

## Arce's Newsletter – July 2014

Greetings everyone. I am writing part of this from Tennessee, and Lu will be contributing from Johannesburg, SA.

Lu left for South Africa May 27, to spend two months working with Joel & Rachel Kirby. They have established a home for abandoned babies, and are in the process of renovating an old farmhouse to be used both for their home and as the babies' home. One area of the first floor will be reconfigured to house a nursery for the babies, plus an apartment for the "mama," who will be helping with the care of the children. Future plans are to build several cottages. Each will house up to eight children and a "mama" to care for them. The Kirbys have several acres of fenced property, and have been approved to build the cottages on the property. Below is a picture of Lu with one of the babies at a rugby game.

**For privacy reasons, please do not post picture on any social media.**



**Lu's update:** I have been here about four weeks, and the first two weeks were full of unexpected problems. If they were not so serious, it could have been called a comedy of errors. The Kirbys had only lived in this old farmhouse less than a month when the septic system failed, due to a faulty design and some broken pipes. Thus, the first week was spent fixing the whole system and bringing it up to date. Then we connected a pressure pump to the old gravity water system and major problem # 2 occurred. One of the old pipes feeding water into the house burst and overnight the leak emptied the water tank. The leaking water somehow shorted out the main underground electric cable, which blew out the cable and the breaker up on the electric pole. Now we had no electricity and no water. We were able to fix the water piping and main electric cable, but had to

wait on the electric company to come and flip the breaker up on the pole.

That is a real problem when you have three little babies, the four Kirby children, plus four adults living in the house, and you are unable to bathe or do laundry! Fortunately friends let them use their showers to bathe. After repeated calls to the electric company and broken promises to come out and hook up the electric, Joel finally went to the maintenance yard, found the head guy there, who promised he would send a truck right away. Having heard those words several times before, Joel said something like, "I'll wait here while you get the truck and you can follow me." They came and in less than ten minutes we had power again. Six days of waiting, and the problem was taken care of in ten minutes! It took all night to fill the tanks, but in the morning we had water! We are now two weeks behind our schedule, and several thousand dollars above budget, but we know God allowed this to happen, and that He will supply the needed funds to complete the project.

Things are progressing smoothly now, and much is getting accomplished. It is great to see things getting done, and the house and nursery are really taking shape.

**On the home front:** I have kept busy doing lots of yard work, reseeding the lawn, putting down mulch and top soil, and trying to grow a garden (everything is yellow, blossoms are dropping off, and the deer are eating anything that looks halfway decent-pretty discouraging). Our dear seventy-nine year old neighbor fell and broke her pelvis, her wrist, and fractured her right foot just before Lu left for Africa, so I have been spending a lot of time with her. I know the Lord had a hand in my not going to Africa with Lu this time so that I could be close by to help Audrey when needed. Being home has also given me many opportunities to get to know our neighbors better, and to talk to several about the Lord.

**Senior moment:**

Before Lu left for Africa, he took me out to the little garden shed and walked me through the steps for driving our ride-on lawn mower. A piece of cake, right? The following week, I decided I needed to mow the lawn, so got on it, went through my mental check list, managed to start it and back it out of the shed. Needless to say I was pretty proud of myself. I had done two loops around the front and back yard, when I looked back and noticed there was no difference in the height of the grass I had mowed. I had forgotten the last step - to lower the blade! Is this memory loss? Okay guys, don't tell me none of you have ever done that before?

**Senior humor:**

A key ring is a handy little gadget that allows you to lose all your keys at once!

Anybody who can still do at sixty what he did at twenty – wasn't doing much at twenty! □

**Future projects:**

August/September – Three weeks in Puerto Rico, to help at the Puerto Rico Baptist College with maintenance.

Mid-September/October – Three weeks in Fort Lauderdale (Gospel Mission of South America) to do remodeling on one of the mission homes. Hopefully, Bev will be able to fly down to help there at GMSA headquarters, and then we will drive back home together, and leave two weeks later for the Wilds of NE again.

As always, we are so grateful for your prayers and financial support of our ministry. We truly do consider you co-laborers with us. God bless and keep you in His care.

*Bev and Lu Arce*

