



September 2018

AUSTIN'S TURN AT THE WHEEL

Hello from Tanzania! I know what you're thinking. Amber never starts the Reed's newsletters with a "Hello." Well that's because this is Austin! For the month of September, my birthday month, I asked for three things - Nutella cupcakes, a nap, and to write this newsletter. So here we go!

I have always loved driving. From the minute I got behind the wheel, I enjoyed being able to use a vehicle to travel wherever I wanted, or needed. There is nothing better than rolling the windows down, feeling the wind blowing on my face, turning the music up loud, and driving.

When I lived in Haiti, I wasn't able to drive. The trucks in Haiti, not only were huge and stick shift, but also packed full of people. To top it all off, the roads, which follow different laws, were always busy with thousands of motorcycles and goats. It was hard on me to sit in the back and just go wherever they took me but I had to. After some time, I learned how to drive a motorcycle there and go wherever I wanted! I got my freedom back and it was so sweet!

After Haiti, I married my best friend and we moved our lives all the way to Tanzania. I found out quickly that we would be getting our own vehicle and that one of us would need to drive every day. Amber did not like the idea of driving on the left side of the road, with different rules, and is filled with bicyclists that act as a main source of transportation. For me, though, all those feelings of sitting in the back of the truck in Haiti came back and I knew I wanted to drive here every single day. I took the keys and within a week became proficient at driving on the left side of the road. I felt so accomplished just by driving.

We often use "driving" for many metaphors of life such as how life is a road, the Bible is our GPS, or how the Holy Spirit is our fuel to drive us. For me, though, a totally different one comes to mind. I feel like our life is a vehicle and someone must drive it. We, of course, immediately want to grab the wheel, just like I wanted to in Haiti and in Tanzania, but that isn't what is best. We have no idea where God wants us to go or the amazing plans he has for us so why would we try to drive there? The driver for our best life should be Jesus and we have to give him the wheel of our lives. In John 14:6 the Bible tells us that Jesus is "the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through [him]." The true way of getting where we need to go in life is by giving Jesus the wheel and just enjoying the ride of life. When you're not driving you can

stop and look at all the beauty around you. You may not know where the road leads to next but with Jesus at the wheel I know the end of my "road" is in heaven! All the times I have given Jesus control and simply enjoyed the ride he has taken me beyond my wildest dreams - to Haiti to defend the orphan, to marry the most beautiful women in the world, and now, in this last year, to Tanzania to spread his gospel! And now, here in Tanzania, Jesus is steering Amber and I in a direction to work with children in a daycare program and with Lutheran church leaders to create a youth center. And let me tell you, the view is great! I look towards this next year of life and even though I want to control the wheel, I am giving it up. I have no idea where in the world I will celebrate my next birthday – maybe Africa or America or Asia but who knows. All I know is I am letting Jesus drive and enjoying the ride. As Dr. Seuss once said "You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!" and man with Jesus at the wheel I am sure on my way! So, I leave you with two little last thoughts before I hand the newsletter reigns back over to Amber, who is driving your life and are you enjoying the ride as much as I am?



Austin's birthday celebration, complete with cupcakes!



The daycare is growing successfully. We currently have 10 children attending the daycare regularly. Amber and the teachers have been teaching the kids counting and recognizing numbers during circle time. It is so fun to see them learning!



Because of our generous supporters, we were able to purchase some toys and supplies to get the daycare started.

Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for a fun celebration of Austin's birthday, a successful first month of the daycare, the first of many meetings about the building of the youth center, and the first rain of the season.
- Continued blessing and progress at the daycare and youth center. As well as strength and wisdom for all the workers of these programs.
- Safe travels for two leaders of Global Lutheran Outreach as they travel to Tanzania and Kenya this upcoming month.

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 Write "REED" in the memo line.
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