

Date: Mon, 5 May 2008 19:36:00 -0600
Subject: A few random things

Hello everyone, Hans here

Just a few random notes:

1. The Shifting Gears devotional is soon to come out and I think that it is important that we all e-mail our pastor/contact person about this. It is a good reminder to the people order lots of copies for our individual congregations. Some congregations do not realize that they will be out mid-May (or at all) and we need to let them know.

2. On the 2005 tour many of us found that the duffle bags which carried everyone's tent, sleeping bag, air mattress, etc was quite difficult to move around, let alone lift!! (they were very heavy!!) Saying this, it is understandable that some people have different preferences in traveling. I want to make the point that we should all think twice about what we are going to take with us. Think of others when packing for this grand trip.

3. As we get nearer to the departure date nerves are starting to increase. We might begin to compare ourselves to the people on the forum who seem to have it all together and who are in incredible shape already. Please prepare for this trip in the right way: it is a tour and meant to be enjoyed. This trip is a gift and we are blessed to be involved in it. I say this all because on the first trip I was continually comparing myself to others and it was difficult for me to truly be: to be a participant in an epic journey and to be in God's creation.

4. We are in a time of waiting. In this waiting pray for the various aspects of the trip that you can think of. However, we must continually pray for the poor: Pray for the thousands in Myanmar (Burma) who are in total destruction from the cyclone. Pray for all of those who are experiencing extreme hunger right now from the global food crisis. Pray for ourselves to live for justice and peace in God's world.

Blessing:

May God, who is present in sunrise and nightfall,
and in the crossing of the land,
guide your feet as you go.

May God, who is with you when you sit
and when you stand [and pedal],
encompass you with love
and lead you by the hand.

May God, who knows your path
and the places where you rest,
be with you in your waiting,
be your good news for sharing,
and lead you in the way that is everlasting.

AMEN