

The Prince Family Herald

Monday, May 26, 2008 Volume 1 Issue 9

HOME AGAIN!



On Friday May 23rd the Welcome Mat was Out for Joanna and Barbara Alice!

Joanna and Barbara Alice arrived at the COT about 3:30 Friday afternoon, May 23rd, and actually they brought 2 beautiful new welcome mats home with them for the Portico and Deck entry doors! With many adventures behind them, (and no doubt many ahead), their homecoming was a joy to us all! Their last adventure included a stop at Sam's Club on the way in; so now you know they are home! They returned with a "packed to the gills" D-2 and lots of unloading was quickly and efficiently done, especially with C. helping, as you may imagine! With all the sights and insights they gained along the way, they will be contributing editors this week. On Family Day, Joshua had an off base pass after the Family Lunch, so they were able to take him on a couple of errands, have a time of song and prayer at the hotel and that night they had dinner at a very nice, quiet restaurant where they had the privacy to hold hands and pray at the table for some time. Andrew had been wanting very much to sing our songs as we know you all look forward to doing when the time comes.

Joanna's Email Home after Graduation Friday, May 22, 2008

"Well, it was a very full day, just as we had expected! BA's call home last night gave you the highlights of the day. I especially appreciated being seated right in front of the band for I could speak to the female conductor and get the names of the songs played. The wind instrument section was the row behind us and included a 2 clarinets. I got a wealth of information from the clarinetist nearest me to pass on to Yushi in a troop letter. He even jotted down some things that would be good for Yushi to know if he

was interested in getting into a band unit. I don't think he would go for it, not enough action, not the course the Lord has for him. The band was good; they knew their parts and played well. (Of course, our hearing was a little faint for a bit afterward.) It really was encouraging and uplifting. The drummer of the snares was, you guessed it, a black wiry man, definitely "in the groove". It seemed they all enjoyed playing, and that is what the Lord expects, just be happy in what you are doing, what you have been given to do.

I would say I have enjoyed what I have been given to do, and I am thankful that all of our commitments have been fulfilled, and we have left each place better than we found it, both in others and ourselves. While it has cost quite a bit, it was a very profitable venture of the Lord. I would say we came at just the right time, in every instance. I guess I already said that.

Joshua showed us the congratulations card Hikari made. I never saw a more perfect, applicable and ingenious card, and very professionally done. I don't know where she could have gotten the art work, it is priceless. He was quite pleased with it. He keeps all of his correspondence neatly and organized. Good!

We had all agreed that we would just love to have some fresh veggies. So at the base commissary we purchased some mixed vegetables (carrots, cauliflower, broccoli) and a pkg of

steaming bags to try out. While BA and Joshua went over to Home Depot for bolts, and then on for fuel, I cooked the dinner. The hot plate was utilized to "grill" the franks in our non stick skillet (a small 1# pkg of Ball Park Turkey Franks). We also had a large green salad, chips, butter horn rolls, seafood brought home from last night's dinner out, and I think we filled Joshua up finally. He finished up the wheat bread I had baked back in Twin Pines with p'nut butter and jam; anything around to eat up, he did. We were glad to have it so. Like the 'Old Days'. Well, we are on to the next phase. He leaves for Ft. Wood tomorrow about the same time we will be leaving for home. I'm ready. I wanna go home! Isn't it wonderful that it isn't really that far to drive. Thank You, Father, for a safe and fruitful trip, all the way. The cleaning lady said she would miss us. I know that's true, for the light is with us, and everything gets better when anyone helps us as she did off and on.

*We are ready now to pack up this faithful computer and roll on home. Thank You, Father, for the continual support from the C of T. Love to all, **Joanna***

George's Family Day Held Some Nice Surprises

As he had planned to do, George began his Family Day on May 22nd with a trip to the PX to purchase some needed items and a camera for graduation picture taking. He went with 3 others whose families were not there. At some point he had a very blah hot dog and when his shopping was done he would have returned to quarters, but his fellow Battle Buddies were not ready to leave and the Lord had a much nicer plan for him. Mitchell, a fellow graduating recruit, (and one quite a bit smaller than George!), saw that he had no company so he invited George to share pizza with his family. (Pizza is "traditional" graduation fare for George!) Evidently the PX is some distance from their quarters, so George also needed transportation back. Mitchell had to get back to quarters after they ate as he needed to get ready for his departure to his AIT the next afternoon after graduation. Consequently it worked out perfectly for Mitchell's family to take

George back also. We were so very thankful to hear of this kindness from the Staff that made it a pleasant day. We knew the Lord would have a way to make it a memorable day in His loving care. Thank You, Father!

George leaves for Fort Rucker and the Alabama "wiregrass" country on Sabbath. We were so glad his last mailing to Ft Jackson arrived on Friday, so he had it before he left. As a note of interest, "wiregrass" is a tall, slender, tough grass looking very much as its name implies. It is indigenous to south eastern Alabama where Ft Rucker is located, south western Georgia right across the border, and northern Florida. It grows as part of the under story of the beautiful pine forests there, and in no other part of the country. However, after skipping a week of mowing here due to rain, H. could swear that it grows here too! Actually our own Texas version, she guesses. We are all confident George will have a very profitable and productive time at AIT in the PBL as he has at BCT.

Andrew is Back on His Cell Phone Again! 😊

At least for a little while. He was given it to use during Family Day, and graduation and travel to AIT at Ft Leonard Wood, henceforth to be known as FLW. Use it he has! He was able to call several times throughout those days, and we were very glad to have the updates it enabled him to give. Friday night we were even able to leave this coming week's weather report on his voice mail! We will be happy as you all will be when cell phones are an option again. Hard to imagine pay phones and land lines anymore, especially with a line up behind you waiting their turn! Guess that's the way it was in the "old days"! He flew from Ft Sill to St Louis, MO and from there he and 44 other freshly minted soldiers were going on by bus to FLW. The main courses at FLW are the Army Engineering school, the Chemical Warfare School and the MP school. But the Motor Transport Operator's course is taught there as well.

He arrived at FLW Friday night to learn that they had a 3 day on base pass because of the Memorial day weekend and the base is all but shut down for it. In a call Sabbath night he said he had been able to take a nap and then he went to the USO there, which he says is very nice. He ate popcorn and played Scrabble. He also visited the PX to check out laptops but says they didn't have as good a selection as Ft Sill had. He is getting with BA on updated specs to look for and we will keep you posted on

what is available, as you all will need something eventually. Mother is also going to look into cell phones and plans on Tuesday for you, having learned that George will be able to use one at Ft Rucker.

On Sunday 5-25, Andrew went by cab with his Battle Buddy over to the MP training area to see if he could find out where Adeline is and perhaps even see her since it was Sunday and a holiday weekend. They found a DS at her former bldg who told him that she had been assigned to Echo Company now. But he also reminded them that she could not have visitors during BCT. Andrew replied that he had mainly been hoping to find out where she was now and we were glad to learn as well as she has not had a chance to call since starting BCT.

George at Fort Rucker

A call from a cell phone offered for use by his roommate enabled George to call home and talk at length on Sabbath night. He had a good trip to the Fort and says his accommodations are quite nice. The room is made to house 3 but only he and one roommate share it presently. His roommate used to be the “bay boss” at his former location so he keeps the room very neat which is very pleasing to George! He said they have hardwood floors with a rug and even have drawers to put belongings in! He tells us that his Advanced Individual Training course training will start soon. They don’t give the AIT PT test for 3 weeks in order to allow newcomers to get acclimatized to the Alabama heat and very high humidity due to the Fort’s proximity to the Gulf Coast.

He was able to borrow the cell phone and call again Sunday evening and Mother gave him Andrew’s cell # so he is going to try to talk to him even as we write this to you!

Later: When Andrew called this evening (he waits as late as he can so he will learn how you all are doing if you have called), he said he was in the shower when George called so didn’t talk to him. Anyone for waterproof phones so you don’t have to miss a call?! He was really sorry to have missed that call, but hope they will get together soon.

Note from VT of interest to George and to all:

Diana included this info in one of her emails. She was told that George “has his future cut out for him as a helicopter mechanical engineer.

Helicopters have a notoriously bad reputation for falling apart regularly! So those who can keep them going are therefore all the more beloved by the members of that community of pilots as it is such a challenge to keep them in the air!

Monday, Memorial Day, and Everyone Who Could “Remembered” to Call Home!

And all at almost the same time.! We were beginning to think we might have to close this newsletter with no news from Ft Benning, but we get an extra day to write this week and all but Adeline got time to call! Joshu called first with an interesting account of breaking and entering (see below), AND Fred called while he was still on the line. Mother bid Joshu good bye for now and Fred had a few minutes to talk and let us know that he is doing well and the situation with his Battle Buddy being at odds with him is improving which certainly helps. We were thankful for the PBL over that. While he was on line, George called on his borrowed phone and learned how sorry Andrew was to miss him. Hopefully he could still call him today on that phone and maybe call us back tonight. (Monday, May 26).

Pvt. J Prince Involved in Breaking and Entering!

On Sunday 5-25, Joshu was assigned to lock one of the buildings in his area before leaving it. When the entry door would not lock he determined that the best thing to do would be to lock the DS office from inside where important info is kept and pull the locked door shut. But when he learned that the DS who had the only key to that office would not be coming back in the morning and the office would be needed, he had to get that door open again somehow. And do it with almost NO TOOLS! Not even a screw driver! And no place to get any at that time. The maintenance people come with their tools when needed and take them when they go. Joshu had helped change a tire not too long ago so he did remember where to find a crow bar and pliers. Armed with these “weapons”, he carefully removed the frame and molding around the door. Now the bolt was exposed but with no screwdriver or knife blade to slip into its slot to try to ease it back out of “park” he became very creative with a little office paper clamp and, much to the amazement of the Drill Sergeants there, opened the door! He said it all took about 3 hours! That is the 2nd time he has had to deal with a locked office door, but the first one

had a window that was open about 14 inches, just enough for him to slide through! Looks like his BCT is CBT—Cat Burglar Training! We know that this “battlefield ingenuity” and determination that comes from the Lord in the PBL will be noticed and appreciated by those “in charge.”

Tuesday Morning, May 27, 2008

Adeline was able to call briefly last night and give us her new address and a quick update on her training. She has been on her first “Ruck March” and did well and was able to help a couple of the women in front of her with carrying some of their gear too! We were very thankful to hear from her!

George is “Mr. Clean” with Simple Green!

Anxious to have spic and span quarters, and finding that the former occupants weren’t quite so motivated, George visited the PX and purchased some cleaning supplies for the stainless cabinets and the counters and floors and got a vacuum to clean the rug. When he was still at Ft Jackson, and cleaned his own equipment and helped others with theirs before Family Day and Graduation, The Drill Sgt. said he had NEVER seen such clean equipment in his units! We read in the Graduation “Year Book” that Joshua had ordered and gave to BA and Joanna to bring home, that a soldier “strives not only to make himself and the platoon look good, but he does his utmost to make his Drill Sergeant look good in front of the other Drill Sergeants”! WOW! Tall order! George definitely filled the bill on that score! And most importantly, represented the standards the Lord has set.

George tells us too that his roommate is married, with 2 young daughters and is very much dedicated to his family. He does not drink or smoke or “go out on the town” but is joining George in going to the gym to work out so they can build up for their PT test. The treadmill there is particularly helpful for the running George says. We see the Lord. has provided a very workable match in this BB and we are thankful for this help from the Staff.

Home Front Watching a Good Movie!

In addition to the Year Book, Joshua also purchased the CD that followed his unit through Basic Training. We started watching a bit of it this morning and find it very informative, kind of a “You are There” experience, and fascinating and

funny. Though it is very serious business, some of the equipment looks just like very large versions of many city and school playgrounds seen that have a “Fort” theme. (We can see where the idea for those play areas came from.) It is pretty clear that in this beginning training the recruits are really new at it, but expect as the training proceeds we will see more confidence and expertise. The new Indiana Jones movie with a much older Harrison Ford may have been the biggest Memorial Day box office hit ever, but watching the real “adventures” our troops are having tops that for us!

NOTE to ALL:

We are checking into cell phones and plans today and seeing what is available and what the Lord has in mind as the best way to go. We will keep you posted as it all works out.

Garden Notes

Joanna planted 16 watermelon seeds a few days ago and one is up already, so we hope there will be that treat along with all the other wonderful garden produce you will have when you come home. She and Mother have planted beans too, and Joanna covered the bed with hay yesterday. The cherry tomatoes are ripening quickly now and we have been enjoying those with zucchini and patty pan squash. Last year’s peppers out front are producing like crazy, beautiful bright red peppers and with no seeds!

This year’s new pepper plants are already putting out peppers too!

Window fan weather is definitely upon us, with days in the 90’s and nights in the mid 70’s and yesterday Hikari began putting the newly painted fans that BA did back together again with Mother’s help on the first one to show the way.

They are easy to assemble and we are very thankful for the way they were taken apart and everything kept in order and ready to go back together.

And now we must go! Good bye for this week every
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