



# "Raised to Praise"

July 2005



*Because so many of you have been faithfully praying for Dana Scott, our financial administrator, we want to send you her latest update in her own words. Her biblical response to this trial has been such a blessing and a challenge to our lives and our prayer is that God will use her difficulties as a means of praise and growth in your life as well.*

Dear Faithful Praying Friends,

I encourage you to read Psalm 146, and praise God with us. He is so good to us! We have so much for which to be thankful, and we have no reason to complain, for God is Sovereign and Faithful. Our lives are about Him, and we are *so privileged* to be used by Him - in whatever way He sees fit - to bring glory to Himself. A few days ago I sat down with Lerato and read her Psalm 146 in 5-year-old paraphrase. She really took in the verse "The Lord protects us when we're in different countries (America is not home!!), God protects and provides for the children who don't have daddies and the mommies who don't have husbands...Praise the Lord!" It is awesome to see and hear our children giving thanks to God.

I believe that you all received the letter from John Mixon last month telling of my illness and evacuation to the States for more medical treatment. I grew worse after I arrived in the States and experienced some pretty severe neurological symptoms, and ended up with a total of about 23 days in 4 different hospitals. My diagnoses are still unclear, but it seems most likely at this point that I had ADEM - which is a form of encephalomyelitis (inflammation of the brain and spinal cord) - and a parasite that, though common in Africa, may have gone the uncommon way of lodging in my brain and/or spinal cord.

I have much for which to praise God. Since 8 July I have been out of hospital and rehabbing at my mother's house in Wyoming, Michigan. Though I've lost memory of 5 complete days, and though I had a couple weeks of confusion and major brain injury symptoms, I have now felt "mentally back to normal" for about two weeks. The constant back spasms have ceased and now the spasms happen only rarely on very weak days. My daughter Lerato, whose U.S. visa had expired, was granted another visa and joined me here on 19 July after a month of separation. What an amazing blessing!!! I am so, so, so grateful to my team-mates John and Lois Mixon who cared so wonderfully for Lerato for nearly 2 months, and for their tireless work to attain the visa. The U.S. Consulate was not about to give that visa and left Lerato's case open for 5 days before granting it on the last day available for flight. I know this is only the Lord's doing. We are both *so thankful* to be together again. And she is doing great. I look forward to the date that I can apply for her U.S. citizenship in March of next year so that our travel together might be unhindered in the future.

I have heard of the prayers of countless people, and I am deeply grateful and humbled to know how often you have brought our situation before our Lord. Please continue to pray. I am out of the hospital, but the quick recovery that the doctors

hoped for has not been the Lord's plan. As I continue into the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of a low-grade fever I wonder if there might be something we have missed and need wisdom to know if and where to seek more medical attention. Physically, I have my strong days and my weak days. On the strong days I can do maybe 50% of what I could do pre-illness. On the weak days, which dominate at this point, I lose my fine motor to trembling arms and hands and have a hard time walking, supporting my weight, lifting, sitting, or even talking for long lengths of time, and at times my vision is affected again. The only thing that seems to heal to any degree is "flat on my back complete rest." Those of you who know me well will know what a hard pill that can be to swallow!!☺ I am eager to get to each of my supporting churches, and will do so before we return home to South Africa, but am not yet able. Just talking with many people, or being the focus of that attention, sets me back physically as much as an attempt at hard exercise would. Please be patient with me, and know that I do wish deeply to see you all even now. Thank you for your many cards, emails, phone calls, and offers of assistance. You all have been an amazing blessing.

I desire above all that God bring glory to Himself through the life He has given us. I would also desire to be healed, but if the Lord can use me better flat on my back, I am asking Him to do so. It's not about us. That is truth, and that is trust in God's faithfulness; but I am so imperfect, and when a string of weak days hits me, it's easy to lose focus. Please pray that I will always direct my thoughts back to God and the truth of His Word. I asked myself this morning "Where am I dwelling? In the disappointment of another weak day? In the disappointment I create by depending on imperfect people for what I think I need? Or in the shelter of the Most High, where rest is found in His shadow?" Where are you dwelling? This past Sunday I was reminded that "Complaining is the full expression of our doubt of God's faithfulness." How true. How much we have to be thankful for. How inexpressibly good God is to us. Remember with me that true joy is FOUND, not lost, when we lay down our own desires to desire His plan and glory above all. John Piper wrote "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." And He satisfies us completely.

The future is a bit unknown. We will definitely be back home in Hammanskraal by 17 October, as that is when Lerato's visa expires, and my personal goal would be mid-September. Please pray for the staff and volunteers at Bethesda that have stepped in to cover my position while I am away – it is a very detailed role and takes a lot of time and patience. I will continue to keep you informed. I am able to send out email updates again and if you haven't received a couple from me in the last month, I don't have you on my current list... please send me your address if you wish to be added.

I haven't yet received figures or names from the EBM office, but I know that many of you have given sacrificially to help off-set the costs of our flights and my medical care. I am so grateful. We do have medical insurance, but the last minute flights (not covered) were extremely expensive, and I'm estimating that my portion of the costs up until now will run about \$20,000 when all the bills have come in. God owns it all, and I am confident that He will continue to provide for our every need. He always has. I am speechless with the outpouring of your love both in this way and in your continual intercession for us. May God bless you all in ways that are immeasurably more than what you could ask or imagine.

Of course He already has, if we but realize it.

In and For Him,

Dana + Lerato

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