

**New USA Furlough
Address**

**533 DUCHESS COURT
LAKELAND FL 33806**

863-937-8522

**Africa
Address**

**B. P. 122
BUJUMBURA BURUNDI
AFRICA
257-22-22-34-31**

**Support
Address**

**CHRISTIAN MISSIONS
IN MANY LANDS
P. O. BOX 13
SPRING LAKE NJ 07762**



**Someone once said, “*Happily ever after
takes one day at a time.*”**

"Stick to your New Year's resolutions!" the radio DJ encouraged, "even when you can't see the outcome and want to slide into old patterns. Stay strong! Don't give up!"

Hey! That sounds just like something Joshua said, "Be strong and courageous! Have no fear!" (*Joshua 1:9*)

Ken jests, when he replies to questions about how things are going, both in Burundi, and with our family on medical furlough—"Oh, we're plodding along, lurching from one crisis to the next." Andy learned in his 3rd grade science class that the moon formerly was believed to be smooth, so people struggled with Galileo's discovery that it was bumpy with craters. Smooth or not, the moon is the moon, and life, like the moon is bumpy. Life is filled with bumps and lurches, and something else we learned yesterday when we came upon a roadblock and had to swerve into a detour. Our GPS announced repeatedly, "*ROUTE RECALCULATION!*"

We made one of those swerving route recalculations when Sammy began experiencing grand mal seizures in 2016. After intensive hospital testing we were advised by a top pediatric neurosurgeon last November that Sam is a good candidate for brain surgery. ***Due to a rare cancellation, his surgery is now move up to February 13, 2017, at Florida Hospital for Children in Orlando, FL..*** Afterwards, he will need a year of careful monitoring. With this in mind we have planted ourselves in Florida, taking his distressing struggles one day at a time. ***(Please take note of new furlough address: 533 Duchess Court, Lakeland, FL 33803)***

The Lord provided us with a larger rental house to better accommodate our family. *(See how we're all getting bigger in latest family photo!)* Ken will continue commuting to Burundi, while I stay here with 7 children, soon to swell to 9 this summer. Lizzie transfers from Bethel University to Florida Southern College for nursing school, and Cindy joins Carly at Polk State College after graduation from RVA—all three girls will commute from our new home base. With herculean energy, a beat up '97 Dodge van (that only Ken can coerce), and a lot of help from loved ones, *Ken, the strong, the brave, the courageous*, moved our household to south Lakeland over Christmas break.

The children have adjusted well to new routines, schools, and neighborhood, except for Sammy. The high-dose anti-seizure medicines have changed him into a different child—aggressive, angry, unhappy—he rarely smiles or laughs like he did before the seizures. He wants to be with mommy all the time, which makes it hard to get anything else done, or have any breathing space. I never fully realized the magnitude of caring for a strong teenaged handicapped child. Before the seizures he was always helping me. So now it's my turn to help him. I love this wonderful precious boy. Thank you for praying for Sammy (and me, too), and also Sam's siblings who are not sure what to do with Sam's moods and angry unmanageable outbursts.

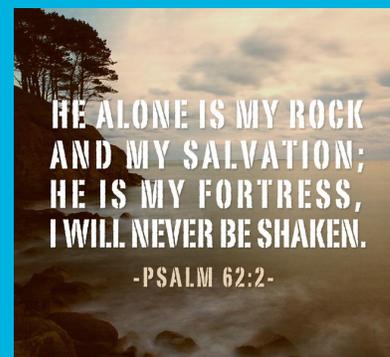
Not forgetting beautiful Burundi and dear friends and co-workers and colleagues there, Ken recently reported the need for rain, and now he's reporting that homes of Burundian friends have been damaged by flooding. So I've adjusted my prayers to: "*Send rain, but not too much!*" God is there in Burundi and we are so thankful for peace!

I would love to wish for smooth sailing off into the sunset "where they lived happily ever", but I accept God's will to challenge us to live one day at a time, no matter what. Someone wrote, "*I will permit myself the luxury of hope.*" Yes, and also Romans 12:12 insists: "*Be joyful in hope.*" So, **HOPE!**

Melli and Ken, hoping together with you for great things in 2017!

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macmanbob@gmail.com



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