



The Central African Sentinel



We won't miss this!

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At Long Last...

Dear Christian friends and ministry partners,

Well, we are now finally set to return to Brazzaville on February 25th - 335 days after being re-patriated due to the COVID outbreak. We will be returning with hearts that are at once heavy and full of joy. Steph's dear mom passed into the arms of Jesus in the early morning hours of January 31st. Our tickets were originally purchased for January 25th, but our mission office graciously allowed us to extend our time in the States when her mom fell ill with COVID-19 a few weeks earlier.

God is good! He is good all the time! Hilde's race is won. Toward the end, she was in a severely depleted state and it looked like she might be headed toward long-term care in a bed-ridden condition. She certainly did not want that. She wanted so much to be with Jesus and her husband Denver in heaven. She was granted a quick passing.



And the Lord has been equally gracious to us. We can now return to Africa without the ongoing worry and concern about her long-term care. We probably would have had to give up our missionary work had it gone that way.

I have yet another example of our loving God bringing good out of a bad situation. Because of the funeral, we were able to gather our entire nuclear family together (mom, dad, 4 kids, and one grandson) for the first time since May 2017. We always seem to have one or two of our travelers missing whenever we get together.

Meanwhile, Steph's brother Stephen brought down a box of old photo albums of Mom's that he's been storing in his house in Iowa for the past several years. So, Steph has been busy scanning those precious pictures, which include a number of

Thank God that Steph's mom, a baptized child of God, is now safely in the arms of her Savior!

Pray that the Lord would grant us wisdom and a way forward as we take up our life in our beloved Africa once again amidst all the unknowns.

Pray that the Lord would stem the tide of Ebola in Guinea.

Click on the link below to check out our recent Missions Unpacked webinar presentation:

Francophone Africa Unpacked by Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte

the two of us in the earliest days of our marriage. We hadn't seen most of those pictures for many years. It brought a big smile to our faces when we came across the ones of us preparing our trunks for our first deployment to Africa way back in



February of 1987. As I recall, those were former AT&T cable trunks that we bought for dirt cheap at a military surplus store. Ooohhh, the memories! Oooohhh, the hair I still had. :-)

As we return, we would greatly appreciate your prayers. There remain quite a few unknowns. We won't really know the real situation on the ground in the Congo until we get there. African regimes often can't or won't report their numbers accurately. Also, we had planned a trip to Guinea with missionary Jacob Gaugert shortly after arriving back in Africa. That trip had to be scuttled because Sierra Leone announced a ban on all intercity travel within the country. We had been planning to fly into Sierra Leone and then enter Guinea by means of a land border crossing in the north. Now, just as Sierra Leone has announced the return of intercity travel, we hear there is a new outbreak of Ebola 200 kilometers from where our new seminary is located in Gueckedou, Guinea. As I write this, there have been seven confirmed cases and three deaths. Actually, it is more important that you keep those people in your prayers than us!

As it stands, we plan to re-establish our life in our brand-new little Brazzaville apartment that we only got to enjoy for a matter of weeks prior to being re-patriated. Jacob Gaugert, who will be working on moving from Togo to join us there, will come down for a brief visit and oversee the distribution of those 350 boxes of theological books that have been sitting in the basement of our building for nearly a year now. We will also get re-acquainted with the local leaders and see if we can't organize a small seminar or two. I will be coming right back to the States in June already for the two-week in-house intensive portion of my online PhD program. I was blessed to get A's the first semester!

Finally, I recently sent out the last of 187 biblical theology devotions. And I just finished gathering them all into a manuscript that I will be presenting to Christian publishers. Perhaps a few of you might be interested in getting a copy when it comes out. I think just producing it in e-book form would be appropriate. Folks can just do their daily readings on their tablets and we can also avoid the expense of printing all those pretty colors that go into my poetry analysis.

Thanks so much for your continued support and prayer AND PATIENCE as we've been sidelined in the States for so very frustratingly long! You are a great blessing to us!

Your Joyful Response?

If you would like to support our work as we continue the bringing of Christ to the nations, you may send a tax deductible gift either to:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-66861

or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034
<https://missioncentral.us/schulte/>

writing "Support of the Schultes" in the memo line.

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