There and Back Again - An RV Tale

7,500 miles, 18 states plus Canada, 6 weeks, and a million memories! Our family has been blessed by this opportunity to travel around the country and visit family, friends and churches. Even after all the time on the road, we still did not get to see everything that was out there. We truly live in a vast and beautiful country!

Our main stops were in Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Michigan; and we passed through many other states along the way. We had amazing times visiting with people whom we had not seen in years and learning more about their lives in their contexts. We were able to share about our ministries and how God is working in Burkina Faso.

We also enjoyed seeing the countryside and spending time at museums, monuments, and parks along the way. We drove through plains and mountains, deserts and forests. We saw wind farms and grazing lands, lakes and waterfalls. We drove over the top of a snow-covered mountain in Wyoming, where we stopped to let the kids out to play in the snow. We enjoyed a small snow storm in Yellowstone in addition to all the animals. We were chased out of Mount Rushmore by a hail storm that followed closely behind us until we reached Minnesota.

The best part for us was the time that we had together as a family. Traveling in an RV meant that we didn’t have to unpack suitcases and make new beds for everyone each night, but we could settle in and feel somewhat at home everywhere we went. The experience was so enjoyable for us that we are already planning our next trip in 2016!

Support Updates

Vehicle
The joy of putting your faith in God’s timing is seeing Him work in amazing and unexpected ways. We have recently received a gift from a single family of $30,000 for the vehicle. We’ve also received gifts from $10 to $2,000 over the last two months that have brought us really close to our need. The total goal has gone up because the price of the vehicle went up since our original quote a year ago. We know that God will provide the rest soon!

Monthly Support
Our monthly support has not yet risen as dramatically, but it is still going up, and we are getting close to the minimum that we will need to return. We are still looking to add a couple of churches, and we have some families that desire to support us as God allows them.

Projects
While we have not highlighted our project needs as much, we continue to raise funds for our ministry activities. The Team Complex is a meeting building and housing for teams and other guests. We have built the meeting building and 1.5 of 4 sleeping huts. Also, Open Door Development needs funds for well drilling, agricultural projects, and church development initiatives.

Online—Check or Card
www.sim.org/giveusa
Missionary ID—72448
Account Type
- Vehicle - Ministry
- Support - Support

By Mail
Checks Payable - SIM, USA
Memo line: Walsh Vehicle - 072448-050
Walsh Support - 072448-001
SIM, USA
PO Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241
**News & Notes**

**Challenges at the Handicap Centre**
The Handicap Centre has had to deal with several cases of employees caught in sexual immorality over the last several years. Each case is tragic and damages many lives as well as the testimony of the Handicap Centre. Recently, we have had two new cases involving local staff and older students at the Centre’s school. Please pray as we work to address the underlying issues in our organization and the culture. Please pray that God will protect the Centre from these spiritual attacks. Please pray for the leaders who are having to make difficult decisions.

**ECHO Training Week**
At the end of July, Matt will be going down to Fort Myers, Florida to spend a week at ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization). Matt will attend the Tropical Agricultural Development Course. ECHO focuses on equipping Christians ministering in agricultural development activities.

**Extension Begins**
Originally we would have been flying back to Burkina around this time. Instead we are waiting for the delivery of our next baby in early Sept. While we don’t have exact dates yet, we expect to return to Burkina in mid-Oct.

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**Kids Corner**

Our trip across the country was a great way for our kids to learn about this country that we call “home”, though they spend very little time here. Thomas and Tessa colored in the states on their maps as we drove.

Some of our favorite sight-seeing stops were the Gateway Arch and museum in St. Louis, Indian cliff dwellings near Colorado Springs, and Yellowstone National Park. We made it all the way to the Pacific Ocean, where we hiked to the tip of Cape Lookout on the Oregon coast. The kids also had fun trying out all sorts of playgrounds or playing Frisbee at rest areas as we took travel breaks along the way.

Tessa liked the pink rocks along the Yellowstone River, and she was the one who was always picking flowers. Thomas was always looking for new adventures, always excited about new things to see and do. The kids had a treasure bag to collect all kinds of interesting things they found.

As we visited friends and family, the kids got to play with cousins as well as to make some new friends. Stephanie now thinks her Daddy’s name is “Uncle Matt”. We spent the many hours of travel doing school, reading books, and doing craft activities. Stephanie could entertain herself for an hour by picking the paper off her crayons, and Tessa was usually happy as long as she had paper to draw on.

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**Prayer & Praise**

- Praise God for the fundraising progress we have seen. We have just about received what we need to purchase our vehicle! Continue to pray for more monthly supporters.
- Pray for Julie and the baby as the September 2nd due date approaches. We are thankful that the pregnancy has been going well.
- Pray for the serious employee issues at the Handicap Center. Pray for God’s protection over these Christian workers.
- Pray for our team in Mahadaga. Pray for wisdom and encouragement through the challenges they are facing.
- Pray for the teams that are visiting Mahadaga this summer and for the ones that are planning for their visits during the next year. Pray for meaningful experiences for each of these visitors.
- Pray for good rains during the growing season the next few months to provide plentiful harvests. After the drought last year, many people are struggling to find food to eat.