

## Smells – some pleasant, some not so nice:

Fragrances in Grand Forks: As we bike back and forth to the UND campus where we're teaching linguistics this summer we appreciate the variety of beautiful flowers, especially the fragrant ones! The other staff and the students in the SIL program interject a sweetness into our lives.

Bleaching helps fridge: The stench when we opened the fridge door in the house we had rented out was overpowering. The tenants were now going through a split up, their children and our house had been neglected, and there was rotting food in the fridge. After disposing of the food and repeatedly scrubbing the inside of the fridge, it still smelled bad. We moved it outdoors, applied liquid bleach, faced it toward the sun, and let it air out. Bad smells gone. Ahhh!

A dead mouse: One evening after a long day at the office we opened the door to the furnished house which we're staying in and were overcome by a powerful smell of dead animal ... we had noticed a subtly distasteful smell building up for a day or two, but that night we knew we had to find the source! The smell had permeated most parts of the closed up house, but after a good airing out with all windows and both doors open, we detected the dead mouse under the stove, got rid of it, and disinfected the area. We could breathe easily again. Whew.

Stale smell in car trunk: On July 4<sup>th</sup> we took some time to catch up on projects, cleaning the car, being one of them. For quite some time we had known that the trunk had stale smells; when possible we left it open to air it out. We had also noticed that a liquid seemed to have been spilled inside. As we started to absorb the liquid from the trunk liner, we realized that we should remove the whole liner because it was very very wet. Underneath we discovered that the spare tire cavity was filled with liquid ... lots of water which had been there long enough to rust the metal jack and the wheel, undoubtedly due to a leak when it rains. We bailed out the water, put the liner to dry in the sun, and were able to scrape off some of the rust. It's freshened up again.

## A smell that is of utmost concern to us:

Disunity among the Salasaka believers concerns us. Even from a distance we get hints of a stench wafting our way. We don't know for sure what the underlying causes might be. At the root of it is our enemy who is prowling around like a lion seeking whom he can devour. The Salasaka New Testament is a threat to his iron grip on people's lives; he knows it will be a source of abundant life for the Salasaka people. He is rearing his ugly head and trying his best to thwart God's plans of peace and hope. Please pray with us that believers would be convicted of sin, repentant, and willing to restore broken relationships. May we be a fresh fragrance of truth and restoration when we visit there September 11 to October 7. In 2 Cor 2:15 Paul expressed it this way: "*For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.*" (NIV) Pray that we will be imitators of Christ, listening carefully to and obeying the Lord's voice, giving good counsel to friends, and walking in humility and love.

Depending on God's faithfulness to fulfill His purposes in Salasaka!

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