



Speed and Processing! MAPS - Short-Term

In addition to the training and care of our missionary family, PFL is the center for receiving and processing applications. Are you aware that AGWM receives thousands of applications each year requesting assignments of anywhere from a few days to a lifetime? So what does the title “*Speed and Processing!*” have to do with this? Well, it has come to our attention that some of our colleagues on the field are unaware of positive changes that have taken place in several areas. I will brief you this month just on changes in the MAPS Program.

A MAPS Facelift

First, MAPS was moved into our department, separating from the construction ministry (CP&D), which remained as its own department. **MAPS overseas trips were expanded in time frame**

from 5 through 11 months. This allows quick turnaround approval for applicants who need to get out quickly, such as teachers, and accommodates the vast number of students coming our way from the World Missions Summit. Also, applicants will no longer be processed through their districts.

Results and Advantages

By increasing MAPS service time to under one year, we push the Missionary Associate Program to a minimum of one year, which allows greater investment in training as well as requiring a higher level of applicant commitment. With MAPS trips under one year, processing and length of service time are more flexible. Another factor is that by *not* processing MAPS applicants through their districts (which often do not know these people),

districts’ workloads are reduced and processing turnaround is quick.

Speaking of processing time, we have cut that from months to an average of 3-14 days. Application forms are simple and straightforward, and all we need after receiving completed applications are references, background checks, and the invitation from the missionary and area director. With those assurances, applicants are placed on our insurance and approved to go.

We hope these changes and new direction prove to be a great service to our missionary family.

Your brother,

Rick Johnson

SPOTLIGHT on Rachel Jennette



Rachel Jennette, missionary associate to the Netherlands, gave the following update:

“Today we saw inside our building for the first time! It needs a lot of work, but it has amazing potential. When we walked into the sanctuary, I couldn't help but stop and stare in amazement. It was really moving.

“The building process has been a point of frustration, joy, and confusion.

“There have been some recent challenges regarding our contract. There are many hoops to jump through. Nevertheless, we see God's faithfulness prevail through personal connections, patience,

and time. We were allowed to begin working on the outside of the building, which was wonderful.

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BLOGGING: HERE TO STAY

Every week I read many MKs' personal blogs. It is a great way for me to learn what is current with our MKs: their struggles, issues, prayer requests, and what they do for fun.

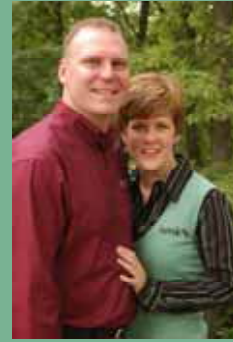
I learn many things by simply browsing their sites. Most of the time I leave them a little note to let them know I was there and have read their blog. Leaving a note lets them know several things: first, that I care enough about them and MKs in general to read what they are writing; second, that they have input into the MK ministry; third, that people they may not necessarily be close to (or want to be) are reading their blogs.

Your MK may blog or ask you about it. I do not believe blogging in itself is harmful or dangerous. Blogs are great places for MKs to write thoughts or poems about what is happening in their lives and to connect with other MKs. Blog sites allow them a place to express their feelings. While this may scare many of us, I do not believe blogging will go away. I believe this type of Internet behavior will only grow. As a community, we all need to be aware of it. If you have never heard of blogging or been on blog sites, it is time you

become familiar with them. Two main blogging sites are www.xanga.com and www.myspace.com. Both have blog rings for churches, youth groups, and even MKs.

With all the good that comes with blogging, just as many negative things exist. Because of the nature of blogging, people can post anything they want, and there is virtually *no* filter. Adult blogs are on these same sites. While I am uncomfortable thinking my daughter may come across something inappropriate on Xanga, I am also not comfortable banning her from blogging completely. The Internet is filled with adult and sinful content. We need to ask ourselves continually if we are helping our children learn to make positive choices on the Internet. I don't want the negative to scare us away but to help prepare us and help us be proactive in training our kids in "safe surfing."

My main thought for each one of us as parents is simply to be aware of our children's activities on the Internet. Do you know if your child has a blog? Have you ever been to it? Have you asked your child if you could subscribe to his or her blog? Of course,



Chad and Dargan Phillips

people can block you from receiving their blog, but they can't really block you from going to their blog site. Do you regularly check the history file or the "cookies" on your computer to see what sites have been accessed?

For parents who have signed up for my "Parents' Updates" via e-mail, I will be sending you a recent article from *On Course* magazine about online predators. If you would like to receive it but have not signed up for the updates, you can do so on the ISMK Web site.

Blessings to each of you,

Bwana Chad and Bwanita
Dargan Phillips

As of April 30, 2006, we have received and processed more than 190 MAPS applications for assignments between two weeks and eleven months. Many of these are a direct result of the historic World Missions Summit that was held in Louisville, KY last year.

SPOTLIGHT on Rachel Jennette (continued)



“Because of the complications with the building, the launch of our church has been pushed back from April 16 to May 21. We will still open HICC to anyone who wants to come on Easter, but the official launch will be the 21st.

“We are renting an interim building for April 16–May 9, and there are many logistical issues. Please pray that all will go smoothly during this time.

“We did a concert in a nearby city called Bussum. The band was okay, but the response was not as we had

hoped. Yet God had a plan. Never look with your own perspective; God is always more creative. We were able to make a solid connection with a couple, and they have begun attending our church. Also, a Dutch guy attended the concert and is now attending our Alpha course.

“The second concert was in Hilversum and was well received. Around 200 people attended, and many expressed interest in attending HICC.

So many people here are sensing the need for something more; we have an opportunity to introduce them to the One who can meet that need.



“God is moving in the hearts of every person, whether they are committed believers or not. Questions like, Can God choose not to love us? spark deep conversations that challenge all of us to see God in a new light. It is refreshing and humbling to see how God is revealing himself to those in

our group who are seeking. We had the chance to purchase a Bible for our Bulgarian atheist friend, and she was so excited. It is a test in patience to walk with her on this journey. I've learned a lot about just sitting back and letting her come to truth on her own. We are there to support and encourage, but she is the one who makes the ultimate decision. We pray and then watch God move.”



PFL STAFF

Rick Johnson

Director

Sharon Graham

Administrative Coordinator

David Stanislaus

Office Manager

Kathleen Powers

Support Specialist

Maureen Simpson

Events Coordinator

Janice Brison

Processing Manager

Karen Anderson

Candidate Processing Coordinator

Gretchen Stephens

Candidate Processing Assistant

Cheryl McElhattan

Candidate Processing Assistant

Ray Drew

MA/MAPS Processing Coordinator

Susan Carroll

Support Specialist

Steph Polites

Northern Asia and Asia Pacific/ISM

Megan Warren

Latin America and the Caribbean/Eurasia

Jennifer Pulley

Africa and Europe

Chad and Dargan Phillips

MK Program Manager

Bethanie Skipper

MK Office Coordinator

Sarah Wiseman

MK Correspondence Assistant

Sarah Friesen

MK Resource Assistant

Joyce Hubbs

Short-Term Minister Abroad Specialist

Linda Tasker

Medical Evaluation Processing Assistant

Margo Long

Medical Evaluation Processing Assistant

MA SUPPORT STAFF

Joe Arnold

Visa/Travel Specialist

Lori Bailey

Medical Insurance Specialist

Daniel Buffington

MA/MAPS Financial Services Coordinator

Danielle Lawrence

Word Processing Specialist