

May 20, 2006

We finally made it. It was a long trip, but we are here. We left our home at 1:00 AM on Wednesday morning. The trip included a 3 hour drive to O'Hare airport (arriving 2 hours prior to our flight), a 2 hour flight to Atlanta, a 2 hour layover in Atlanta, an 18 hour flight to Johannesburg, an hour waiting on our luggage, passport control and customs, and finally an hour drive to the Mixon's home. We finally arrived at the Mixon's at the Mixon's at 11:30 AM South African time (5:30 AM Eastern Time). Needless to say, we were exhausted. We rested and showered in the afternoon. Then the Cedarville team, one of the Bethesda families, and some of the other Bethesda missionaries came over to the Mixon's home for dinner and fellowship. We enjoyed meeting many new faces and being reacquainted with old friends. It is good to be here among so many Godly people striving to serve God in caring for these children as well as serving God in any other way possible.

We want to thank you for your many prayers for our safety and for our trip to go well! Nathan did wonderfully on the plane ride. And as many of you know, Nathan is not shy. He likes to look at someone until he gets them to look back, and then he smiles at them! Who can resist a child's grin? He did so well on the plane ride, and smiled at so many people around us that some of the people around us asked to hold him and they played with him for a time. The girl behind us enjoyed him so much that she took him for about an hour and walked up and down the aisle showing him off to some of her friends that were also on the plane! Nathan's friendliness led to many opportunities for us to share with others why we were coming to South Africa and about Bethesda. I handed out no less than 6 brochures about Bethesda on the trip over. *Praise the Lord* for opportunities to share about how His people are caring for the orphans in Africa! We are praising the Lord for His answers to prayers and His kindness to us so far on this trip! Thank you again for your prayers!

Today (Saturday) we have very little planned. We will be picking up our rental car and shopping for supplies – nappies (diapers) are a necessity. Sunday we will visit two churches with the Cedarville team and do some planning for the week's activities. Monday we will begin working with the Mixon's and the Cedarville team. Be sure to go to <http://home.comcast.net/~andysommers/2006Bethesda/BethesdaHome.htm> to see our daily schedule and for pictures of the work that God has allowed us to be a part of. We are so joyful to be a part of a ministry to these precious children.

Here are some ways that you can pray specifically for us this week:

1. That we will continue to adjust to the 6 hour time difference
2. That Andy will adjust to driving on the left side of the road quickly
3. That we will be effective in our ministry to the missionaries and families at Bethesda

We will send an email at the end of our first week with a report and pictures.

In the God Who provides,
Andy, Mickey, and Nathan