

The Wigglesworth The Wigglesworth

October 2005

The Amazing Race... Wigglesworth Style

Oct 22nd-29th Trip to Winnipeg, MB/Duluth, MN

During the last week of October we drove to Winnipeg to help AmandaEve's mom pack and move. This trip included a "side" trip to Duluth, Minnesota (8 hours away from Winnipeg) to meet with Natalya Gorbunova, the deputy director for Institute of Bible Translation (IBT), Russia. In the spirit of our favorite reality show, *The Amazing Race*, we've decided to give you a synopsis of the trip like an episode of *The Amazing Race*.

Here's a list of definitions you'll need to know:

- **Roadblock:** A roadblock is a task that can only be performed by one person.
- **Detour:** In detour, teams have a choice between two tasks.
- **Fast-Forward:** Teams may complete one Fast-Forward during the race. Once completed, the team goes directly to the next pit stop.
- **Pit Stop:** This is the last stop during a leg of the race. The last team to arrive may be eliminated. Teams then rest before starting the next leg of the race. In our version, a pit stop is when we reach a new location.
- **People - Susan:** AmandaEve's mom; **Gary Charles:** her boyfriend; **Casey and Rachel,** his kids.

Saturday

Task: Drive. Teams drive from Calgary to Winnipeg.

Detour: Perimeter or Downtown. Once they reach the city limits of Winnipeg, teams must decide whether to drive through the city or to take the perimeter highway. Kevin and AmandaEve chose to go through downtown which means more lights and a slower speed limit, but it's a more direct route. After all, it was midnight, so there was barely any traffic.

Pit Stop: AmandaEve's mom's house in Winnipeg. This is the first stop on the trip.

Sunday

Detour: Which church to attend. Kevin, AmandaEve, and her mom Susan attended St George's Romanian Orthodox church. The priest who teaches the Readers' Course that Kevin has been taking is the priest of St. George's.

Roadblock: Memory Lane. AmandaEve took this roadblock and sifted through old documents, school projects, and certificates to decide what's worth keeping... and to throw everything else out.

Monday

Task: Drive. Teams drive 8 hours to Duluth, Minnesota and find their hotel.

Task: IBT. Once we arrived, we called Natalya's social coordinator, Dale, to let him know we had arrived. Within 15 minutes Dale, his wife Roberta, and Natalya arrived at our hotel room door. We were able to meet for 2 hours to talk, ask questions of one another, and see pictures of some of the people working with IBT Russia. Admittedly, 2 hours is a short amount of time. But this was a profitable time to meet face to face and will enable communication as we continue to dialogue with IBT via email.

Task: Basketball. Teams must go swimming in the hotel's outdoor pool and sink 10 baskets each in the pool's shallow end basketball hoop before they can go into the hot tub. (Okay, we admit, we went into the hot tub first before we went into the regular pool!)

Pit Stop: Best Western Edgewater in Duluth, MN (with a beautiful lakeside view!).

Tuesday

Task: Aerial Lift Bridge. Teams drive downtown to Canal Park to find the Aerial Lift Bridge. This bridge lifts to allow ships to pass through into the harbour. Duluth is the largest, furthest inland port in the world. Located on Lake Superior, Duluth really has a seaport feel.

Task: Drive. Teams drive 8 hours back to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Roadblock: Readers' Class. Kevin pauses for a quick supper before heading back out the door to attend a class for the readers' course he has been taking by correspondence. He is a semester ahead of this particular class, but he wanted to sit in on a session to get a feel for what happens during the in-class sessions.

Pit Stop: Susan's house in Winnipeg.

Wednesday

Detour: Required Readings or Visiting. Kevin and AmandaEve chose visiting instead of doing any homework readings. They met with long-time family friends of AmandaEve, Tibi and Kati, for lunch at the revolving restaurant in Winnipeg, followed by a visit with AmandaEve's dad, and AmandaEve connected with long-time friend Stefania after four years for hot chocolate at the local Tim Horton's.

Task: Cleaning and Packing. Cleaning cupboards, turning off the outside water tap, laundry, packing, cleaning out the fridge and freezer, and a little more memory lane. There was plenty to keep us busy!

Thursday

Fast-Forward: Baked Expectations. Kevin and AmandaEve hurried to the gourmet bakery *Baked Expectations* to buy one slice of dessert per person for supper that night, plus one dessert for Baked Expectations affectionado, Bonnie, a friend who lives in Calgary. Once the desserts were purchased, they were able to head directly to the next pit stop: the Charles family farm in Minnedosa, Manitoba (where AmandaEve's mom now lives) located two hours outside of Winnipeg.

Roadblock Detour: T.V. or fashion: AmandaEve chose fashion and joined her mom at Minnedosa's Ladies' Night Out for a meal and fashion show. A good time was held by all.

Pit Stop: The Charles family farm in Minnedosa, MB.

Friday

Roadblock: Job Interview. Susan had a job interview in the morning at MediPlan and by the afternoon received a phone call offering her the job! Yeah! She started training on Oct. 31st.

Task: Halloween Parade. Teams go to the elementary school and stand with all the other parents waiting for Rachel to parade by in her Spiderman costume. Kevin was in charge of taking pictures of this spidery girl.

Roadblock: Computers. Kevin chose to do this roadblock and helped AmandaEve's mom purchase necessary parts for her new computer and set it up so that it was working properly.

Roadblock: Pumpkins. AmandaEve chose to do this one. She helped Rachel and her friend Melissa carve pumpkins in preparation for their upcoming Halloween party.

Saturday

Task: Drive. Teams drive from Minnedosa, MB to Calgary, AB. The challenge: Staying awake!

Pit Stop: Home again, home again, jiggety-jig!

Conclusion:

Moving update: November 5th is Susan's final move to the farm.

House Sale Update: AmandaEve's mom is still waiting for the house to sell. But, plans are underway to sell part of the lot to the next-door neighbor. The fence was already being moved on Thursday when we left the house! Once this is completed, it will bring in some money from the sale of the land. And hopefully, will help the house and remaining land to sell quickly.

How is AmandaEve taking all this? Emotionally, things went fairly well. Mom has been great about letting material things go and let me throw out tons of memorabilia that had been stored over the years. The trip wasn't nearly as traumatic as I thought it might be. I am thankful to have had the chance to go back and help sort through things and say goodbye to the house, and help with the transition to the farm. It helps me to transition *with* her a little, rather than transitioning from a distance. I know there will be more changes ahead, and I think this trip will help ease some of what is still to come.

Whew! Another whirlwind trip under our belt. Thank you for all who prayed for the various aspects of this trip. We didn't tell many people we were going, so this may all be a surprise, but we do appreciate you all for your friendships and prayers.

What are our Prayer Requests?

- For wisdom and decisions regarding our involvement with IBT and OCMC.
- The OCMC Board of Directors meets on Nov. 9 to discuss the creation of a Canadian board.
- For smooth transitions both physically and relationally for AmandaEve's mom and her friends & family.
- For Kevin to have diligence in completing the Readers' Course.
- For AmandaEve to have diligence in working on her masters research project.
- For our marriage, that we place priority on spending quality time together.

Blessings,

Kevin and AmandaEve