Brian, Barb, Melinda & Austin Schrag SPECIAL EDITION Fall 1991 Encouraging old truths to be told and sung in new ways

NEWSFLASHES

Zaire: Many of you have heard about the recent unrest in Zaire. Our hearts are beating more slowly since we learned that the Ubangi (the remote corner to which we're headed) is peaceful. The Wycliffe members left the country for about a month, and are now back at work. Most of the other missionaries in the area will not be returning until at least January, so it is a little lonely and less supplied.

 Because the situation is constantly changing, we refer you to your newspapers and radios for current information. When we see you, we'll let you know our latest information. For more about Zaire see page 2.

California: The recent firestorm in California was visible from Barb's sister's house. She and her family and Barb's folks spent one night in a hotel, but we are thankful that they and their property are safe. Their minister lost his home and everything in it, as did ten families in their church.

Music Conferences: Brian helped to organize and lead two meetings to determine the future and course of ethnomusicology in Wycliffe Bible Translators. The discussions were successful - if a bit nerve wracking - with input from the people most influential and opinionated about music policy in Wycliffe. It was inspiring and affirming to hear how ethnomusicology has helped in various countries.

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Good news!! We are very excited about how completely God has been taking care of us this Fall. Our money situation for this semester looked impossible, but has already been provided for, and it makes it much easier to trust Him with our future. We're very thankful for all of you who prayed and gave and cared.... we couldn't do it without you.

LOOK CLOSELY AT THAT TIMELINE

Many of you have said you like the timeline portion of our newsletter. We're glad it helps you see where we are and where we are going.Keep in mind that it is subject to change, especially with the uncertainty of Zaire. For example, look closely this month (pg 4). The Bible translators in the Ubangi recently decided to have newcomers delay studying French until after learning the language in the village. This could mean we would go directly to Africa in September 1992 to attend the Africa Orientation Course (AOC). There we will learn about survival, disease prevention, medicine and more about Africa in general. WOW! We could be in Africa in 10 months! It's still being discussed, so we'll let you know more when we know.

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GEFGW Map of Zaire (Good Enough For Government Work.

Or, GEFJ: Good Enough For Jazz)

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FACTS ABOUT ZAIRE

• Area is about 25% of the USA

• Population is about 13% of the USA

• Annual per capita income is about $170, making Zaire one of the ten poorest countries in the world

• Was the Belgian Congo until 1960

• Politically unstable until President Mobutu took power in 1965

• Renamed Zaire (z + + ) in 1972

• Home of over 200 language groups

• Large dense rain forest in the center

• Feature story in National Geographic Nov.91

• Mining in the South (copper and diamonds)

UBANGI

• A region in the Northwest corner of Zaire

• Bounded by the Ubangi river, with Bangui, Central African Republic on the other side

• Home to the Northwest Zaire Subgroup of SIL, with whom we'll work

• About 4 degrees north of the equator

• Rainy season May thru December

• Biggest city: Gemena, 60,000

• The economy is mostly subsistence farming

• President Mobutu's home area.

OUR FAMILY

God has blessed us with two healthy, bright, adorable, basically obedient children. Sometimes the responsibility of raising them and protecting them seems overwhelming, no matter where we envision our future. We worry about the same things as parents planning to raise their kids here, and other things, too.

 We wonder if our kids will feel at home in the United States, or anywhere. We wonder if they'll be well educated and motivated to make their lives count for something. We wonder if they'll be selfish or giving, leaders or followers, happy or sad, committed to Christ or committed to themselves.

 For many of these concerns, we believe our kids will have an advantage being raised among many cultures and races, and seeing deep poverty. We are excited about the time we will have with them and opportunities to teach them and learn with them.

 We are most concerned about their sense of self, their security. Will moving around so much make them unsure of who they are? Where will they feel at home? Is it fair to deprive them of the stability of living in one place?

 We know that living in one place does not guarantee security, so what does? How do we nurture their security, especially when we are sometimes insecure ourselves? We've decided that they will be strongest if they feel loved and accepted and competent. We also know that the best source of this security is God Himself. We want God to be the link that does not change as our family circumnavigates the globe. We want Him to be home, when we're not sure what place to call home.

 We've written a family song to reinforce this philosophy of being secure in God. Whenever we leave someone's house we pray for them and we sing this song. We sing it "at home" too. Melinda and Austin already sing along. We pray that the message of this song will become truth in their lives, and that as adults they will keep singing it to Him.

OUR FAMILY SONG

Wherever we may go

Whatever we may do

You are our strength

You are our love

You are our place to come home to

You give us food for our mouths

You give us shelter from the rain

You give us clothes for our backs

Jesus, you give us all that we need

So whatever we may lose

Whatever we can't have

You are our strength -

We'll never lose you

You are our love -

We'll never lose you

You are our place to come home to

FAMILY TIDBIT

Austin-style sentences: "Out me" (get me outta here), "Up me" (pick me up NOW), "Milk me" (give me milk), etc.

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