



Africa Update  
February 24, 2007

Dear All,

At last I have the car registered in my name after quite a lot of running around getting documents prepared and submitted. It took 3 trips into Pretoria to get this done! I've also made 3 trips to the Zambian embassy here but I still don't have my visa yet. I'm waiting on a letter to arrive from Zambia from my Zambian host, Medson. In the meantime, I am accumulating quite an impressive collection of official documents that I will be asked to present at different points of my journey. I'm feeling very important with all these documents.

This preparation time in South Africa has taken longer than anticipated but it is all God's good timing. As it works out, Medson is coming to South Africa this week for a conference and he is planning to travel back to Zambia with me in the car. This is a relief for me to have a Zambian African who knows the local culture and how to manage border posts and customs. I'm pretty happy about this.



*My South African hosts: David & Eco*

I had a flat tyre whilst in Pretoria this week which was kind of ironic when you think about the type of vehicle I have and it's good off-road tyres. Anyway, I learnt how to change a tyre on this car and ended up filthy because I had to crawl under the car a few times to do the job. I took the tyre to be repaired yesterday and the workshop can't find anything wrong with the tyre. They think someone may have just let it down. I don't know but I will monitor this tyre to see if it holds up. The workshop didn't charge me which was good.



*The car is finally ready!*

Also my watch broke yesterday whilst I was at the embassy. I had another better one within a couple of hours. I'm glad this happened before I left for Zambia.

This extended time in SA has been a good introduction to the ways of Africa and it's bureaucratic ways. I'm feeling quite at home driving around and doing things here. It's a lot of learning but I love it. My host, David, has been great and very helpful. I feel totally at home at his house and am very comfortable.

I've been going to a church down the road and have been really enjoying it. A lot of Hillsong and music that I am used to and the messages are great.

Sorry to those who have missed some of my emails. I'm sending them to all in my address book but I'm finding out that not all of them get through.

Also I am starting to use attached letters because internet costs here are high and I'm a slow typist.

I trust you are all well. Thanks for the emails that you have sent.

Lots of love and blessings,

Mike



*Eco*