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September 11th, 2004

Greetings Prayer Warriors!

Thank you for praying for us. The Lord has moved tremendously through your prayers. There were times that we could feel the prayers going up for us. A couple of days around 10:30 am (Hong Kong time or 4:30 am in South Africa and 10:30 pm EDT) we especially felt that someone was praying for us. We don't know who it was, but thank you! Thank you to all of you. Your prayers have made a difference in our lives. Thank you also to those who sent emails of encouragement. We appreciate all of them.

We just wanted to send out a quick update to share some praise reports and let you know how you can continue to pray for us.

Praise Reports

1. Karen:

Karen was able to spend about a week at [Bethany Ministries](#), a rest and retreat facility for Christian workers in Asia. It was a great time for her to get away and spend some time waiting on the Lord. He really ministered to her and helped her to receive His peace. She was also able to get a lot of rest and allow her body to "catch up". Karen has continued to improve since coming home from Bethany. I have seen a change in her countenance, and slowly but surely, as she regains her physical strength her bubbly spirit is coming back.

2. Our Marriage:

Our marriage relationship is night and day different from what it was 5 or 6 weeks ago when we first found out about Karen's situation. Now that we know what we're up against, we have been able to stand together and fight the enemy instead of each other. Where the devil sought to bring division and disunity, God is bringing healing, restoration and unity. In the past 5 or 6 weeks we have had only one "heated discussion" where we were having an average of one a day before that. We praise Jesus for giving us the victory over the enemy.

Karen and I are closer today than we have ever been. We are more in love with each other now than when we first got married. It's almost as if we're on our honeymoon again. God is good all the time. Romans 8:28 says that God works in every situation for the good of those who love Him. We are certainly seeing this scripture at work in our marriage. Praise Jesus!

3. Our Finances:

The Lord provided our rent money for August miraculously from an unexpected source. We only made the payment on the last day of the month, but August has been paid for. Now we're waiting expectantly to see what the Lord does this month. We also received some unexpected gifts from other sources and we were contacted by one of Stephen's clients who owes him money. They said that they will pay us as soon as possible - no money yet, but at least we're still communicating. We hadn't heard from them in almost a year.

Prayer Requests

1. Karen:

Please continue to pray for Karen as follows:

- for a continued and complete healing.
- for continued grace and strength as she comes against the spirits of fear, anxiety and stress on a daily basis.
- for peace from the Lord, and that she would be able to walk in that peace every day.
- that she would be able to yield more and more to the Holy Spirit and that His fruits will be manifest in her life.
- that finances would be released for her to be able to spend some more time at Bethany. At Bethany she is able to "get away from it all" and focus more clearly on the Lord.

2. Our Marriage:

Please continue to pray for our marriage as follows:

- that we would continue to stand strong in agreement against the enemy.
- that Jesus would continue to bind us together in His love.
- that our Father would continue to work in us and to strengthen our marriage.
- that we would learn more and more how to work together and be a powerful team for the kingdom.
- that we would continue to grow closer together.

3. Our Finances:

Please continue to pray for our finances as follows:

- that more people (churches and individuals) would partner with us on a monthly basis (both financially and in prayer).
- that finances would be released from the remaining clients to whom Stephen contracted before coming to Hong Kong.
- that we would continue to keep our eyes on the Lord. We know that He is ultimately our provider.

4. Our Schedule:

We are scheduled to attend the Mobilization Conference at Stephen's home church in South Africa at the end of October. We are looking forward to this time as the church will be launching our sending cell - a group of people who know us and who will support us in different ways (logistics, prayer, communications, financial management, pastorally, etc.). The church will also be including us for support in their missions budget once our cell is launched. So, it is an important and exciting time for us.

In addition to that, we plan to use the return portion of our round trip tickets from Atlanta to Hong Kong to visit family and friends in Atlanta and Orlando in November/December. Please continue to pray with us for our schedule as follows:

- that we would have good quality time with family and friends in South Africa and the US.
- that we would be able to make contact and meet with friends and churches who will be able to support us in our ministry - both in prayer and financially.
- that we would be wise in getting rest for our bodies even while we are on the road.

Once again, we know that God is faithful and that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us. We know that He has called us and that He is working on our behalf to enable us to complete the work that He has called us to do. We are very excited as we draw near to the end of our first year back in the mission field. December 6 is the one year anniversary of our return to Hong Kong. It also marks the point at which YWAM has said that they will release us to begin developing the pastoral and leadership development ministry that God has placed in our hearts.

As always, we need you. We need your prayers. We need your e-mails and letters of encouragement. Thank you for standing with us. It strengthens us to know that we are not alone out here, but that there is an army of prayer warriors standing with us. Your prayers are making a difference. Thank you!

God bless you all,

Stephen & Karen