

## Sheryl Howe

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**From:** "SA Howe" <sahowe@wbt.org>  
**To:** <sahowe@wbt.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2003 8:06 AM  
**Subject:** Week #11: Not quite time to panic

Hello all! Last week, I tried and failed to communicate how amazing it is to feel comfortable here. Let's review. Two months ago just about everything caused me some degree of terror. I was "if-fy" about being able to function in Uganda. There wasn't even remote thoughts of ever casually doing anything outside the compound where I live (and not much of anything inside...).

I'm amazed at the difference (then and now)...

On the work front --- all of the equipment I need (or at least "all of the equipment I'm going to get") is in my possession, free from any sort of locked container. This is good.

I have three weeks left and not everything is working. This is somewhat bad.

I believe (a) should all go according to the latest plan, the project will be finished before my plane leaves and, more importantly, (b) nothing is impossible with God. This is very good.

I am currently recovering from another illness (this would be when I was disgustingly sick ---not the strep throat incident although the annoying cough thing lingers from the strep incident). This was more missed work/time in bed. I'm feeling like quite the invalid. This is bad.

I've become a bird person since I've been in Africa. I wasn't before. I used to be one of those people skipping the bird exhibits at the zoo to get to the "real" animals. East African birds are incredible. You wake up to all kinds of birds talking --- like a zoo arrived right outside my window or maybe one of those "sounds of the jungle" audiotracks... This is neither good nor bad, just random information.

Stuff you can pray about:

- thank God that people can adapt to all kinds of situations. It's quite nice for one's self esteem.
- pray for things to fall into place for this project including:
  - \* health for me,
  - \* weather (not too many serious downpour rain days) so I can get to work,
  - \* electricity to stay on while I'm at work so I can get work done,
  - \* health for personal computers here so I can concentrate on things already "on the list" instead of handling various crises...
- on the crisis topic, laptop computers seem to be dropping like flies --- three stolen, two in critical care currently. It's tough (speaking from experience) to work without a computer and although I'm off the shared one, the list of the "computer-less" is growing, not shrinking... Pray for people affected, that they wouldn't be discouraged, angry, frustrated and grumpy (like someone else, some nameless individual, who recently lost a computer) and also that there would be replacements or possibly revival (for those computers planning to die) or retrieval (for the stolen ones).

Trust all is well with you! I really, really appreciate all of your prayers, emails, letters and cards. I will become a better correspondant when I return home. Even though, I now have a computer. I leave it at the office because there is an armed guard here --- I'm a paranoid individual now, not only could it maybe not be safe at home, I could be mugged in transit... I'm not worried you understand, just only paranoid...

Love,  
 Sheryl

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