
From: David and Sara Hopson [mailto:thehopsons@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2011 6:11 AM
To: Hopson David and Sara
Subject: From the Hopsons

November 12, 2011

Dear Friends,

It has been a joy for us to live and serve here in Albania. But to be honest, being far away from our families has been a big sacrifice. The distance is felt even greater when we know our extended family is going through a tough time and we can't be there for them.

This past week has been one of those weeks when we've wished we could have been there for both of our moms.

David's Mom: Karen

Wednesday morning we received a phone call from David's brother in California. We were told that Karen had been experiencing all the symptoms of a heart attack and had checked herself into the hospital to be monitored. David's dad is currently on a mission's trip to Myanmar (formerly Burma) so no one was there to be with Karen. Karen spent a day in the hospital being monitored, and thankfully no heart attack was detected.

Sara's Mom: Nancy (missionary with dad, Dave, in Argentina)

A few days ago my mom contacted us from Argentina to tell me that a man and woman had forced their way into the house, choked her to the point that she passed out, dragged her across the floor, punched her in the face, and locked her into my dad's study in the back of the house. All the while, they yelled that they would kill her if she didn't give them money. My mom (Nancy) was able to find a pair of pliers in Dad's desk drawer and managed to pry her way out of the metal door. She then went to the nearest Telecom where she was able to call my dad (who was gone for the day- about 30 minutes away).

Praise God with us that she is alive and has only minor discomforts in her throat where she was choked (she is currently taking anti-inflammatory medication to help with the swelling). But along with the physical trauma, there is also emotional and spiritual trauma. As a family, we decided this was one of those times when I (Sara) needed to be there for my family in Argentina to be a support to my Mom and Dad. This is no easy decision as I will be leaving David behind with Miriam and Sofia.

I'll be flying out with Alexander tomorrow, November 13th and will be staying in Jujuy, Argentina for three weeks.

David and the girls will meet up with me in Chicago at the beginning of December to begin our Home Assignment in the States.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you! We should have a tentative schedule for our time in the US soon.

Please pray for us and with us:

- For safe travels for all of us (Sara has over 17 hrs. of flight time- not including lay overs)

- For Sara's parents- Dave and Nancy- as they work through this traumatic experience

- For Miriam and Sofia as they will be away from their mama for 3 weeks

- For David as he holds down the fort here at home

Praise God with us:

- David's mom Karen is in good health- nothing serious was discovered!

- Sara's brother, Josh, is flying in to Argentina today and will spend a week there (he is currently living in Guatemala working with the Peace Corps. They payed for his flight down!)

- For our "miracle ticket". We have a wonderful travel agent, a believer, who found a last minute ticket for an amazing price!

-For the many friends here in Albania (missionaries and nationals alike) who have offered to help out by making meals for David and the girls while Sara is gone

BELOW: the girls with John and Karen (David's parent's); the kids with Nancy (Sara's mom)



