

Praises:

- *Good Christmas and New Year's services
- *Problems with our workers were resolved
- *God's provision is just what we need when we need it!

Prayer requests:

- *Title for the land
- *Approval for our NGO
- *Salvation of Ansaf, Rodrige, Rose, Florette and her Husband
- *Monthly evangelism outreach to start Feb.07
- *Growth for the couples in our church during the marriage seminar this month.
- *Wisdom, endurance and courage for us
- *Our marriage and our walk with God



Dear Friends and Family,

January in a word—PAPERWORK. Somehow in all the cross-cultural training and mission's courses, the paperwork side of living in another country never was discussed. We are so grateful for God's mercy and grace because neither one of us is good at paperwork! As we mentioned in our last letter, our non-profit (under which our visas come) is up for renewal this year. A new step in the process is to acquire work permits. We were able to submit all the financial and activity reports, request for renewal and work permit applications. Now we wait. *Please pray that we will be granted approval and renewed visas!*

LAND: the title for the property is still not in our hands. We are waiting for the Ministry of Domain to grant it and let us know whether we pay a one-time price or a monthly lease from the government. *It would be such a blessing for this land to be titled to us free and clear.*

PLANE: Bobby will be transporting vaccines again this week from the highlands to our town then from here to two of the most remote districts of our region. Rainy season is in full swing. The clinics in these two districts would probably not get their supplies until April without this help. *Please pray that we can be a good witness to our local health workers and make good contacts with those who pick up the vaccines in the villages.*

CHURCH: Because the landlord is raising the rent for our building, we are looking at relocating by the end of March. If our land title is given to us, we could possibly build a shelter on part of it for the church adding to it as funds come in. Otherwise we will need to find a different place to rent until the church can build its own building.

Leading up to Valentine's day, Bobby has been teaching on the Christian home and we are hosting a marriage seminar with separate sessions for the men and women. It has been fun and encouraging to hear how they are putting into practice what they are learning.

On Sunday afternoons, we have been learning how to give our testimony and witness to others. Next Sunday is our first church wide evangelism outreach. We've been saved for a long time and still get nervous when going out witnessing. I can only imagine they are nervous as well. *Please pray for us as well as these young believers to have courage and boldness in sharing our faith!*

Trusting Always in HIM,
Bobby and Joanna Burdett



Witness for a wedding
Youth on Christmas day

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Many celebrate Christmas as Advent - Jesus came to earth and He will return someday. It's a beautiful thing to contemplate. I wonder if the coming celebration will be even more grand than the first when the angels said, "glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" What if we tipped the scales this Christmas toward the second celebration? . . . I have typed a sentence and erased it several times now thinking up all that would mean to my current way of celebrating Christmas! Now, I love gift giving and receiving as much as anyone, but my perspective on those presents I've already bought and wrapped has just changed. I have eternal hope because "the Word became flesh," but I have hope for no matter what today looks like because He's alive and coming again!

Between the 'already' and the 'not yet,' here are our latest life happenings...

Dear Friends and Family,

First of all, we would like to wish you all a merry Christmas! In celebrating His first coming, let's remember that He is coming again! In the meantime, we are exhorted to not grow weary in well-doing.

After much going back and forth with customs and brokers, the airplane propeller and governor were released and reinstalled in early November. The airworthiness certificate was due for renewal on Nov. 25th. We traveled to Tana for that only to find the inspectors had left town for a week. We were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with fellow missionaries while waiting for them to return. *The airplane passed the inspection* and we can breathe a sigh of relief for another year.

While the plane was down, we were approached by the health department about taking some vaccines to a neighboring district. This would have been a good project for our NGO due for renewal next February. We couldn't help then, but when the next distribution was due, Bobby was able to fly over 700 lbs of vaccines to the districts of our region. *This was an answer to prayer about having more projects done for report to the government next year.*

The land we paid for has been surveyed and all paperwork submitted. The title, however, is still not in our hands nor the taxes paid (which could be up to ten times what we paid for the land!). We are clearing the brush and fencing it in, but would like to have the title before building anything more permanent. Please pray with us for a clear title and taxes we can afford!

November 15th our group of believers celebrated five years of meeting together. We enjoyed hearing the *testimony of eleven new Christians* and witnessed them follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Every corner of the church was filled as we ate together and praised the Lord for His faithfulness to us. We ask God daily to build His church in this place!

The Apostle Paul said, "for a great door and effectual is opened unto me and there are many adversaries." If you have prayed for us and this ministry in the past few months, we want you to know that you have kept us afloat. We have felt like Peter that Satan has asked for us that he may sift us as wheat. He wants us in his teeth to whip around until we fall limp. We see the 'great door and effectual' and we want to work until Jesus comes but we've also felt the adversaries of frustration, feeling like it's never enough, accusation, grief of sin, and loneliness. We love it when people pray for us, "Lord, bless the missionaries." We crave a prayer that would beg, "Lord God Almighty, sustain them today that their faith fail not!" *Do not underestimate your part in this ministry.* Your intercession is crucial. We love you and are so grateful to God for your partnership!

~Bobby and Joanna Burdett

Praises:

Airplane propeller and governor are installed

Airworthiness certificate was renewed

Land was purchased

11 Believers were baptized

One couple will get their marriage legalized this month

We are healthy, provided for and safe

Prayer requests:

Title for the land

Problems with our workers to be resolved

Salvation of Florette and her husband, Ansaf, and Roderige

Two couples who need to legalize their marriage

The children's Christmas program Dec.25th.

Wisdom, endurance and courage for us

Our marriage and our walk with God