

December 6, 2007

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to all as we celebrate some wonderful news! Our visa approval finally arrived at the Embassy of Angola in Washington, D.C. on December 4<sup>th</sup>. We have been told that our stamped passports should be ready for pick-up very soon. With this encouraging news we were able to book our flight to Angola out of Lexington, Kentucky for December 22<sup>nd</sup>. This means that we will arrive into Luanda shortly after noon on Christmas Eve.



We would like to thank all of you dear friends who have been praying for our visas for the past months. At times it has seemed like going to Angola would be an impossible dream, and then something encouraging would happen in the visa process and we would continue to persevere. Some weeks ago God reminded us of First Thessalonians 5:24 which says, "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass." When we received the good news on December 4<sup>th</sup>, all we could do was praise God over and over for His faithfulness to us.

When we first arrive in Luanda we will probably spend a few days there trying to order and/or purchase some of the items we will need at Quéssua. For example we will need to acquire a vehicle, a household generator, a kerosene refrigerator, a gas stove, and maybe other furniture items depending on the space we have for transport. The road between Luanda and Malanje (220 miles) has been repaired now according to Bishop Quipungo of the East Angola Conference. This means that we will be able to drive the distance in about 6 hours. Quéssua, our new home, is located about 6 miles from the city of Malanje. We can hardly wait to arrive and begin the new life and ministry God has called us to.

Meanwhile back in Kentucky, Hannah has almost finished her first semester at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia. She has done well academically and enjoyed the college social life. In January she will travel to Chicago with the Bonner Leadership group from Lindsey Wilson to help serve meals in several soup kitchens for the homeless. She will also be visiting in a Home for Abused Women and Children in Chicago as part of her leadership and service experience.

Abby and Mike have been gracious to let us live with them in Nicholasville, Kentucky during our visa ordeal this fall. It hasn't been easy for any of us because of the small space, but fortunately we still love one another as the end is in sight. Abby is teaching English at West Jessamine High School, only five minutes from her home this year. The short commute has made the first half of her school year less stressful. Mike is still working at a local furniture factory during the day and spending many afternoons and evenings as a volunteer with Young Life, a Christian youth mentoring program in the local high school.

Once again, thank you for your friendship and support. Remember to pray for us as we allow God to "enlarge our territory" of ministry and service in Angola.



In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim and Carol".

Tim and Carol Crawford