

# Beka's Trek

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## BEGINNINGS...

September 29, 2011

I love the fresh, crisp sensation of embarking on something new. For a short period of time, I have reveled in the completion of a journey; revisited and confirmed the closed doors of the past; and settled into preparations for the unknown course ahead. I suppose as I was studying the map, I recognized unexplored regions that I imagined would become part of the journey at some point, but I figured this trip would be simple and straightforward. Imagine my surprise to set out and discover uncharted territories may have been added to the current course! It seems this leg of the journey has been unexpectedly filled with intrigue and adventure.

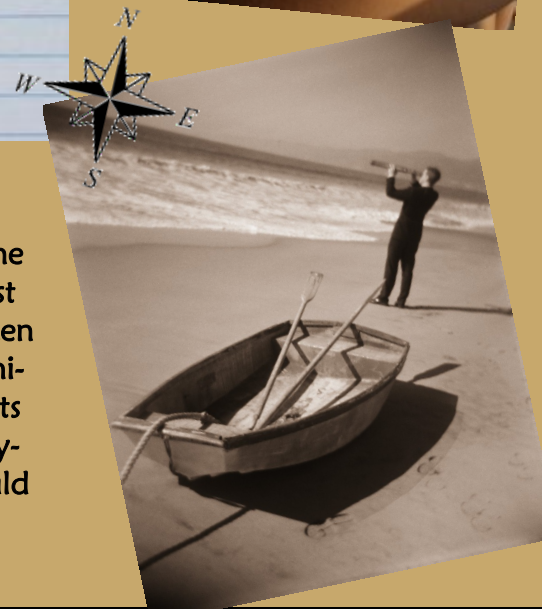
What a feeling: to know what to do day by day, but wonder exactly how the days will add up when looking back; to have a general understanding of the compass and yet recognize the vast realm of possibilities when heading in any one direction; to marvel at the unforeseen emergence of a detour and yet recognize its unexpected potential...

~from my Journal

## A JOURNEY COMPLETE...

Words could not describe the feeling of stepping out into the sunshine after completing my final paramedic test-out. It was hard to believe...almost as if the words "Congratulations, you're done! You passed!" had been spoken to someone else, and I had just been watching. I took my hair out of the uniform ponytail I'd been wearing for a year and let the wind tousle through its tendrils and blow the year-long weight off my shoulders. Finally, after studying and working and praying and crying and clinging to the hope that I could remember and perform to the high standard before me, I was done.

I was DONE!!





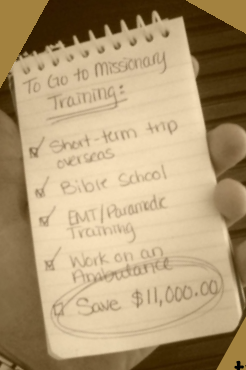
Of course, learning never stops, even when the school year's over, and as I continue to work on the ambulance and move into my role as a new paramedic, I face several opportunities every day by which I can grow, develop, and build experience that will prepare me to handle caring for the medical needs of the people I will serve overseas in the future.

### PREPARATIONS...



It's finally nearing! It's almost time to weigh anchor and set sail! The next step in the trek is Camdenton,

Missouri, the location of New Tribes Mission's Missionary Training Center (MTC). This is where I plan to complete 2 final years of training in Culture, Linguistics, Translation, Teaching, and "Roughing It," so to speak. The school's mission is to prepare and equip tribal missionaries for the unique challenges that come with moving into a remote location, working with an unwritten language, and teaching an unorthodox people about an incredible God who gave up his life, so that they could have life in Him. (John 20:31)



The departure date for Missouri is tentatively set for August 2012. I've begun the application process and gathered my notebooks, pencils, highlighters, and hiking boots; but for the ship to launch, I first need to finance the voyage.

It will cost \$10,716 for all four semesters, including tuition, books, housing, utilities, and administrative fees. I'm also trying to save some extra to buffer for food and living expenses, which are not included. I am working to save as much as I can before August so that I am free to concentrate on the training while I'm there, and I *deeply* appreciate your prayers that God would provide financially in a way that exhibits his faithfulness and glorifies him.

### UNEXPLORED REGIONS...

A little over a month ago, I was pleasantly surprised with the invitation to explore some uncharted waters. Cody Burns, 22-year-old missionary candidate and aircraft mechanics student, (as well as my long-time friend), asked if I would step into a dating relationship with Him. I said we could give it a try...



### DETOUR...

Why wait until August? In addition to using the extra time to gain more medical experience at work and save up the necessary finances for MTC, I'm currently taking a detour to develop, record, publish, and perform my music before I complete missions training. My hope is that the time I invest will be an encouragement and result in a lasting resource for others while I'm overseas.

Full Sail Studios has offered me several bookings, free of charge, to record 14 or more songs over the next few months. I plan to make the songs available on youtube.com as soon as they're finished! I have also recently performed in concert and continue to be involved in music ministry at several local churches.

My artist webpage is: [www.facebook.com/bekaheckman](http://www.facebook.com/bekaheckman)  
It's a work in progress, but it's neat to see what the Lord has done so far!

I'm SO thankful for your prayer and support, and excited for the days ahead!

Yours in Christ,

"...Here am I, Send Me." ~Isaiah 6:8

