The Brushstroke

Your missionary prayer letter from Portrait

June 2007

Dear Friends,

In April we moved from Nashville to Clearwater, Florida. Here's what's been going on.

Sunday mornings we lead worship at the First Baptist Church of Safety Harbor, and during the week we spend time planning and rehearsing for the services - a privilege we had really missed; on Wednesdays we accompany the senior citizens' Bible study group for a few hymns, then race up to the youth room to lead worship for the teens. We will be helping with Vacation Bible School later this month.

We are almost all unpacked and settled into our apartment in Clearwater. We got new driver licenses, tags for the car, and library cards. Now we are figuring out which supermarket we prefer, learning our way around, and all the other things that go along with an out-of-state move.

Pete led a worship seminar at another church and the two of us provided music for the Suncoast [Southern Baptist] ministers' association, as well as for the funeral of a long-time church member and former mayor of the city of Safety Harbor. Pete has also been repairing sound equipment and working on the various audio-visual challenges facing the church.

We hosted special friends from Belgium and took them shopping and sightseeing.

Alaska (6) finished first grade and made lots of friends at her new school; we celebrated the end of Simon's (4) potty-training with a "No More Diapers" party; Skye (14 months) has begun climbing on everything and last week she collided with the door frame and got a huge lump on her head.

We are getting used to living in Florida. We love the beach and the beautiful palm trees. We don't like the lizards and giant bugs. Alaska says, "I don't know if I like being hot all the time. Sometimes I think I'd like to be cold for a little while."

We are continuing our work with Greater Europe Mission. Our plan is, once we get a bit more settled, to travel to churches in this region on Sunday evenings and week nights, to share the needs of Europe and to minister through music. Please pray for us as we strive to balance our work and ministry with our family responsibilities and adjust to a new environment here. Thank you for all you are doing to make it possible for us to serve the Lord here in Florida and in Europe. We love and appreciate you.

Gratefully,

For both of us Pete & Tina Matteson

