

November 2023



Are We Settling in....?

Arriving back in South Dakota in **APRIL** was the start of something new for us: Serving with TWR from within the USA. Something new? Something different? The first Sunday home we were welcomed back to the USA by our sending church and invited to share during the Sunday School hour. After a few days to recover from jet lag, it seems like we hit the ground running. The first couple of weeks was kind of an initial settling-in but without our household belongings which were due to arrive from Cyprus several weeks later. But we had to buy a car. And praise the Lord, we found a 2008 Toyota Highlander that we could buy with cash from the sale of our 2016 Honda Fit we had in Cyprus. Knowing we had a car; we could settle in a few ways... one way was Ted's routine of working from home. But we still needed to go to our US office. So, part of April was spent at our TWR office in North Carolina to see Ted's supervisor in person and especially to meet with those who could explain the finance and insurance adjustments that would happen with our status changing to 'domestic missionaries'.

On **MAY 1st** our grandson, Tristan, was born. We were so anxious to meet him and as soon as we could, we headed to South Bend, Indiana, to meet him. Of course, on the way we had to see good friends and supporters and had a refreshing and encouraging time with them! After a few weeks with our new grandson and Kerith and Brendan in Indiana, we picked up Micah from Moody and drove back together to South Dakota.

JUNE was the month for Ted to settle in to early online meetings and planning for fall trainings. And I was busy with wedding preparations. We finalized plans for a tent, caterer, the flowers and prepared our yard and home for Tabitha and Andrew's Stateside sequel-wedding celebration.

JULY found us in Taiwan for Andrew and Tabitha's Taiwan wedding. It was a wonderful adventure filled with meeting Andrew's parents and brother, preparations, visiting old friends and enjoying the celebration. Returning from Taiwan, we had a week to finish preparations for the sequel wedding before Andrew and Tabitha arrived. Kerith, Brendan and Tristan drove over from Indiana to join in the celebrations and spend time with the new couple. My sister joined us with her family as well.

So, in **AUGUST** for a couple of weeks, the Dakota Manor was full of fun, chaos, and lots of people. After each family had departed, we tried to find "normal" and settle in again. Ted had TWR work and ministry to focus on and we had some mission conferences to prepare for.

In **SEPTEMBER** my sister, Heather, and her husband, Sisa, returned to Dakota Manor to haul their belongings back to their new house in Montana. The next day, Ted and I left for our road trip. Our destination was the mission conference at Fellowship Baptist in Northern Virginia. On the way, we drove through South Bend and held our fast-growing grandson again. We visited and stayed with friends along the way. One highlight from the trip was visiting our former landlords of our Cyprus house. They are Cypriots who have raised their boys in Virginia. It was so great to re-connect, have a home-made Greek lunch together and even eat figs from the fig tree that grows on their Virginia land! On the way back from Virginia, we had a chance to visit and stay with more old friends and long-term supporters. We are blessed!

With our laundry done and bags packed again we went on a shorter trip... to Le Mars Bible Church in Iowa for a weekend mission conference. On a side note, we attended our first mission conference at LBC when Justin was 2 years old! He will be 34 in January! Now that is a long and treasured relationship!

After two mission conferences checked off our list and a chance to breathe after all the excitement over the last several months, we were more than ready to head to Colorado for a good week of counselling for a re-entry debrief. Loaded up with food supplies for the journey and our bags all packed, we drove out of our driveway. Immediately the illumined "check engine" light caught our attention. With our old Toyota, we knew we should not ignore it. It was very early on Saturday morning. What we thought would be a simple fix turned into a three-day delay and a large bill. But praise God for partial money from the warranty and that the parts were available. While we waited for our car to be fixed, we worked on contacting everyone on our trip and reversed it, deciding to go to Texas first and then to Colorado.

Our counselling time was postponed until the following week in **OCTOBER**. We are so glad that it turned out this way because after counselling we were more than ready to head back to South Dakota. We drove straight through! The month of October looked a bit more like settling in yet we were in a different church every Sunday sharing TWR ministry updates.

Praise God

**For his provision for a car in South Dakota.
For the opportunity that TWR has had to
share healing hope in troubled places.
For providing Micah's fall room and board
costs at Moody Bible Institute.**

Pray

**As Ted and Jay present online
courses that continue this month.
For on-going development of
trauma and healing content for
troubled places in the world.
For Ted and Dawn as we walk
through our transition to life in
and work from the USA.**

In this season we are especially thankful for your prayers and your on-going support as we minister with TWR. We covet your prayers as we continue to settle in.

Love, *Ted and Dawn*

<p>For Financial Correspondence: TWR P.O. Box 8700 Cary, NC 27512-8700 1-800-456-7897 To give toward our support online: TWR.org/global-staff/tdsiemens</p>	 <p>Speaking Hope to the World</p>	<p>Our South Dakota address: Ted & Dawn Siemens 48190 265th Street Brandon, SD 57005 USA tsiemens@twr.org</p>
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