

Lessons Learned During a Season of Waiting

After months of waiting and wondering why... we are finally going to Angola! Our arrivals will be staggered, with the Campbell family remaining in Portugal until after the birth of baby #3, but the migration has begun.

It is certainly difficult to leave our "family" here in Portugal. We have learned so much about living in a culture different from our own — both Portuguese and Angolan — thanks to our gracious and loving friends here. We are learning to accept those things we cannot change or control with what grace we can muster, and faith in God's control. And we are striving to obtain a little more patience and flexibility for the next time around.

Our increased communication skills (due to a lengthened stay in Portugal) have given us the ability to deepen relationships and make connections for future ministry that we were not capable of 6 months ago. We are now better prepared (by these connections and learning opportunities) for beginning ministry in Angola. While at times we felt we had lost our momentum, we

have gained much in the waiting — not the least of which is faith and trust in God's own timing and ways. And now, hard as it is to believe after waiting so long, we are really and truly leaving to begin our ministry in Angola!

Looking back, the process of getting to Angola has gone nothing like *our* plan, but because of this we are learning (as individuals and as a team) to trust *God's* plan even without fully understanding it. Sometimes, we were inclined to be frustrated with how slowly our visa process was moving, but I know now if we had been able to force our agenda, we would have missed many of the blessings and opportunities I never anticipated at the time.



Jordan and her friend, Melissa

I am coming away from this experience with a peace and trust that God takes care of all in His time and in His way. We are now heading out into another and scarier unknown. We will feel like we have even less control over circumstances than we have had here, but I know that my God is in control, so bring it on!

~ Jordan Yarbrough

ANGOLA
MISSION TEAM

*Planting Churches
Nurturing Growth
Harvesting a Nation*

The Angola Team:

Rusty, Laura, Alex & Stephen Campbell

Nathan Holland

Robert, Teague, Efesson & Biruk Meyer

Danny, Katie, Eliana & Sophia Reese

Jordan Yarbrough

Timeline:

July 8 —
Reese family, Meyer family, Nathan & Jordan leave for Angola

End of August —
Campbell baby due

Mid-October —
Campbell family begins visa application process



Prayer Requests

- **Praise God that most of us have finally received our permanent visas!**
- **Praise God for Robert's recently issued tourist visa!** Continue to pray that he will receive his permanent visa quickly and without more difficulty.
- **Pray for us as we make preparations to move to Angola.**
- **Pray for the health and safety of all team members,** especially as we travel and transition.
- **Pray for the health of Laura and Baby Campbell** throughout the pregnancy.
- **Pray for the Campbell family as they remain in Portugal for the next few months.**
- **Pray for our fundraising.** All team families are still seeking monthly and one-time support.
- **Pray for growing and fruitful relationships between each family and their sending congregations.**
- **Pray for our partnership with the churches of Christ in the Lisbon area.**
- **Pray for the Angolan people.**
- **Pray for the Angolan Christians.**

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

~ *Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)*

One of Alex's favorite movies is the Dreamworks film "How to Train your Dragon." The story is about Hiccup, a scrawny little Viking boy who captures a dragon and soon discovers that he can't follow in the traditions of his people by killing dragons. Instead, he develops a close bond and relationship with his dragon, allowing him to train it and eventually to become the first Viking ever to ride a dragon. The story also shows Hiccup dealing with the rejection of his people (even his own father), who don't appreciate his unique gifts and have a difficult time overcoming their prejudices against dragons.

Those of us who choose to go into missions may have experiences similar to Hiccup's. Sometimes, people (even our own families) don't appreciate what we are doing or understand why we are doing it. Our journey towards Angola has been long and arduous at times, and we have met with constant delays and hurdles. And once we finally get to the field, we will have challenges of an entirely different nature!

In these difficult and trying times, knowing we have the emotional backing and prayer support of our people "back home" is vital. As we continue down this path, we become more and more appreciative of those who support us, not just financially, but prayerfully and emotionally as well. You, our families, friends, and sponsoring/supporting congregations, are an absolutely necessary part of our ministry in Angola! We couldn't do this without you!

In another vein, we have taken advantage of our

forced delay here in Portugal these last several months to purposefully seek guidance and mentoring in different aspects of our future ministry, specifically church planting, evangelism, and team dynamics. In all areas, we value and respect the work that has gone on before us and want to be constant learners in this process. If you are a "seasoned" missionary and have taken the time to give us advice in one of these areas, please know that we appreciate your wisdom and experience!

Ultimately, though, every mission field is different, and Angola is certainly no exception! When the time comes for us to "wrestle the dragons" in front of us, we will need to make our own decisions and pray that God gives us the necessary wisdom to handle every situation in a manner honorable to Him.

~ Rusty Campbell



Alex "Dragonslayer" Campbell