





Mary Beasley's son, Kenny, came home from Kuwait on yesterday and is in Ft. Benning, Ga. Grandson Gary is still in Qatar.

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**HI EVERYONE!!!! TONI AND BILLY HERE.**

We sure miss all of you. You all have a standing invitation to come and visit with us in Durham, NC. Below is a little of what our relocation was like. Send us emails (billy@carrom.org) and keep us in your positive thoughts.

Our final day in Oxford was pretty amusing. Why is there never a video camera around when you need one? We had packed every thing into our 2 vehicles and trailer. Cassie, our cat, was in her carrier. Tessie and Peggy were in their carriers. Now for Jack, our newest, wild, dog. Billy and I had both had our showers already, but this proved to be a mistake on our part. Jack, who we could not get our hands on, had been drugged with the maximum safe dose of doggy downers and we thought....."no sweat, we'll just walk out, pick him up, and put him in the carrier." Wrong. The next 20 minutes looked like something from the Keystone Cops movies or a greased pig competition rodeo as Billy and I attempted in vain to corral this dog. Next we enclosed the dog box area with some of the excess roofing tin and then took an 8' long piece of fencing between us and herded Jack into this new small enclosed space. Then Billy gently lowered a large noose around Jack's head. As soon as we tightened it, we were transported into a new scene. Now it appears we are either deep sea fishing with a marlin on the line or we lassoed a wild mustang. The feeling is that is we don't do something quick, Jack may break his neck from the somersaults he's throwing. He calmed right down as soon as we got him in the dog kennel we bought.

The move was okay and definitely an endurance test. We left 12:30 in the afternoon on Wednesday, November 6, drove straight through for 17 hours and arrived here Thursday morning - 6 am. Our tenant was still living here and we had no dog pen. So we all moved into our 600 square foot one bedroom apartment: Billy, Toni, Tessie (70 lbs), Peggy, Cassie, and Jack. We were very cozy. Jack mostly stayed in his carrier in the house until the dog pen was complete. But the result is that he loves his dog carrier. He lived in in for 3-4 days continuously. We kept it in the kitchen under a table until mid Dec. and he would get in it anytime he needed to feel safe. He's moved beyond that now. He goes for walks on a leash with us

and is always excited about going for a walk although he can't tolerate us walking up to him in the open and putting a leash on him. Instead, he'll get in the dog box and wait for us to walk over and put the leash on him while he is feeling safe. Then he easily and joyfully goes for a walk with us and Peggy. This is a huge step. We love him dearly and he has brought new playfulness to Tessie, our 14 year old shepherd.

The ice storm Dec. 2nd, left us without power for 1 week and made planning for Christmas very intense because power was not restored until Dec. 8th. One night the low was 17 degrees. About 90% of the city was without power, there was curfew, and gas stations and grocery stores opened up as power was gradually restored. Still on Saturday, 75% of all electric customers were still without power in Durham. We were luckier than most. Our old 1914 house has gas room heaters, we have a gas stove, and by the 3rd day, Billy had gotten the gas water heater to work for our old tenant's bathroom, so we were only missing lights and blow dryers.

Guess who stayed with us twice, once on Dec. 21 and again on Dec. 29? Sandra and Katie Moss with Sandra's housemate, Lynn and her daughter Julie!! We had friends from MS come already!! It was great! I had been missing my calm life in MS and all our friends. It relieved the homesickness and we all laughed a lot. The guest room was warm and cozy.

We have landscapers helping us decide what trees to plant as our lot (.5 acre) is bare and needs a lot of work. We have installed central heat and air. It's amazing how just that raises the quality of ones life. Storm windows loom on the horizon and we are just about ready to paint the room which will be my healing / classroom and then will have the floors done. After which I will finally be able to start my healing practice here.

During the week of January 16, Keith and Vanessa came down from Massachusetts and stayed with us for 4 days. We went to a peace vigil together over the weekend which was attended by over 900 people in Durham. We went for long walks and ate lots of good food. Keith and Vanessa came to our second gig and met a lot of our friends here. Once again, their visit was so important to us. Helping us to ease into this life without feeling estranged from our Mississippi life.

We love you all. Toni and Billy.

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