

The Prince Family Herald

August 25, 2008

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A WEEK



OF WONDERS!

Goodbye Alabama! Hello Home!

By the time some of you read this newsletter George will be home on leave at last! He graduated from AIT on Friday, August 22nd and is having some dental consultation and possible work done in the coming week and then his leave begins on Friday, August 29th.

He had a very nice experience at graduation. He bought a disposable camera so he could take pictures of it and hopefully have someone take his in his Class A (uniform) which we have not yet seen.

When he approached a couple there for their son's graduation and asked the husband if he would mind taking a picture of him with his disposable camera, the man was very happy to oblige. His wife, however, was there with an excellent, professional grade digital camera such as Nikon and other higher end manufacturers make, and she said she would be glad to take more pictures with her camera and when downloaded, email them to him. She took pictures of him graduating and getting his wings and others just as we would love to see and would take if we had been there. We are so very thankful to our Father for bringing this about because you make the people willing.

When she has downloaded the pictures she will call George and get his email address to send them.

We are so thankful that every time there has been an occasion where we could not be there with you, our Father has always brought forth someone happy to share their celebration, or give you a ride, or take your picture; Thank You, Father! We know it is a blessing to them too.

In preparing to leave Fort Rucker, George made it a point to stop by and say good bye to some of the people with whom he made acquaintance in his shopping and business dealings there, and to thank them for their helpfulness. In his own words:

"I showed my appreciation to the Lord for such a nice PX and for the good prices they had, especially with no tax. It has been a very good resource while I was there. I also extended special thanks to those whom I dealt with, a final goodbye to the one I dealt with at Unicel and the lady I dealt with at the eyeglass place. She was definitely used by the Lord and was quite helpful to me and seemed to genuinely appreciate me stopping by. At least once a week I would do so, even though I didn't get anything. Her husband and she lived in Savannah, Georgia so she was able to tell me a little about the area and how nice it was. From that, and from what others have said about that duty station, I do believe it will be a very enjoyable place.

"I also saw the Lord at work in the cab driver, a husky woman who helped me in and out of the SUV with the container and box to the UPS and she was only too happy to do so. This and many other events do show the Lord is right here, continually at work.

"Another example was Sergeant McClear, a female Sergeant who was the one who saw me and really chewed me out those many months ago for a very non deliberate infraction of the rules. I hadn't seen her or had much of any contact with her for a long time. However, yesterday I had contact with her for she was very active in handling all our out processing needs. So when I asked about traveling she was a completely different person toward me as opposed to being always abrasive. I think that is just a face to help get things moving on their way. Whatever the reason she was most helpful to me and to others as she tried quite hard to move everyone as quickly as possible through the required out processing so they would depart that Friday.

"Also, the lady at Brown Dental was quite helpful and we even spent some time talking about my

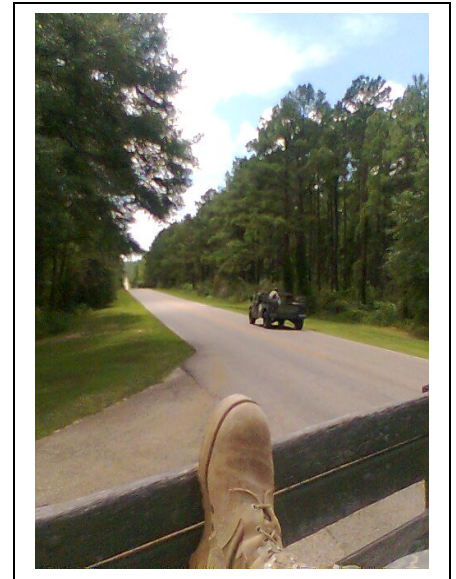
goals and experiences. As it turns out she has a husband who is a pilot and she even made some calls to see if someone could assist me with the desire to be a pilot. She made it plain to not give up but pursue the goal of a pilot even though there is a lot involved. Also she is part of a "network" and said that once I start to talk to other pilots and Warrant Officers they will "take you under their wing..." They encourage pilots, because there is a demand for them.

"She gave me her cell phone number. We shall see what the Lord does. I can already see many things He said. Be persistent, do not give up, but pursue though there is much involved. I do agree with what the Lord was saying through Captain Champlain at the FOB, to expect great and mighty things, to not be intimidated by the giants of the land but go in and possess it."

We see George doing just that as he related last week during his FTX (Field Training Exercise) before graduation. They were allowed to take their cell phones with them and he called from there on his birthday, Aug. 19th, to tell us that, after being invited for an informal interview with the officer in charge and telling him about some of his background and upbringing and home schooling, he was chosen to be his unit's leader for the day. He relates more about what his experience at FTX accomplished for him:

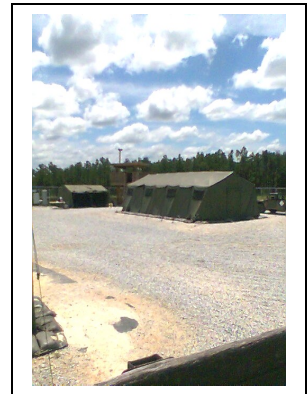
"I saw the Lord bring about a change in me during those two days of FTX, (Field Training Exercise), a change that is seen by others as well and though they know not what it is, they react differently toward me, more respectful. That is the Lord. Yes, the Lord has changed my whole approach, my whole thought processes toward taking authority over others.

"Yesterday, we were taken to the graduation by a bus and somebody needed to stand out in front to call the people to a formation, so several volunteered me. Before, I would decline and with further persistence I would refuse, then someone else did the job. Not yesterday though, I immediately took that spot, called fall in. My voice still needs to be louder but as many have observed, including me; the more I do it the louder I have become. I then called them to attention and fall out to the bus. Instead of something I dreaded, now I look forward and enjoy such an opportunity.



The route to the FTX grounds through a forested area in Alabama's "wire grass country".

The FTX area is a "tent camp" similar to what a Forward Operating Base might be wherever the troops are deployed.



Fred had an interesting story to relate about one of his bike excursions in Hawaii. He and his "bike buddy," Pridgeon, took a 15 mile ride from base down to Waimea, one of the island's many beaches, for a different look at the ocean. Yushi described it in his email as a "very beautiful beach."

"It is a broad and wide expanse of sand that is ringed by mountains and high rocks. One of the rocks juts into the sea and these rocks are regularly used for jumping into the sea. I did it 3 times to get an idea of what it would be like if I had to jump into water. It seems like 60 feet up it is so high! When you land on your feet it is no problem. I shifted once

in falling and landed on my seat. That stung some but I was ok.”

Fred says the trip to the beach was easy, down hill all the way! Schofield Barracks’ elevation is about 867 feet according to Google Earth, A 15 mile ride back to the barracks, uphill all the way, did not appear to be quite so doable, but since bike riding is a common mode of transportation there, they found there was a bus that would take them back that has a rack for 2 bikes on the front! They waited for one with two empty bike slots and returned to Schofield. They missed evening chow, but Fred says he made up for it at breakfast next morning!

Some of Fred’s riding requires crossing busy streets and waits to walk the bike safely across can be long. But one day when he was waiting at the side of the road to cross it and the cars kept going by, one car saw him and stopped, holding up all the traffic behind him and waving Fred across a clear street so he could continue on his way. We are always very happy and thankful to hear of the ways the Lord causes each of you to be helped in so many different situations.



Picture of Waimea Beach with jumping rock in the foreground. It is beautiful. A far lovelier place than the commercialism of Waikiki at Honolulu!



Picture of Waikiki Beach with the breakwater swimming area in front of the hotels as Fred described it in last week’s newsletter:

Fred finished In Processing on Friday the 22nd, and was moved to new quarters. He said the rooms were not so bad, but the bath rooms and showers were such that he hated to bathe there. They were in Some disrepair as well as being filthy. Fred will be making inquiry into cleaning supplies to address this because it is not right that facilities in the Army be allowed to get into this state. In the Soldier’s Creed they vowed to maintain their arms, their equipment and themselves. It is only right. In the meantime, the Lord had a unique answer. One of Fred’s roommates told him that in that building there were bathrooms and showers that were set aside for the use of the soldiers who live off post but need to shower on base from time to time. Those bathrooms are in much better condition and Fred is able to use them. Even this is only temporary as next week he will be moving to quarters where he will have a single room and share a bath with the single on the other side, similar to Andrew’s set up. That is a whole lot more uplifting to anticipate for him and we thank the Lord for such accommodations.

Andrew’s unit has had its first training exercise since he arrived at Fort Lewis. It was one of those scenarios where some of the soldiers act as local Mid East civilians, some as insurgents and the rest as US troops. In this case, first and second platoons were the US soldiers, and Andrew’s platoon played the civilians and insurgents. When the 1st Lieutenant asked if someone had a camera and could take

pictures of the exercise, Andrew was the only one with a “real” camera as opposed to one on a cell phone, so he became the recorder of the event. He took this very seriously and snapped over 300 pictures, which he put on a CD for them. As he was going from room to room and photographing the action he found that he could hide himself in dark corners and go unnoticed, (not actually a good thing as far as the soldiers were concerned, for if he could do it so could an insurgent, definitely something to be learned.) While he was observing he noticed many things that could have been done better, or would have caused a problem in real life. He said he learned more by observing and taking pictures than he would have if he had been directly involved in the action. When he gave the CD to the First Lieutenant, she was delighted as she looked at the photos, exclaiming over how good they were. When he pointed out the things that needed improving as she was going through them, she was even more pleased and very impressed with his observations.

In a slightly different scenario, all the soldiers in Andrew’s unit had a “mandatory fun day” after a day of particularly intense lectures on Army matters. Tables for an outdoor meal were set up on the American Lakeside, a large and beautiful lake which much of Fort Lewis surrounds. There were to be games and sports events, an opportunity to just have fun. Well, actually they were “ordered” to have fun! When all went to formation before this event they were dressed in their ACUs and Sgt. Ho Chee asked them why they were in those uniforms. They told him they were instructed to wear them. Oh no, nothing doing. Sgt. Ho Chee humorously informed them that, “There is life beyond the ‘Pickle Suit’!” and ordered them all back to change into civvies for the day!

Last weekend, (Aug. 16-17), Andrew did purchase a bike for getting around. He had walked from the North Fort where his barracks are, down to the PX on the Main Fort, almost a 4 mile walk, but without a ruck sack! He walked more than 4 miles though because he detoured around the residential area of American Lake and took pictures of the lake with his camera phone. When he got to the PX he found a nice bike and rode home and has been using it ever since.

On Saturday, August 23rd, Andrew rented a car and drove to Mt. Rainier National Park. It is a

beautiful place for those of you who would like to look it up on the internet. Andrew parked the car and did 11 miles of hiking the trails and taking pictures of the spectacular views. We are so thankful that the Lord provided this opportunity for Andrew to see first hand this part of His magnificent creation and to be able to share it with us via camera. Of course there are many, many post cards, pictures and books of the area but it is especially meaningful to “visit” the park with Andrew and see it through the eyes of the Lord in one of His vessels! TYF! He sent a series of photos of the varied and breathtaking views, and he even had snow at his feet when it was 70 degrees and sunny. We are including a few pictures here and may add a few more next week as it is very hard to choose from so many interesting ones.



There are many spectacular views of the mountain but we liked to start with this one since it includes our camera man!



A park resident enjoying the view too!



Snow country in August!



Alder Dam. One of 2 Dams on the Nisqually River near Mt Rainier

“Tacoma Power began generating electricity on the Nisqually River over 90 years ago. The original La Grande Dam, completed in 1912, was replaced in 1945 with Alder Dam and the new La Grande Dam. The Nisqually River Project is now Tacoma Power's second-largest hydroelectric resource, generating nearly 600 million kilowatt-hours of electricity each year, enough to serve nearly 43,000 Northwest homes. Alder Dam forms the 3,000-acre Alder Lake. The beautiful lake has striking views of Mt. Rainier” *Excerpt from Tacoma Power Website*

Adeline had a nice experience at the Ft. Leonard Wood base library when they were giving used books away free. She found three she was sure would be appreciated here at home, but there was a limit of two per soldier. When her battle buddy only found one book she wanted to have she gladly made

her second one Adeline's 3rd choice and gave it to her to send with the other two. We are very thankful because the books are being enjoyed!

Joshu had a funny story to relate regarding his Family Day weekend. On that Sunday he and the battle buddy he went into Columbus with met another battle buddy who was with his parents. Joshu and BB were invited to have a meal with them. When it was time for them all to return to base, the parents thoughtfully offered to take Joshu and his buddy back with them. However, none of them were familiar with the area, and the parents had been given misdirection on the return route. A wrong turn was taken and they all arrived at base about 15 minutes late. The father, who had been in the Army himself, knew just what to do. He immediately apologized to the Drill Sergeant in charge and said for him to please not blame the soldiers and, to everyone's surprise, he got down in push up position and said he would be glad to do the push ups for all of them! Just give the number and he would do them. The DS was a bit taken back by that display of “penance” and possibly amused as well and quickly told the father to please get up, no push ups were required of anyone!

Here at Home some “spring cleaning” has been undertaken, never mind that it isn't spring! Barbara Alice first tackled the paint room in Atarashii's Garage, going through and clearing out all old, no longer needed and unusable automotive paint supplies and bringing much back to the Sturdy Shop. She will be ready for the next automotive paint assignment on Li'l Twuk, which isn't all that far in the future anymore!

On Sunday, August 24th, Mother did a major clearing and cleaning in the new laundry room area of the Jasmine garage, currently under construction, making it ready for the shower to first be put in place. Then the framework and door to the room could be installed a few days later. The wiring of the outlets and switches has been started. It is a work in progress.



Jasmine Garage with laundry room door installed

We did get another 1.8 inches of rain last Monday and Tuesday combined, (8/18 and 8/19). By Thursday the crepe myrtles in the orchard were heavier with blooms than we have ever seen them. They scented the air clear across the yard, even over the tractor/mower exhaust! The bushes along the fence on the garden side of the yard were a little slower to fill out but by Friday they too were thick with blooms so that their lovely scent fills the yard there too.



Li'l Twuk's Corner: A custom fabricated aluminum dash being formed and fitted.



The 2 pieces (above) are fitted into place (below).



*Good bye for now, everyone. We are thanking our Father for a wonderful celebration this week and for all the very thoughtful ways every one of you took part. Your presence and love were greatly felt by all and it really was as though you were right here with us, because in the Lord and the POTBOTL we know you are!
Thank You, Father. Amen*

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