

Jan 4, 1982

Dear Family:

Well, Don't look now but almost one month to the day from our scheduled departure, we now have our visas and we will fly to Johannesburg on January the 11th at 9 A.M. Nine of us, one girl, six young men, and ourselves plus one missionary returning to South Africa from a medical leave will go. We just got our call from the MTC and Daddy has gone up to the MTC to get the itinerary (?). We know we fly to Denver and then to N.Y. and then to London. We will stay overnight in London, and then fly to Johannesburg from London.

I will add a PS when Dad gets back. I have had a cold this week (probably caught it from all those kids of our who have had colds during the Holidays., but also could have caught it at the MTC where everyone seems to be hacking and sneezing. Anyway, I was feeling lousy Sunday, so Tracy went to the MTC meetings and I stayed home. I was sleeping when he got home, but when I woke up (when he oped the door (oped is a new word meaning To Open) I woke and I had a very sore mouth. I had a couple of cankers but when Tracy came into the bedroom he said: "are you sure it's not your old allergies" Sure enough, one side of my tongue was swollen and the cankers weren't cankers at all but hives. I hurriedly took some of my liquid benedril and a couple of Predisone and hoped. After a few hours it subsided somewhat but I could not talk very well when Sherlene and Virginia called to see if we had any action on our visas.

However, it was back to normal this morning, but I don't like the idea that it is still there--I had been doing so well, we thought that I was out of the woods, allergy-wise. Well, at least I will have my little emergency kit when we go to Zimbabwe.

Someone saw Tracy Sunday who had been in Zimbabwe on his mission and he said it really got hot there for three months of the year. If the mission Pres. sends us directly to Zimbabwe we will hit the best (hottest) time of the year. Well, maybe it will bake the meanness out of me. (that would be the day.)

I am impressed by the brilliance of all you missionaries. (Just YOUTH.) We are really having a hard time learning those discussions, and when we think we have them learned the next time we look at them they look like complete strangers. No retention either.

We will probably get mail from Wendell which he has sent to South Africa--I notice that Teresa has had two or three letters and we haven't so he probably thought that we went to S. A. as scheduled. (we wish.)

So this week, having a week to prepare, we will batten down the hatches (again) repack our duds (again) and spend many hours studying those discussions (again.) I wonder if we will ever do any teaching? Well, learning the discussions is good gospel review. Daddy has set a goal to commit to memory all the discussion scriptures including the auxiliary ones. There are 66 bare bone scriptures and at least twice that in his stack.
love, Mother

Dad has just returned and here it is:

Leave SLC 9 AM 1-11-82, United 320
Arrive Denver 10:14 AM 1-11-82 Flight 160 United
Arrive NY Kennedy 5:10 PM
Leave NY 8:P.M. 1-11-82 British airways flight 174
Arrive London/Heathrow 7:40 AM 1-12-82 British airways 174
Leave 8:40 P.m. 1-12-82 British flight 055
Arrive Johannesburg 11:50 A.M. 1-13-82

Long trip. I wonder if we will be able to sleep that day in London. Or will we want to be out on the town.

Well, If we don't convert anyone, we can say we made it possible for a lot of people to get their blessings on the other side, that is if Charlotte, Virginia, Liz and Sherlene can find time in their busy schedules to type off those names on Individual Entries. When I get back I will clean up those in my file (Not too many, now) and then start new work.)

We will probably write you next time from Zimbabwe--or at least from South Africa if we can get the time.