

African Journal Part 3

February 11, 2011

Nairobi, Kenya 8:22 PM (12:22 PM Eastern)

Well, we are still here in Nairobi. We just sent the equivalent of \$250 over a phone transfer to the mechanic who is going above and beyond to get us the papers we need to take the car back out of Kenya. It seems to be all we can do. We hope to get the paper tomorrow, have more hope for Sunday and will be disappointed and yet relieved if it comes on Monday. This brings the total spent on the truck to: (drum roll please) - \$2192.31. The papers add \$250 making it now \$2442.30 I filled up the tank with diesel fuel which came to \$92.95. That is for 81 liters or approximately 21 gallons, or \$4.42 per gallon. Are we having fun yet? Now we have to get from here to Bukavu, Congo, somewhere in the neighborhood of 1000 miles. It will take about 5 – 6 tanks of fuel or \$450 to \$550 of fuel. It will be good to get to Bukavu so we can start the process of recovery, physically and financially.

The truck is in really good condition as far as we can tell. It is an old truck but we had it gone over from top to bottom and we feel like it should serve us well for several years. We will have just over \$15000 by the time we get it back to Congo. Any other vehicle we could buy there for that amount would not be in as good of shape so we think it is still as good of a deal as we could get. The kind of repairs we had done here we could not get done in Congo, and what could be done would be even more expensive, since the parts would come from Nairobi anyway. So even with the high costs we are praising God for the blessing of having it. It will allow us to do a lot of things we could not do otherwise, especially visit places well away from the city. And we are thankful to all who have generously helped us with the funds to get it. God bless you and I am sure He already has.

Just a reminder: In our original estimate for what this would all cost, we said \$1500 for repairs and \$1500 for the trip. Putting it all together it will be somewhere between \$3000 and \$4000. We still have buy visas for Uganda, insurance for the truck to travel through Uganda and Rwanda and then for insurance and transfer of the papers to our name in Congo. Those things we are not sure of the cost yet. In our fundraising we received \$1750 which left us short \$1250 for the original \$3000 we estimated. If anyone can see a possibility of

sending along a little extra to help cover this it will help us in the rest of our work. You know, robbing Peter to pay Paul. We know God will provide so this is just to keep you informed. We know it sounds like begging but we really are thankful for all you do and how much you have all blessed us.

I am starting to put things back into the truck for the trip so we can be ready whenever the opportunity presents itself for to go. Mim Grooms went with us today to show us the way out of the city so when we do leave we can get on the right road. I have one spare mounted on the rack on the back of the truck and one strapped down and chained to the roof rack. Tomorrow I will begin the loading process of our goods, which include Brenda's clothes dryer, microwave and toaster she got while here, and the 8 bags we brought with us on the plane. We are hoping it can all get inside but we do have a lot of room on the roof rack if necessary. I will send along some pictures when it is ready for the road.

Thanks and God bless, Ed

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