

Sheryl Howe

From: "SA Howe" <sahowe@wbt.org>
To: <sahowe@wbt.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2003 2:37 PM
Subject: The Final Week

Hello! This is my last week in Uganda --- very hard to believe I've been here almost three months. It's that vacation feeling. You know how if you go somewhere on vacation, at the end of your vacation you feel like you just got there at the same time you feel like you've been there a lifetime.

Work is not as finished as I'd like it to be. Seriously if you could pray for this last week and the remaining work.

I found (well no, God showed me) the coolest verse for me this week. It's Psalm 90:17 "And the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; And do confirm for us the work of our hands. Yes, confirm the work of our hands." I am liking this verse.

I'm attempting to prepare myself to leave. Here are things I just have to deal with:

(1) They don't have "Krest Bitter Lemon", the soft drink (a Coke product) in the US. It's the best stuff and, for added benefit, apparently one of the ingredients is quinine (of malaria fame). Bitter Lemon, the drink, sort of grows on you (kind of like how I now drink tea). I wasn't so much impressed with Bitter Lemon the first few times. Now it's my standard drink order. I've learned to ask if they have "large Bitter Lemon" (the 500 ml size) because sometimes they do and 500 ml is so much better than the regular 300 ml small bottles. If you don't ask, they just bring the little, bity 300 ml regular kinds. 300 ml is not enough liquid for a meal. Plus the 500 ml bottles have a twist off cap and the 300 ml guys just have the bottle caps that you need a bottle opener to open (except there's a lot of people here who use their teeth to open those caps. I think dentists would not be pleased with the use of teeth for a lot of jobs here).

(2) At home, if I want to go somewhere, there will be no calling Eldon the taxi guy or walking to the boda stop to take a motorcycle. I have to drive myself wherever I want to go. I'm pretty used to public transportation. I have zero desire to drive. Granted driving here is quite the challenge, with the bad roads and driving on the "wrong" side (actually, people drive wherever there are the least amount of potholes/ditches, sometimes this is on the left, sometimes the right, sometimes not on the road at all) and the rules of the road seem quite random to me. I'm sure there are rules, I just don't understand them. This is not a cause for alarm or anything. I'm not driving so I don't need to know the rules --- except the one pedestrians do NOT have right of way EVER rule. The only pedestrian friendly rule is something about splashing (it's illegal to splash a pedestrian --- driving through a puddle and splashing someone). I'm not exactly sure how people avoid splashing pedestrians since there are tons of pedestrians and most of the time, tons of puddles... There are many things I don't understand.

Stuff you could pray about:

* work, that it would go smoothly this week and that I would feel satisfied with what's been accomplished. You know how there's different personality types. Whatever the type that values and desires completion --- that's me.
 * me, leaving Uganda and returning to the US --- two mongo adjustments. I am looking forward to going home, but I'm really going to miss Uganda --- the people, my church, work, the whole deal. I'm pretty attached to my life here. And the contrast between my life here and my life in the states --- can't imagine the transition would be smooth and easy without prayer.

* praise God for his faithfulness. The idea of (a) me going to Africa by myself and (b) me going through various experiences here, all the things that have happened on this trip sounds unreal to me. I can picture someone else doing these things, someone who's, I don't know, outgoing and a bit of a dare-devil or something --- one of those types. I don't really see this as something I'm likely to do. And yet, I did it. So that would be God and God has been and is faithful to do what he says, to meet all of my needs... this God I like so much. I think you should know him in the event that you don't...

Love,
 Sheryl

Sheryl Howe

Entebbe, Uganda (it's PO Box 750, but you wouldn't want to mail anything now --- it'll never make it before I leave)

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