



## Peace Fellowship News

The Newsletter of Peace Fellowship Church  
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### Meet the Mason Family!

Karen and Alvin Mason and their four children (Alvin H., Monica, Franklin, and Francesca) have been attending Peace Fellowship since September, 2003. Their search for a church home had waned when a Peace Fellowship flyer arrived at their door. Around the same time, a friend mentioned that he knew of Pastor Edwards and shared what a good pastor he is.

Karen says she liked Pastor Dennis' sermons when she first visited, while Alvin remembers the vision of Peace Fellowship making an impression on him. "No one would want to come plant a church over here [East of the river] unless inspired by God," he explains.

Karen is a paralegal with the IRS; Alvin is currently an IT student and a consultant. Both appreciate the impact Peace Fellowship has had on their family. They attend weekly small groups for prayer, encouragement, and Bible study; their elementary-age children, Franklin and Francesca, are enthusiastic about their Sunday School class and love to challenge their teacher to Bible drills. Their teenage children, Monica and Alvin H., have made connection with other teens and also meet with Peace Fellowship adults for encouragement and further exploration of their faith. The Masons said they value also the genuine faith and the multi-ethnic relationships their kids have enjoyed while at Peace.

Karen and Alvin are very appreciative of Pastor Dennis, as Karen explained, "He is intelligent and educated, but very humble." Alvin agreed, "Pastor Dennis teaches the scriptures correctly. He makes it clear what is God's fact and what is man's opinion." Alvin also appreciates that "No one [at Peace Fellowship] is pretending to be something they're not. We'd be able to see through that in a minute. Everyone is sincerely looking to do God's will and serve here." The Masons expressed their hope and expectation that a more permanent space for the church will allow for even more growth to our numbers. We at Peace Fellowship are so grateful that they number among our church family.

The Mason Family,  
Clockwise  
from Upper  
Left:

Alvin H.,  
Monica,  
Alvin,  
Franklin,  
Francesca,  
and Karen.



### Pray for Peace!

- Pray as we continue to search for a building for a new home for Peace Fellowship! Central Baptist Church (the building for sale featured in our last newsletter) did not work out for us. We are now checking into leasing space that we can be in 7 days a week.
- Pray for the new elders and deacons elected this month. Pray as they serve Peace Fellowship with their gifts.
- Pray for the Edwards family as Susan and the kids finish the semester with final exams and papers, and as Dennis concludes another semester of teaching. Please pray especially for Susan as she hopes to graduate this Spring with her MSW. Pray that she is able to balance all of her responsibilities at home, school and church.
- Continue to pray for the 10 new members accepted into Peace Fellowship this month. Pray that they will find their "niche" in the church.

# An Edwards Family Update

## A Quick South Africa Trip

Thanks to the members of Peace Fellowship Church I (Dennis) had the privilege of traveling to Pretoria North in South Africa this past summer with a good friend who is also a member of Peace Fellowship. Craig Ward and his wife Bonnie serve with a ministry called Church Resource Ministries (CRM). They and their children lived in South Africa from the fall of 2002 to the fall of 2003 ministering through CRM with a project called Nieu Communities.

Craig asked me to accompany him in July of 2004 for a week to learn more about Nieu Communities and to share what I have learned about racial justice in a Christian context. We met with the staff and participants of Nieu Communities, visited a game park (see the photos of rhinoceros and elephants), and led the group in a special service of prayer and anointing.

I wish I could have seen more of the wonderful country of South Africa, but I appreciated being able to witness the beautiful landscape and meeting some people. While working out in a community gym, I got into a conversation with some Afrikaners and they were eager to hear my impressions of their country. Craig told me that was a common experience for him while living in South Africa; whites there seem to be very curious what the rest of the world thinks of them. Because of where I stayed, I did not meet many Black South Africans, but I did wonder what their impressions were of the new South Africa.

A highlight of the trip was my attendance at a weekly cookout where members of the Nieu Community invite friends that they've met in South Africa. A Congolese member of the Nieu Community invited some fellow countrymen who are students in South Africa and I spoke to them in very poor Kiswahili and French. They enjoyed my attempts to speak two of their languages and they relished the opportunity to practice English. I was thrilled to meet these African brothers in Christ. It made me want to go back for another visit to the continent soon. The next time, however, I am hoping that my entire family can go.

