



## The Michael Williams Family • August-September Newsletter



### September 2013

**We were waiting to receive our Residence Permits**, when I received a call from our Ghana mission's secretary that the immigration official had called and said that there weren't enough pages in my wife's passport to put her residence permit in it. That meant we (the whole family) would have to go to Accra (the capital city) for my wife to get a passport renewal at the U.S. Embassy. We were so frustrated, because we should have had enough pages for the residence permit, but circumstances out of our control had caused us to need an extra extension that took up the last page. We were also frustrated because we knew it was going to be a long, costly trip for all of us to go to the capitol city (8 hrs. away) for several days. However, since we had to go, we decided to book an appointment with a thyroid specialist in Accra because Brooke was having health problems and her thyroid was becoming increasingly larger on one side with a palpable lump. We also scheduled a

dentist appointment that was needed. The week before we left I knew we were going to be short on funds and the trip was going to take a lot of money! I prayed several times in my private prayer place telling God what I thought we would need for the trip including the doctor's and dentist's appointments. I told God that the amount needed was more than double of what we normally received in a week and we needed some help. On Monday we left for Kumasi where we would stay overnight. We had enough money to get to Kumasi, but not enough for food that night, or to go to a scheduled dentist appointment the next day, and no money to get to Accra.

**On the way, my wife received a phone call** from her friend who said she was making supper for us and it would be ready when we got there!- NEED PROVIDED! The next day I cancelled the dentist appointment because the money was not there so I assumed God didn't want it to happen. I then called our financial secretary in the U.S. to see what had come in. She told me she was on her way to the bank, and was going to deposit a certain amount of money. The amount she told me was just over what I had prayed for the week before! Double of any normal week! –NEED PROVIDED! It is so awesome to be under the watch care of the One who knows what we need today and down the road!

**We had almost reached Accra** when I received another phone call and was told that the residence permit had already been put in Brooke's passport despite the fact that there was no blank page for it. We were wondering why God had allowed it all to happen thus far until we went to Brooke's thyroid specialist's appointment. After tests were run, we found that there were problems that needed to be addressed sooner than we expected. We realized God caused all the problems with her passport and residence permit so that we would go to see the thyroid specialist. What an awesome thing to live by faith in the One who is always faithful! He not only arranged our trip so that we would see a specialist we would never have gone to normally, but paid for it too!

**We travelled back to Kumasi where we again rested overnight.** We had left our car there and taken a bus to Accra because it would not start at all and as it sat, two of the tires went flat and in the morning we realized they could not be repaired. We were suddenly faced with many repairs to the car that would have to be done if we were going to make it home... a new carburetor, a new distributor, and two new tires. I withdrew the last of our money to fix the car, buy fuel and food and soon we were on our way. We knew that when we reached home, we would need money for electricity, but we figured we would make do until God provided. As we were leaving Kumasi, I noticed twenty Ghana Cedis (about ten dollars) on my seat in the car. I picked up the money, wondering where it had come from and set it in the dash tray and presently forgot about it. When we reached home our power was indeed out because our prepaid electric units had expired. I put in the reserve units knowing that it would not last us until we received more money from the U.S. I figured that when the reserve was used up, I would run the small generator we have until it ran out of fuel. Maybe it would last until we could buy more units I hoped. The next morning, I went out to my car to go to work and for some reason I opened the dash tray. There was the twenty cedis someone had put on our seat when we left Kumasi! I was so excited! I took the money and bought more electricity units on our pre-pay electric card. I was able to

buy enough to last until more support was deposited! I went home and put the card in the meter to restore power. -NEED PROVIDED! God is so good! He sees us; He knows our needs; He cares for us! **Brooke has asked God for a “real” piano** since she gave hers away in 2006. We have made many moves to many places, but God never gave her one. We purchased a used one from a family member while in the U.S. in 2012, but again she gave it away when it was time for us to leave. She never felt that God “gave” it to her because we purchased it. After some time in Ghana, she finally decided that she would probably not get her “real” piano since there are very few in the country and they are very very difficult to find. Since 2006, she has said many times that she believed God would give her a piano when He had put us where He wanted us to stay . Yet for seven years, and through many moves God never “gave” her a “real” piano. This was a very important thing to her as music is a very soothing outlet as well as a ministry tool for her. On September 17th, 2013, a friend of ours from another city asked us to come to his house when we were in that city. We went and he asked us to come into his house for he had something to show us. We had no idea what it would be... He told my wife that they were leaving to go back to the U.S. and that his daughter wanted to give Brooke her piano. My wife broke out into tears! After seven years of waiting and wondering, God gave her a “real” piano affirming not only his love and care for her, but also His will for us!

**For 8 months now we have been trying to save enough money** each month to ship the rest of our belongings that have been waiting stateside packed away in barrels. Every month would come and go and the extra funds were just not there so we would set it aside, wait and hope... “Maybe next month?” On Wednesday, September 26, Brooke’s father called us and told us our barrels were being shipped and all the cost had been cared for 100%. We were astonished as this was not a small sum. It came as such a surprise and we were so excited! We were given no details only that someone loved us very much. Wow! We serve a wonderful God! He not only has cared for our needs but to a great extent our wants as well. We could have “survived” without these things from home but God granted that we should have them and someone was willing to be the channel for this wonderful wonderful blessing!

## **August 2013**

**We were in Kumasi for a Pastor's Conference,** and needed to stay a few extra days to take Brett to the dentist. Driving back from the dentist I ran out of gas! Funds were not exhausted, but low and so reluctantly and with some frustration, I flagged down the first taxi that came by. I recognized the man as someone who came to our church in Kumasi when I had pastored there years before. He cheerfully drove me to the gas station, where I bought a couple dollars of gas, and then drove me back to my car. When I tried to pay him the fare he refused payment saying, "Pastor, I would have paid for your gas if I could have so this is the least I can do!"

**On this same trip** my car ended up at the mechanics and while waiting for the repairs to be made, I decided to take a taxi to the bank to get the money owed the mechanic. I flagged a taxi, and once again

it was a man, different from the first, that I had pastored in previous years. The trip to the bank was a lengthy distance and would normally run a fairly high taxi fare. Once again, when I went to pay the man he refused to let me pay! It amazed me that both times the first taxi that came to pick me up was a former church member and both times God took care of the bill!

**The morning we were going to leave Kumasi, the car wouldn't start.** After spending some time messing with it I was able to get it running and took it back to the mechanic. The problem was totally different than any previous problems the mechanic had dealt with. After some time he found the problem, spent about 30-40 minutes fixing it and then when I tried to pay him he refused to accept anything. I told him I needed to do something for him for his help. He said, "What I need you to do for me is pray". This man is a muslim- Isn't it wonderful how God works through and in the hearts of men!