

Africa Journal 2011 – Part 2

February 4, 2011 – 11:15 AM (3:15 AM Eastern Time)

Nairobi, Kenya

I don't have all the details yet but I just talked to the mechanic and he says he is going to get it done today. He is getting it aligned, new shocks on the rear (can't afford the front right now - \$115 each) and having it all greased and serviced. At this point my best estimate is a cost of somewhere between \$1700 and \$2000, which includes a new spare tire at \$270. We like to travel with two spares when at all possible. We budgeted \$1500 so it is getting into the trip money a little. Diesel fuel is about \$4.40 per gallon here in Nairobi. It will likely be higher out on the road.

As we mentioned earlier, we planned to go through the game park in Tanzania on our way to Congo. I have been through it before but Brenda never had the chance. When we checked all the routes and fees, we had to change our plans. Visas for Tanzania are \$100 each, entrance to the two parks, Masai Mara in Kenya - \$60 each and Serengeti in Tanzania - \$50 each along with fees for the vehicle, comes to too much for us right now, somewhere between \$450 and \$500. So we will go through Uganda. Visas there are only \$50 each and even if there is a small fee for the car it will be much cheaper. Maybe another time for the park.

If we get the car today we still may wait for a day or so so I can test out the car to make sure it is all okay. He pretty well took it all apart except the engine and making sure it all got reassembled properly seems like a good idea. Also, because the car was here in Kenya for about 7 months, with authorization for one month, we are trying to have someone help us get papers cleared so we can take it out on the Congo plates. It is also registered in Kenya so we may have to take it out that way but in doing so we may have to give up the Kenya registration. It is all very confusing so we will let you know what happens. Please pray for a way to take it out on the Congo registration. That may cost a few "extra" dollars as well.

Over all, our time here has been very good and we are so thankful for your prayers. We are anxious to get to Congo and Lord willing should be there next week, hopefully by Wednesday at the latest. More on the "Congo Trip Chronicles" later.

God bless, Ed

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