaries are finding furlough, a.k.a. home ministry assignment.

Through a normal week, we are here quietly working in our home. David makes lots of phone calls, does quite a bit of correspondence by email, revises his lecture notes, teaches at a small pastors' college connected to our church, helps kids with math homework and deals with financial matters. Terri is homemaking: dish redemption, clothing redemption, food preparation, helping kids with homework. (The U.S. really has a thing for homework.) That is the mild-mannered "Clark Kent" part of our week. On the weekends, we switch to "Superman" mode and armed with a road atlas and directions, overnight bags and pillows, display boards and prayer cards, and, oh yes, Red Bull for Terri so she can stay awake while driving, we travel all over the U.S. highways visiting churches and sharing our work.

Glancing at a newspaper picture of a U.S. soldier, we are struck with how much our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan must appreciate coming home to the country they are fighting for. They are sacrificing time with family, comforts of home, privacy and safety for a cause: the cause of freedom. When they come home they are greatly encouraged when those at home welcome them back, validate their work and sacrifices for the cause, and cheer them on as they return to fight. One can imagine how seeing the World War II "victory gardens" on the home front and other sacrifices for the cause, gave the soldiers courage to press on. Today, the yellow ribbon car stickers must evoke similar feelings.

Likewise, as missionaries, we go for a purpose: the cause of lifting Christ up in Zambia and preparing leaders to serve in His church. It also requires certain sacrifices: time with family, the comforts of home, privacy and safety. We are so encouraged by churches that pay our salary, pray for us, listen to our stories, send us notes, and just generally want to have us around, even if it is just for a day that requires us to leave at sun up and return after it has gone down. When churches take time for missionaries, i.e. have them share about their work, bring their prayer requests before the congregation, take up special offerings for their work, etc., we are so encouraged. We cannot do the work without your prayers and financial donations, but more than that, we are built up and bolstered by your many acts of kindness toward us. These kinds of things reinforce the knowledge that we do not stand alone, which to us would be a fearsome thought.

We want to say THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. Your love has made our work a joy.

## CHITANGES (say "chi-tang-ee-s")

Chitanges are bright-colored cloths made in Africa for Africans. They are usually about a two-meter square of cotton fabric and have multiple uses such as:

- Holding babies sling-like
- Sitting upon the ground
- Wrapping around shoulders as a shawl
- Wearing around the waist as a skirt
- As a place for women to keep their money as they fold it to the inside of the skirt at the waist
- Rolled into a coil and placed on the head as a foundation for carrying baskets on one's head
- As payment to older "Bonachimboosas" who train younger women for marriage
- Wearing as an apron over clothes
- Fabric for tailors to make men's shirts and ladies' two-piece outfits
- As a backpack to carry goods

## Fundraising – where we stand right now

Due to our children's changing education needs from when we first went out, and other factors beyond our control (like cost of living increases, inflation in Zambia, drop-off of some supporters, etc.), Mission to the World tells us that we **must raise an additional \$1,800 per month** in order to return to Zambia, the Lord willing, at the end of July 2007. Our son, John informed us this morning, that our departure date is only 134 days away. We want to go back, but we can't go until all of this is in.

We've been reading Randy Alcorn's book, *The Treasure Principle*, and a few thoughts occur to us:

- Our hearts will always follow our treasure.
- We are called to lay up treasures in heaven.
- Treasures laid up in heaven will last whereas those laid up on earth will perish.
- God promises returns on our investments in heaven along with great joy.
- Investing in missions is one way to lay up treasure in heaven.

We are looking for **ten churches** and **eight individuals** who will support us for **\$100 per month**. We would like you to consider if the Lord might want you to pray and give to help build His Kingdom in Africa. You won't regret it.

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Please make checks payable to: Mission to the World. Our account is #018178.