



未 來 領 袖 拓 展

Developing Leaders For Tomorrow

[Click here](#) to for newsletter / update archives...

Saturday, October 6th, 2007

Greetings Prayer Warriors,

Thank you for all your prayers and words of encouragement these past two weeks. We really appreciate all of you who sent us e-mails or text messages to say that you're standing with us in prayer regarding our visa situation. Since we sent out the e-mail, things have been going "crazy" here - we apologize for not sending an update earlier. Many of you have asked, "What happened?", so we want to give you a quick update on the situation. (We just updated our mailing list and added a number of names, so you might be hearing about this for the first time. If so, please [click here](#) to read the e-mail we sent out on Sunday, September 23rd.)

We went to the Hong Kong Immigration Department on Monday, September 24th (which was "tomorrow", the day after we received the word in 2 Chronicles 20:15-17). Officer C.B. Mak, who has been working on our case, was on vacation for the week, but we spent about an hour talking to another immigration officer. However, because she was not very familiar with the details of our case she could only give us "generic" answers to our questions.

That was when the battle indeed began to get intense. We returned home really struggling to stay encouraged, as the Lord had instructed us. Things did not seem to be going the way we thought they would, based on the Word we received from the Lord, and the enemy was working overtime to get us to doubt that God had spoken. About the only flicker of light (we thought) that we could see was a flyer we picked up on the way to Immigration for a consulting company, named VisaPro, that helps people to get their visas.

The next day we contacted VisaPro and made an appointment to go and see them. We also planned to go back to Immigration to see Officer Mak when he returned from vacation. The rest of the week we prayed and waited on the Lord - He kept reassuring us with the same scripture from 2 Chronicles 20.

Last Tuesday, October 2nd, we went to meet with VisaPro. Looking back on it now, it was probably a tactic of the enemy to distract us, and not a flicker of light. After reviewing the details of our case they basically said they did not think we would get a visa because of the fact that One Voice for Asia is a start-up company without any track record. If we thought the battle was intense before, we hadn't seen anything yet. We basically spent the rest of the day crying before the Lord - the kind with tears - but resolved to keep trusting that what He had spoken would come to pass.

On Wednesday we cleared our calendar to spend the whole day waiting on the Lord and soaking in His presence. It wasn't really a time of praying and asking for answers, but literally just a time of waiting on Him to renew our strength (Isaiah 40:28-31). By the end of the day our spirits were up. We were actually walking in the Word from 2 Chronicles 20 - we were not afraid nor discouraged. Our strength was renewed to the point that we were taking our positions and standing firm. We felt the Lord say to go to Immigration again "tomorrow" - which was last Thursday - so we called Immigration and made an appointment to see Officer Mak at 11:00 am on Thursday.

We spent about 40 minutes talking to him. He confirmed to us what VisaPro had suspected - our visa was denied because One Voice for Asia has no track record to prove it's financial stability. He also presented the following options to us for moving forward:

- **Alternate Sponsor and Work One Voice for Asia as a Secondary Employment:**

The first option is to find a church or other Christian organization to sponsor us for our visas. Essentially that means we will be their employees, but our role and responsibilities can be the same as what we are doing for One Voice for Asia - i.e. leadership and teamwork training, seminars, workshops, etc.. We then apply to Immigration for a "special allowance" which enables us to work for One Voice for Asia as a "second job" and thus build the track record that they want to see (we did not know about this "special allowance" before). After one year we would re-evaluate and, if One Voice for Asia is going according to plan, we could then apply to switch to "full-time" with One Voice for Asia.

- **Raise Investment Capital:**

The second option is to raise capital which we can invest into One Voice for Asia and then apply for reconsideration of our case. When we asked, "How much?", Officer Mak said there is no set amount, but it should be at least enough to cover the first year of operating expenses. In our business plan we estimate our

operating expenses to be approximately USD \$30,000.00 in the first year.

- **A Combination of the Above:**

The third option is to do both of the above. In other words, we find a sponsor *and* raise capital. Finding a sponsor allows us to begin hosting income generating seminars and workshops, and buys us time to save up and invest capital into One Voice for Asia.

We left the meeting with Officer Mak a little overwhelmed, but excited to see what God was going to do. After all, He had told us that the battle was His and that we should "stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give us." This is where the story gets exciting. A series of what some would call coincidences - we prefer to call them divine appointments - began to unfold.

As we reached the ground floor and walked out the doors to go up the escalator, we saw a friend from church. She got on the escalator literally 4 or 5 steps ahead of us - she "just happened" to be coming to Immigration that day to get some information from them. The timing could not have been better, but then God's timing is always perfect.

We talked to her for a few minutes and told her about the meeting we were just in. She seemed quite interested in our situation. Anyway, to make a long story short, she works for an Christian organization and they are looking into the possibility of sponsoring our visas. We said goodbye to her and she left. We started to leave when we remembered we needed to get some information. When we went to the information counter, there she was again. We were in line right behind her so we talked some more. She got her information and we got ours, and again we said goodbye. When we left the room she was sitting on the bench talking to someone on her cell phone

On the way out of Immigration we spotted a coffee shop and decided to go and have a cup of coffee and process the events of the morning. We had just got our order and were settling down when we saw our friend walk by outside. A few minutes later she walked by again in the opposite direction (she had been going to catch a bus and then decided to take the train instead). Karen jumped up, ran outside and called out to her. We ended up sitting for about an hour and having coffee together. It seems the Lord really wanted us to connect that day. We don't know the final outcome of this story yet, but we are excited to see what the Lord is going to do. We will keep you posted.

Please continue to stand with us in prayer for the following:

1. Our Visa Situation:

Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and understanding to help us find the right sponsor. It looks like the organization our friend works for might be the one, but we are waiting for them to check things out with their lawyers. Pray with us that the Lord will open the right door at the right time.

Also pray for Craig and Tammy - they are essentially in the same situation that we are. One Voice for Asia is not able to sponsor them either. So, they also need to find a sponsor for their visas until One Voice for Asia is able to sponsor them.

Pray that, once we have visas, we would be able to get One Voice for Asia up and running according to plan and that we would be able to generate the income and capital that we need to switch our visas to One Voice for Asia after the first year.

2. Our Trip to the United States:

We are attending a conference during the first week of December in North Carolina. Since we were going to be in the U.S. anyway, and it has been about 19 months since we were last there, we decided to make this our report back / support raising trip. We will also be able to spend Thanksgiving with Karen's family in Florida. We leave in 12 days on October 18th and will travel to Atlanta, Florida, North Carolina and Chicago before returning to Hong Kong on December 18th.

Please pray for us as we travel. Pray that we will be able to connect with everyone we need to. We are trusting the Lord to help us to increase our monthly support - please pray that He would help us to do that.

3. Ministry Finances:

We need to see about USD \$5,000.00 come in between now and the end of the year for ministry expenses (primarily our trip to the U.S.). Please stand with us as we trust the Lord to supply this need.

Also pray with us as we trust the Lord to provide the money that we need to get One Voice for Asia up and running to satisfy the Immigration requirements.

If you would like to help in meeting any of these needs, please indicate which one by writing "Travel" (for the U.S. trip) or "Capital" (for the investment capital) in the memo of your check. You can also make a secure donation online by going to the following page on our website: Online Donations -> <http://www.ovasia.org/donations.htm>

4. Our Marriage:

All the issues with our visas as well as recent spiritual activity in the village has put unusual strain on our relationship. We have also been teaching some marriage principles to our Nepali friends, so it is not

surprising that we have been on the enemy's radar.

Please pray for us that we would be alert to the enemy's tactics and would guard our relationship. Pray that we would have extra grace with each other, and focus on the other's needs first before our own. Pray that the Lord would strengthen us and help us to walk in love towards each other.

5. Writing Project:

We have begun working on the leadership curriculum for oral learners. Please pray that we would be able to focus on that and keep up with our writing schedule. There have been many distractions - such as the whole situation with our visas - that have taken away time from writing. Pray for creativity, wisdom, revelation, and understanding as we write this material.

Sorry this has turned into such a long update. We'll try to keep it shorter next time. Thank you so much for praying for us. Your prayers do make a difference and we appreciate them.

God bless,

Stephen & Karen