

HOWe THINGS ARE...

January 2003

Hello! Happy New Year! Okay, my main goal in writing this letter is to tell you that I'm changing my email address. This is significant, for those of you keeping track, because my email address was the one consistent thing. My phone number, physical address --- these things change on a regular basis, but I've had the same email address for my entire Wycliffe career. The new address is: **sahowe@wbt.org** (very similar to the old address, just a new domain).

Meanwhile, I'm making progress in travel arrangements for Uganda. I bought a plane ticket, which has me staying overnight in London on the way back (no special reason for telling you about the London overnight, just random information). Also, I visited the clinic for a whole bunch of various shots. And I have an appointment to get whatever malaria stuff I need.

On the other hand, I'm still waiting to hear what sort of living situation there will be for me when I get there and how much said living situation will cost. For me, the planner, this is just a little un-nerving. I have no desire to step off a plane in a foreign country with no plan for where I'll live for the next three months. Those of you who are more adventurous than me think this will be fun for me. I know your kind, you adventurous people. You're right now thinking that arriving in a foreign country without having a plan will be a growing experience for me and I'll come back all fixed of my need to control things. While this is one scenario, another, more comforting (and all around better) scenario is that living arrangements will in fact be arranged prior to my arrival.

I realized from people's responses that I needed to clarify one thing. I'm going to Uganda, a country which IS NOT having a civil war. I'm NOT going to Sudan, a country which IS having a civil war. The no-war place is where I'm going.

In other work news, my December deadline project got out on time. It was so very cool. Given the right circumstances, I could totally be a work-a-holic. This project was quite a bit of programming and, generally, I'm not all that excited about programming. However, I was getting a little work rush when I was finishing up testing this project. Fellow possible work-a-holics know this feeling: The I-was-made-for-this-job feeling: God designs people with a purpose and this is mine. It was much fun.

So I put out the project. People are using it; they have minor suggestions. I'm happy. They're happy. And then, the people in the Chad branch install it. Listen to how weird this is. I did test the thing before I put it out, but I didn't test it with every country code because why would you? Works with one code, you'd think it would work for all of them -- and it totally should work for all of them. It doesn't. Chad's country code, "%cdb", breaks things. No problem with Cameroon, "%cmb". It's like it hates the Chad branch. (don't worry, it's fixed, Chad is not continuing to be broken, but it's a small unsolved mystery).

Stuff to pray about...

- **Praise** for how smoothly things have been going at work. It helps me relax to think I'm not leaving a whole lot undone.
- **Pray** (seriously) for good communication with the people in the Sudan branch. Living arrangements can be worked out after I get there. Equipment needed or any training stuff for me really can't.
- **Pray** for my visit to Arizona this month and my home church's International Weekend. Pray for people attending that weekend who God may be calling to missions.

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