

# Fabule Family Update

November 2010

## LOST & FOUND

It has been an absolute roller coaster for our family in South Africa for the past few months. With Deborah coming into the homestretch of her Masters' thesis, Gabriel taking on not only extra daddy duty but double responsibilities for both the Delft and Mfuleni church plants (the Delft pastor traveled to get married), and all with limited transportation, life has been hectic and interesting!

In October, we were able to raise all of the needed money for our new vehicle, but have not been able to secure the car that we want (It's a Mitsubishi Pajero with less than 200,000 kms but some of our offers fell through). On November 1, Deborah submitted her thesis to the Ancient Studies department of the University of Stellenbosch!

## FOUND

In September, while on a trip to Johannesburg to renew his passport, Gabriel got a call from the Cape Town Police. They told him that they have RECOVERED THE TOYOTA VENTURE, which was stolen in 2008. Our registration number had been removed and the police had used a special machine to view the old number on the chassis. We were only able to view the Venture in October and were asked to supply the police with information because they had caught the man in possession of the Venture with dozens of other stolen vehicles.

The Venture had been used as a township taxi (as we had suspected) and there is considerable damage to the body and the wiring, but the engine and other motor-related parts are in surprisingly good condition. When we told the church, there were tears of joy and emotional healing for the restoration of things stolen.

## LOST

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Tuesday morning before Deborah's final paper was due, we woke up to discover that there had been a break-in in our house. Burglars had pried open a locked wooden door, and unscrewed the bolts from the inside. They took 4 bags, which were closest to the broken door (Deborah's purse which had cell phones, Joseph's school bag, and TWO BAGS FULL OF IRREPLACEABLE ACADEMIC BOOKS for Deborah's paper.) As the robbers were escaping, they must have realized that the academic books were of little value because they dropped one of the bags in our neighbor's front lawn. We have not found the other bag of books. We called the police in the morning and cancelled and replaced the cards in Deborah's purse.

We praise God that He protected us from harm, that we all are safe and that Deborah was able to complete her paper with no difficulty. We are trying to rebuild our contact numbers lost on the cell phones.

**We realize our news might prompt some questions, so here are some FAQ.**

### **I thought the vehicle-donation drive was to replace the Venture? What will happen now?**

Since the Venture has been recovered there will need to be about R25,000 (\$3,6000) worth of repairs to restore it. Initially the Venture was given to the Fabules for ministry work, but since the ministry has outgrown our individual capacity, we want to raise funds within the church to repair it and then turn it over to LFSM Ministries as the new ministry vehicle. It could then be used for weekly meetings, Sunday transport and missions-trips to our church plants in East London and beyond.

### **Why does there seem to be a lot of theft/crime? How are you guys doing? Are you ok?**

A recent crime-statistics report in South Africa has shown a decrease in violent crime but an increase in drug-related petty theft. There are many factors for crime including lack of education, high unemployment, fatherless-ness, and a devaluing of life, which was fostered by the apartheid-era. While we are frustrated and sometimes angered by how prevalent and debilitating crime in South Africa can be, we feel empowered that we are making a difference in the community and are addressing those very issues in the lives of people in the townships.

We are doing ok. We were unnerved when we saw that people had been into our house while we were sleeping, but since nothing was shuffled or disturbed, Joseph and Jonathan did not see what had happened. Apart from picking up on mommy's already high stress for her paper, we do not believe that the kids were emotionally impacted by this particular incident. Finding one of the bags, completing the thesis, and talking to the police have given us some closure, and, in some ways, this incident has become a way to talk to our kids about wrong & right, Gods' protection, and the blessing of family.

### **Do you guys have security for your home or insurance for theft? What steps can you take to prevent this from happening again?**

We currently do not have a security system installed in our home since it would require additional monthly fees, which our current support cannot cover. The same is true for contents insurance. South Africa has one of the most rigorous insurance markets, because of the gaps in medical and security infrastructure. While we need to be responsible, we do not want to invest our support in fear-based products. We will look into adding some additional fencing to the property and adding a basic security-system into the budget (\$75 per month) for the 2011 year. We are weighing the pros and cons of a guard dog.

### **What will you do about the academic books?**

Since academic books are much more expensive here in South Africa, we will attempt to purchase replacement books in the States and have them brought over with friends or family. We are still trusting God that somehow the books will be recovered. They were heavy and hardback and with titles such as "Information-gathering in ancient Greece" and the "Archaic Smile of Herodotus", we doubt the thieves would keep them around for leisure reading!

### **How can we help?**

You can pray for God's continued protection over us. Praise the Lord for his restoration of the Venture. Please consider becoming a monthly donor. With 3-8 small monthly donations (\$15, \$25, \$30) we will be able to responsibly secure the house and our family.

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If you wish to make a contribution to Living Spring Faith Ministries, please go to our website at [www.lsfmusa.org](http://www.lsfmusa.org) or make out a check to LSFM-USA and mail it to 1879 Cold Creek Court, Vienna, Virginia 22182-1807. Tell us how you want your gift applied - in the "message" line on the website or on the memo line of the check:

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