

Trust and Obey

February 2012

All in God's Timing

Have you ever thought about the time of day you were born?

Our little girl is due 2/29 but she may arrive earlier or later and who knows what time of day. When allowed to happen naturally, childbirth is unpredictable. I (Tim) was born at 4:25am which means that my parents had a somewhat unexpected late night trip to the hospital. Yet, this was God's timing for my arrival. As we anticipate our arrival in Egbe, two scriptural passages keep coming to mind - Jeremiah 29:11 and James 4:13-15. Knowing that our Father has already planned the exact day and time of our arrival gives us peace as we trust his will for our lives.

We continue to prepare spiritually and physically for Egbe, just as we prepare for the birth of our little girl. Please keep us in your prayers as we trust God's timing!

Travel, Travel, Travel

Since Tim's trip to Egbe in Oct/Nov, we have done a great deal of traveling. Tim spent several days in San Francisco attending an academic conference - even though he was still jetlagged from Egbe. In December the family spent two weeks in the Philippines, one week in South Carolina, and a weekend in San Antonio.

We enjoyed the time with family and friends but have just now recovered. Illness plagued the latter part of our travels but we praise God all are doing well now, including mom and baby.

Luke did a pretty good job as the Bible Bearer in Dave's and Rachel's wedding . . . although mom had to walk down the aisle and dad had to encourage him to actually deliver the bible!

Tim got really sick in SC. Even so, it was great to see family and spend Christmas there.

We spent the New Year's weekend in San Antonio visiting family and celebrating the engagement of our cousin Josiah to Vanessa. We topped off our time with a trip to SeaWorld!

We have no immediate travel plans . . . except for a trip to Baylor University Medical Center in late February!



Dave's and Rachel's
Wedding

Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 - Presentation at our home church
- Feb 29 - Our little girl is due to arrive
- April 28 - SIM Regional



The Sia family factory in
the Philippines



“Somewhat Random” Reflections on Tim’s Trip to Egbe

Simply put - It was a great trip! Seeing Egbe, meeting the people, and wrapping my mind around how God could use us was both exciting and draining. The hospital is in need of much physical repair but it is a wonderful tool to reach the community. Opportunities for personal evangelism, encouraging hospital staff, and caring for the sick are abundant. There are also opportunities for ministry beyond the hospital. The ECWA World School of Missions is located within walking distance and I am excited about being a part of its ministry to train missionaries for outreach to North Africa and the Middle East.

H.E.L.P., a missions organization, has an active outreach to Muslims and orphans in Egbe. Earlier this month we met with Raye Elerson who serves with H.E.L.P., just before his return to Egbe. We are excited to see what doors may open to partner with this ministry.

It is difficult to think about Egbe without also thinking about the unrest that has plagued Nigeria for the past decade. Recent acts of violence and political unrest are troubling. Yet, I am convinced that God has great plans to use believers in Nigeria to advance his kingdom. Our prayer is that we can be a part of God’s plans as we serve in Egbe.

On my plane ride home, I sat beside a guy from Houston who had just completed his pilgrimage to Mecca. As he showed me pictures, I could not help but consider the emptiness. As he commented on his trip, it was obvious that he had made the trek out of duty. He had simply checked this item off his religious to-do list.

True faith is more than a duty and I know that making this real to believers in Egbe will be part of our ministry. The reality of the spiritual and physical struggle between Christianity and Islam is very real in Nigeria and I pray that God can somehow use us to impact His Kingdom for His Glory!



Egbe from above



“Weekly” Market
(every eight days)



“Unskilled” Labor
(engraving tools)

Praises, Prayer Requests, Announcements

Please keep us in your prayers and lift up praise to the Father for all that He has and is doing in our lives:

- *Praise* - Mom and baby girl are healthy.
- *Praise* - Tim’s trip to Egbe, Oct 27-Nov 11 went well!
- *Praise* - [MedSend](http://www.medsend.org) has approved the grant to pay Maureen’s medical school loans while she is on the mission field. They raise funds to help medical professionals do missions without the burden of school loans - www.medsend.org
- *Prayer* - Wisdom in planning for the next year. With the addition of a new baby, we have much to consider as we plan our move to Egbe.
- *Prayer* - Presentation at our home church on Feb 1 - MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church - www.mbbcirving.org.
- *Website Announcement* - We launched a new version earlier this month. For the moment, www.mcalhaney.com is being redirected to our new WordPress blog.

Partner with us through the [secure SIM link](#), at www.mcalhaney.com, or by mail:

- SIM USA
P.O. Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241
- Place “McAlhaney” and our Missionary ID (013141) in the memo field

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