

There is a joke that the people on the opposite side of the world stand on their head; well, I am nearly on the opposite side of the world from my home and they do not stand on their head, but they do a lot of things different than at home in the United States. The most noticeable is that they drive on the left side of the road. You must always drive to the left of the oncoming traffic. The slow lane is on the left. The exits on the highway are on the left. The rearview mirror is on your left. Stop signs and stop lights (they call them "robots" here) are on the left side of the road (or on both). You shift with our left hand (all of the cars are manual). And you drive on the left shoulder when possible to let faster vehicles pass you. But going to the left does not end with driving. When you look for an escalator, it is always on the left. When you come face to face with someone when walking (in a mall or on the sidewalk), you step to the left to pass. The entrance to a store is on the left. It would seem that this is the world for a left-handed person. But when you grow up learning that everything is to the right, it is difficult even for a "lefty" like Mickey to adjust. And just when I think that I am doing well, I nearly walk into someone because I was not *thinking* about which way I was going. Or better yet, I get in the wrong side of the car to drive it away, only to realize that the steering wheel is not even in front of me! (Yes, I have done it, but only once so far.) So if I seem a little disoriented when I get home, it is because I can't decide which side of my brain to use!

This week was different than the rest of our time here. We spent three days in Durban on the southeast coast of South Africa. The culture there is much different than Pretoria. It's like going from a smaller city like Colorado Springs or Indianapolis to a larger city such as San Francisco. In fact, it reminded me of San Francisco in many ways. The topography is very similar, and the city is very westernized with many immigrants, especially Indian. The drive was very interesting also as the scenery changed frequently in the 6 hour drive! At times, I felt like I was in Arizona, then Pennsylvania, then California!

This week the Cedarville team ended their stay and left for home while a new team arrived from a church in Iowa. So, there was less work days, more orientation, and much more packing/unpacking! Andy spent more time this week working on school assignments. We also spent some time with friends, starting to say our goodbyes as we leave next Wednesday! We have so many dear friends here that we will not be able to see everyone on the last day! In the remaining days we will be working to complete some computer repairs, helping with meals for the team, working on a few miscellaneous projects, and packing for the trip home.

Here are some additional differences you might find interesting (in addition to "the left"):

- All stores close by 7pm- including grocery stores- so you must plan ahead!
- Electrical outlets have on/off switches on them
- There are no electrical outlets or light switches inside the bathrooms (the switches are on the wall out outside of the bathroom door)
- There aren't any stores like Target here ☹
- The speed limits are higher here (120km), but they are stricter about speeding – they use cameras with radar guns and mail you speeding tickets.
- All schools have uniforms
- Banks are open 9am to 3:30pm
- You can pay most of your bills at the post office (they work like a bank in many ways as well)

Please continue to pray for us as we have a few short days here that we will be a blessing to the staff and team, and that God would be glorified. We will try to email again just before we head home. Thank you for all of your prayers!

In the God Who Provides,
The Sommers