

Scroll on down for the story of our adventure to the USA.

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*Wow! It doesn't feel real. But we ARE back in the USA! We are so thankful to the US consulate for arranging the flight that got us to San Francisco. You may not be able to tell it, but we are smiling under the masks. And as promised, you can see our eyes!*



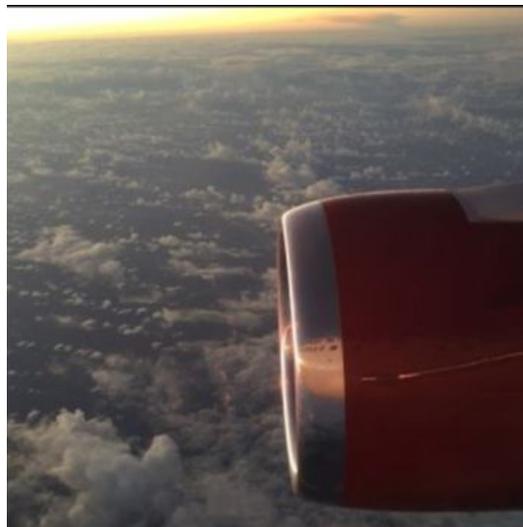
## Thanks For Praying! Our Journey Finally Began!

Your prayers have been answered! We can't talk about everything that happened, but we are thankful that God uses other people and governments to help us do what we cannot do for ourselves. And there were many people working behind the scenes to get us home.

In this case, the US consulate in PNG arranged a flight for around 200 Americans. This journey started in central PNG and went to the capitol. After changing planes there and being greeted by the consulate officers, we were flown to the Solomon Islands late that same day to pick up some other stranded travelers and refuel. Overnight, the plane flew to Hawaii, where everyone had to get off the plane, go through emigration, claim our baggage and go through customs, exit the airport, go through agriculture control, check back in to the

the airport to ourselves. Then everybody got back on the airplane and flew to San Francisco.

While this leg of our journey began and ended all on the same day, we lived through it twice because we crossed the international dateline. We got in to San Francisco so late (around 1 am) that we had to wait till the next morning for any transcontinental flights.



## Meanwhile, Our MST Was At Work

Our Missionary Support Team kicked into high gear, once we let them know that we were indeed coming home this time. We found a house to rent with their help, and they cleaned and set it up for us while maintaining social distancing. They organized a grocery shower so we wouldn't have to run to the grocery store. And got us a working sim card for our phone so we could start working on being in touch with folks here in the US. What a blessing!

(NOTE: If you are interested in being on our missionary support team, please contact us at [rick\\_zook@ntm.org](mailto:rick_zook@ntm.org). We're always looking for more good folks to help us do what we cannot do from long distances away)



## Arrival in Virginia, April 10!

When we arrived very jet-lagged and tired at the final airport, two brave souls were there to pick us up and drive us the rest of the way to our new home, for two weeks of self-quarantine.

We walked in the door to the smell of pies baking, flowers, and welcome signs posted all around the house, and most importantly, already made beds. Our MST found creative ways to welcome us home in this Covid-19 world.

What are we doing now? Resting and recuperating from a 14 hour time jetlag difference. It took about 4 days until we were more on an east coast schedule. So sleeping, unpacking, laundry, more unpacking, sorting and putting things away, and easing back into school and work.

We didn't have internet for the first part of our self-quarantine, but that has been remedied now. Note our new contact information under the picture below.

We're looking forward to the time when we can get together with folks. We know that everyone's schedule is very tentative right now. But feel free to call, or email us! We'd love to hear from you!



Phone #: (540)820-7507  
Email: rick\_zook@ntm.org  
Address: 12427 North Valley Pike  
Broadway, VA 22815

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