

23 April 2010

Gentlemen,

How can I say this any other way?

I'm heading off to Africa this Saturday arvo, our time, on a fortnight's adventure !

Yes, you may wonder why now and what's to happen. Go ahead and wonder, I can wait.

Wonder, wonder, etc.

My friend Osae from San Antonio TX has invited me to his function in his hometown in beautiful downtown Ghana !

Neither his wife Dora nor either of his kids, now grown adults with kids of their own, were invited. Just me. And a friend of Osae's from New York City. Pretty kewl, eh?

What will we be doing in Ghana you may ask.

Go ahead and ask. I dare you.

Apparently Osae is now the oldest member of his fam and they plan to make him Chief or Head Man or something... They might even bestow an honorary title upon me. Huh.

We just don't know much of the festivities but I'll be there to help Osae celebrate !

There were plenty of hurdles to jump through to get on the plane this Saturday in Omaha :

Get a birth certificate. Get a passport. Get immunizations. Get flights scheduled. Get Ghana visa. Wait for the skies above Amsterdam to clear of ash. Yes, the ash was a real concern here and a few other places, too.

Sell something to pay for this little field trip - see coins shown here. Organize what to take and what not to take.



My location in Ghana is more or less unknown but look for me in Accra on Sunday night and in Nsawam part of the time.



Osae has called us twice from Ghana with his reports : it's hot, the traffic is terrible and the roads are worse. Did I mention it's hot? Also there's the little matter of running water being intermittent and the same for electricity. Therefore I shall not be taking along anything which looks like or functions like a computer. :(

Nevertheless I'll be bringing along various devices to record landscape, music, etc. while in Ghana: Honeywell Pentax Spotmatic (1966) plus three lenses and my Vivitar auto thyristor model 272 electronic flash (1975). Plus Grinda's little Kodak C813 digital camera and the M-Audio recording device. Plus a small digital camcorder from a local camera store.

I've read a bit of what Mark Twain and TR (Theodore Roosevelt) wrote about Africa; things have changed a bit since their times.



There's a possibility of visiting a mission in the northwest part of Ghana if we can get there. It's called the Ankaase Methodist Faith Healing Hospital and was recommended by a member of our congregation. We shall see.

When my time is completed in Ghana (11 days), I'll fly back to Amsterdam and then on to London. Items we might see in England include

FRIDAY MORNING

Pick up at airport, drive to Over Wallop.

FRIDAY MID DAY

Lunch — fish and chips at Stoby's on Market Square, Salisbury
Salisbury Cathedral and Magna Carta Stonehenge

FRIDAY MID AFTERNOON

Winchester — Great Hall
Winchester Cathedral



FRIDAY DINNER

Carol's Carvery at Timsbury or Peat Spade Inn at Longstock



SATURDAY MORNING

Finish what didn't get from Friday . . . or Oxford . . . or Portsmouth Harbour (famous old ships, e.g., The Nelson, and that weekend there's a Celebration of Steam)

On Saturday 08 May 2010 I'll depart the UK for Minneapolis, Omaha and Lincoln, returning in time for a late meal with Grinda. How does that grab you?

Apologies for not sharing plans of this field trip with you earlier. I didn't want to spread any faux travel plans. In fact, it wasn't until three days ago that all of the moving parts came into place and I made the decision to go.



And now you know why I've been preoccupied recently...

Leg
Sumner Street Ranch



Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2010 17:07:34 -0500 [05:07:34 PM CDT]
From: "Thorpe, Katy" <kthorpe@aaane.com>
To: gnelson@inetnebr.com
Subject: Flight information

2900 O STREET - LINCOLN NE 68510
TELEPHONE: 402-441-4500
TOLL-FREE: 800-222-6327

ITINERARY FOR:

GREG NELSON NELSON/GREG ENON*4290693019916009
3700 SUMNER ST
LINCOLN NE 68506

ISSUE DATE: APR 13 2010 INVOICE: 04ITIN ACCT: LOCATION:

24 APR 10 - SATURDAY

DELTA 7392 ECONOMY DC-9 JET
LV: OMAHA 510P NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: MPLS/ST PAUL 622P ELAPSED TIME- 1:12
SEAT-19A

DELTA 264 ECONOMY 333
LV: MPLS/ST PAUL 740P NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: AMSTERDAM 1100A ARRIVAL DATE-25 APR ELAPSED TIME- 8:20
DINNER-MOVIE SEAT-34A

25 APR 10 - SUNDAY

KLM 589 COACH CLASS BOEING 777 JET
LV: AMSTERDAM 205P NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: ACCRA GHANA 645P ELAPSED TIME- 6:40
MEAL SEAT-19A

06 MAY 10 - THURSDAY

KLM 590 COACH CLASS BOEING 777 JET
LV: ACCRA GHANA 910P NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: AMSTERDAM 545A ARRIVAL DATE-07 MAY ELAPSED TIME- 6:35
MEAL SEAT-20A

07 MAY 10 - FRIDAY

KLM 1001 COACH CLASS BOEING 737 JET
LV: AMSTERDAM 715A NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: LON / HEATHROW 740A ELAPSED TIME- 1:25
SNACK
AIRPORT CHECK IN ONLY

ISSUE DATE: APR 13 2010 INVOICE: 04ITIN ACCT: LOCATION:

08 MAY 10 - SATURDAY

KLM 6001 COACH CLASS 764
LV: LON / HEATHROW 225P NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: MPLS/ST PAUL 525P ELAPSED TIME- 9:00
OPERATED BY -DELTA AIR LINES
LUNCH
AIRPORT CHECK IN ONLY

DELTA 1066 ECONOMY AIRBUS A319 JET
LV: MPLS/ST PAUL 705P NONSTOP CONFIRMED
AR: OMAHA 814P ELAPSED TIME- 1:09

YOU HAVE BEEN ISSUED AN ELECTRONIC TICKET
YOUR 1A CONFIRMATION/RECORD LOCATOR NUMBER IS: 1A 2EX99B
YOU HAVE BEEN ISSUED AN ELECTRONIC TICKET
YOUR DL CONFIRMATION/RECORD LOCATOR NUMBER IS: DL CHWKAV (Field Trip Apr May 2010.cwk)gen 23 April 2010