

# HOWe THINGS ARE...

August 2002

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Hello! It seriously feels like I haven't written in ages. It's been two months, but quite the eventful two months. I moved twice (see new phone number/address below). Once to another housesitting situation (a housesitting situation with cable TV. I can't handle cable -- too many choices and I was all the time feeling like I'm missing something good. The cable situation was exacerbated by having moved from a house where I could get one TV station to the cable house with like a hundred channels). From the cable house, I moved into my apartment. I'm renting, but it's mine. You understand. It's not mine, like I own it. It's mine like I'm renting it. It's furnished, but it's not like someone else lives here and I'm staying here until they get back. I live here. And, while at the cable house, I discovered many cool decorating shows where they do cool things with practically no money. I got inspired so I've done some arts and crafts projects. I had no idea I could be this creative. Generally, I'm not an arts type person. I painted some canvases (modern "art") for my living room and I made a "headboard" for the bedroom. You must come see it. I'm very proud of myself.

Here's what my new home is teaching me. God is very, very good. Jesus' first miracle on earth was turning water into wine at a wedding. It's striking because it was sort of an "unnecessary" miracle. No one was going to die if the people didn't have wine at their party. No one was healed. Why did God do that miracle? I think it reveals something about the nature of God. God doesn't just save us so that we can be spared the consequences of the evil we do, he saves us so that we can live this amazing life in him --- life we can't even imagine, better than what we think we want...

I've done more than just move (although if you didn't recall that I only have with me what fit in my vehicle on the drive out here, you'd think I've spent lots of time packing and unpacking). I am also now a North Carolina resident. Since I have a permanent address, I was able to get a driver's license and all that stuff that makes you a resident. I was mildly depressed to learn that until I moved into my apartment, I would've needed a letter from a homeless shelter/social services agency in order to be a resident here. It's like you're not a real person if you don't have a "permanent" address.

At work, I'm learning all about prayer. There are tedious details involved. It's amazing how much can go wrong. I have a project that's being released on September 1. ---That sounds maybe too optimistic---. I have a project that about 50 people around the world believe is going to be released September 1. I thought the major part of this project was going to be keeping everyone affected informed. Somewhat suddenly, there are maybe four major problems. Maybe the September 1 thing won't work. Yet I'm not worried. Whatever happens is totally God's deal. Plus, think what might have happened if I didn't discover the problems ahead of time. It would be way worse to make changes and have stuff break (because it would break for the people who are calling in using sat phones from Cameroon --- not that it's okay to break people's email so long as they're not calling in on a sat phone... I'm just saying that if I have to break somebody's email, I'd rather break someone's in say North Carolina, rather than someone in a "communications/infrastructure challenged" part of the world).

The me-not-worried thing is just incredible to me. If this September 1 thing doesn't happen, all of these people who've never met me will have their first impression of me be that I'm one who promises and doesn't deliver (not a good thing when you're 'the new guy'). Of course, I'm praying that problems will be resolved and the thing goes off nicely. However, I'm not worried. I really don't think I'm conveying how weird me-anxiety-free right now is. This is "be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication": the object lesson.

I know this. God will be glorified. People are praying --- you all may not specifically be praying for this thing, but I know (because you've told me) you're praying for me, for my work, for the part I have in getting God's Word to people who don't have it. What an amazing thing to see what it is to rely on prayer, well not on prayer, but on the one to whom we pray. It's really so much better than my normal, let me see how much sleep I can lose worrying approach...

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