

THE GUNDERSON JOURNEY

THE GUNDERSON JOURNEY

#5

July 2005

Dear friends and family,

Happy July! I hope this finds you well. It seems that it has been a whirlwind of activity since we last wrote to update you all. In the last update, we were deciding to stay another year until August of 2006 and get involved in our church. We also had decided to buy a house. Both things are going well. We have joined the Missions Committee at our Church and are excited to contribute what we can to the group. We have also enjoyed leading a small group through the month of May with young marrieds. We hope to start that again in the Fall.

In regards to buying the house, we just moved in on June 22nd! It was an exciting day. We are still pinching ourselves that we don't have to use quarters to do laundry and that we can run the garbage disposal and vacuum past 10:00 pm. The little perks to living in a home! We are continually meeting new neighbours as the houses on our street are being completed and inhabited. As exciting as decorating a new house can be, we are trying to stay focused on the fact that we will only be living here one year and we don't need to accumulate things to fill the house. It still looks homey and we are enjoying all the space.

Another bit of exciting news is that I did get the Labor and Delivery position I had applied for! This was a total answer to prayer. There were many hoops that needed to be jumped through, and Paul and I both sense it was the Lord's hand that made this position a possibility. I will start this job at the end of August, in the mean time I remain working with the moms and babies 2 hours after delivery.

Lessons Learned...

Sheila:

"Lately I've been learning a lot about the power of the tongue. How we can use it to wound deeply or build up immensely. Sometimes I find myself thinking that because I FEEL a certain way, I have the right to act on my feelings or verbalize them. I can end up doing a

lot of damage that way. The Lord is gracious towards me and is faithful to show me areas in my life where I allow my feelings to be my god. As a believer, I'm called to live based on truth, not on my feelings. I also need to be discerning with my words. This will be something I continue to learn and apply throughout my life. I'm learning to say like the psalmist, 'Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips' (Psalm 141:3)."

Paul:

"I have been learning a lot about how easy it is to get comfortable. We have good jobs and a brand new home and our life has had very few trials in it so far. I find myself easily influenced by the world around us, thinking to myself, 'I deserve a vacation, a new home, and to be comfortable.' I also find myself gradually letting go of our desire to bring the Gospel to people who do not know Jesus Christ. Then I come back to my senses and remember that nowhere in the teachings of the New Testament does it say we have an entitlement to a life of comfort and ease. It states that all believers in Christ can expect to suffer for the sake of the Gospel (Philippians 1:29, 2nd Tim 1:8). So in short it has been a battle to keep pressing toward the goal for us to go to the mission field. We desire to stay focused."



Our New House



Visiting Paul's family from North Dakota. We were at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Minnesota in early June

Prayer Requests

-that we keep focused on the goal before us and not lose sight of the Great Commission

-Sheila's transition to her new job in a new department

-Sheila's going to Mexico with our church from July 23-31.

Pray for the Lord to use her in great ways to minister to those going on the trip and the Mexicans they are helping.

-Pray for our church's youth group going to Mexico for safety and that they would be challenged in their walk with God.