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Tuesday, February 27th, 2007

Greetings Prayer Warriors,

We just wanted to send out a quick note to let you all know how things are going on this end, especially with our visas.

We submitted our appeal letter to The Immigration Department asking them to reconsider our visa application on February 6th. We included with our letter four letters of reference from pastors and other ministry leaders in Hong Kong. On February 8th the Immigration Department responded to us by letter saying that they received our letter and would begin processing it on February 22nd. That was last Thursday.

So, now we wait and pray. Since we last wrote to you, the Lord has continued to encourage us and confirm to us that we are in the right place at the right time. We know that we know that we are called to Hong Kong and we believe that our visas will be released in God's timing.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer. Your prayers are making a difference in our lives. Please continue to stand with us in prayer for the following:

1. Our Visas:

We have been praying that a man or woman of peace in the Immigration Department would be assigned to our case. Whoever handles our case must present it to a team of officers who then decide if the visas should be issued or not. Pray that we would receive favor with the officer assigned to our case and that he/she will make a strong recommendation to the rest of the team that our visas should be approved.

2. Chinese New Year Village Outreach:

This coming Saturday and Sunday (March 3rd and 4th) we have our annual outreach at the end of the Chinese New Year festivities. Please pray that the Lord would be with us as we reach out to the children in our village through face painting and balloon animals. Pray that the villagers would begin to feel the love of Jesus as we bless the children in this simple way.



Karen painting the face of a young Chinese girl at last year's outreach...

3. Team From South Africa:

Next Monday (March 5th) a team of 16 from Solid Community Church in South Africa will be arriving to visit us. Please pray that the Lord will give them a good flight - this is the first time on a plane for many of the people on the team. Also pray for us all next week as we minister with the team in Hong Kong. We will also take them into mainland China. Please pray that this trip will be a life changing experience for each person, and that the Lord would call some of them into full-time missions.

4. The Bertrand Family:

Last time we introduced Craig & Tammy and their children to you. They are settling in well and getting adjusted to being back in Hong Kong. Please continue to pray for them as they continue to adjust. Also pray for their finances as their budget is quite tight right now with getting set up in a new place.

5. The Spiritual Climate in Hong Kong:

During the Chinese New Year celebration there is a lot of spiritual activity in Hong Kong, especially in the village areas where we live. The people spend a lot of time in their traditional Chinese ancestor worship and idolatry. With all this activity the spiritual climate can be quite heavy. Please pray for us that we would keep our guards up and our armor on. Often the attack on relationships (especially marriage and family) is quite strong. Pray with us that we would guard our hearts and minds, and our mouths, as we relate to one another.

Thank you all for standing with us in prayer. We appreciate you participating with us in ministry to the people of Hong Kong. Your prayers and support are playing a vital role as we carry out the work that the Lord has placed in our hearts. Thank you!

God bless,

Stephen & Karen