



By HIS Grace...
based in Vienna
serving in Central Europe



Tim and Lori Ford Prayer Letter - June, 2012

Such Good Times with Friends

Last month we mentioned we have been having some sweet times with friends lately. Over the past few weeks this has become a theme for us. To be honest, over time we have developed some bad habits; habits of not keeping in touch with good friends from days gone by. This has caused us to lose track of what has been going on in their lives and to lose the opportunity to learn life's lessons alongside of them. We have missed seeing how they apply their faith to their trials and how they have grown closer to God through these trials.

Over the past few weeks of visiting with longtime friends, we have learned of surgeries, struggles with contentment and depression, massive automobile wrecks, children in tough marriages, financial struggles and so much more. Oh, we have also seen photos of and met children and grand-children, learned of great accomplishments and rejoiced with folks, but it seems it is the trials that stand out. James 1:1-2 has new meaning for us. *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."*

The couple we would say were our best friends during our college years have always been an inspiration to us. Although we probably did not use the term back then, they were the first couple to disciple us. Over the years we had essentially lost touch with them. We knew a few things about them, like the fact that they had two sons and then adopted an infant girl from Mexico. However, we had no idea how God had been shaping them through the adoption of this little girl who ended up being both hard of hearing and autistic. We watched them lovingly and patiently work with their now 22 year old daughter who still lives with them. We listened as they told stories of the adoption and how challenging raising their daughter had been over the years and as they wondered where she would live after they are gone. We learned how they have come through times of questioning God to trust Him at a deep and abiding level. They continue to disciple us now, after all these years.

In a note to us after we departed, the husband said that he thought our time with them was a little glimpse of heaven. As we have contemplated that, it makes sense. Although the Bible does not give us much information about Heaven, we do get the sense we will know these people we knew here – one aspect of Heaven very well could be getting together with old friends and celebrating who God is and how He worked in our lives.

We challenge you, if you have some long-time friends you have not kept up with, look them up, get together and celebrate the work of our Lord in each other's lives. You too may feel it is a little bit of heaven here on earth.



Some of our friends from the Woodlands



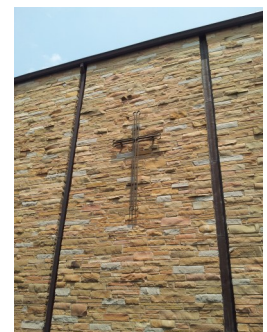
Our friends from Tulsa!



Lori with Cindy Perkins in OKC.
Next time we will include Lance.



The Chapel at The University of Tulsa, where it all began!



Prayer Requests

Please Pray for Healing of Lori's foot. It is a story we can tell sometime, but she broke her foot while we were in Tulsa. Pray for wisdom for the doctors as they discern if she needs surgery or not. Pray she will not need any surgery and for quick healing.

Please pray for us to learn our lesson; that we would keep in touch with friends, be praying for them through their struggles and learning life's lessons in community with them – even from afar.

Continue to pray for us to be diligent in our studies, for God to open our minds to learn German, and for us to pass the test to gain the certification we need to receive our residency visas!

Continue to pray that God would keep our hearts fully devoted to Him during this preparation period, and continue to burden our hearts for the people of Austria, Central Europe and beyond.

PLEASE Let us know how we can be praying for you!

Hebrews 10:32

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings. (ESV)

THANK YOU

.... To all of you who are praying for us, we already feel those prayers.

.... To those of you who have started supporting us financially

You each are a blessing to us!

