

On the Rhoads

November 2007

Blessings & Requests

- Susan's dad is doing better and has avoided dialysis.
- We're off to a good start in our support raising.
- Please pray about joining this strategic work by partnering with our ministry.
- Please pray for safety and productivity as we plan to travel south through Kentucky, Georgia and Florida in December.
- Our son Joe is an officer in the Marines and has just deployed to Iraq.
- Joe & Jenny are expecting their first child in February.

Balloons

Sarah just turned three, and of course, we had balloons at her party. Sarah loves balloons.

We were in the car the next day when she said she wanted to be able to play with God. She announced, "He would be very careful not to pop my balloon."

I love that idea of playing with God. I love that my little girl has a sense that God loves her enough to care about what she cares about.

Sarah and I were playing with another balloon a few days later. It was a big one that we were batting back and forth around the room. We were having a lot of fun. But then the balloon hit something and it popped. Sarah cried.

Balloons pop. When I found out I couldn't go overseas for medical reasons, I thought that the biggest balloon in my life had just popped. But with God, balloons don't really pop. "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps" (Proverbs 16:9). And here I am—a missionary—with a wonderful marriage and great kids. God has truly given me the "desires of my heart" (Psalm 37:4). Now I can't wait to be a part of projects like in this next story...



A Bible School for Rural Liberia

Liberia is a very poor country. Since their civil war in 2003, when most infrastructure was destroyed, there has been no electricity in the entire country. Earlier this year, MAF-LT went to teach and setup a learning center in a rural area of Liberia. We taught "Simply the Story" as a model for reaching oral literates with messages from the Bible. The rest of the trip was focused on the startup of a new Bible School and training its



Teaching Simply the Story

leaders in the use of Digital Resources. MAF-LT brought a computer, an LCD projector and our 500 Gigabyte digital library which has 45,000 books, 7,000 hours of audio training and 1,000 hours of video training. We also supplied solar battery chargers and MP3 players so students can listen to training at their homes and while traveling. These materials, plus some traditional classes, are the foundation of the new International Gospel Outreach Bible College that was dedicated during the trip.

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Up Up And Away

Brad was interviewed on *Lifespring! Episode 147*, "Up Up And Away." Lifespring! is a weekly podcast with global appeal for its positive spiritual message and original format. The interview goes into our call to ministry and the strategic work of MAF Learning Technologies in more detail than we can provide in our letters. The interview is about half an hour and starts six minutes into the show.

You can find the interview online at <http://tinyurl.com/3dz543>. And please help us build our network of Ministry Partners by passing on our letters and the link to the show.

A podcast is basically a radio show on the Internet (like Focus On The Family and Insight For Living), but what makes a podcast special is how it's delivered to the listener.

Podcasts are like magazine subscriptions. Using a free program like iTunes, you subscribe to a show you're interested in. Then every so often a new episode is sent to your computer automatically. There are podcasts for every interest. You can unsubscribe at any time. And they are all free!

Our podcast can be found at:

<http://www.onttheroads.org/podcast>

Gentlemen, Start Your Engines!

Many people have told us they are waiting to join our ministry. That's exciting!! There is no better time than the present. We need our ministry partnership team in place and actively giving before we can head to our assignment. Plus, MAF is incurring expenses right now on our behalf. We would love to have you join our team!

All MAF missionaries are asked to raise the same amount which is based on the average expenses for everyone serving throughout the world. We are currently at 15%, with a goal of being at 100% by next summer. Before we can start investing our time in creating great technology for Christian education, we need to have \$5,700/month committed to our ministry. So you can start your giving engine!

God's love,

Brad & Susan

Average Ministry Staff Related Expenses		
Salaries & Housing	\$ 3,104	54.5%
Benefits & Taxes (medical, workers' comp, payroll taxes, etc.)	\$ 1,745	30.6%
Education (children and adult)	\$ 410	7.2%
Travel (for furlough)	\$ 109	1.9%
Other Staff Expenses (visas, passports, licenses, prayer letters, prayer cards, shipping, deputation expenses)	\$ 332	5.8%
Total	\$ 5,700	100%

You can give online at www.maf.org/rhoads

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