

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
Deuteronomy 8:3

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock
and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. Psalm 62:1-2

April 10, 2009

Dear Friends,

Masako and I are enjoying the month of April because we do not have to travel this month! Of course we enjoy going to various places for ministry, but are glad for some time to catch up. I am still trying to unpack my books which are still in the boxes from our move last June!

I felt the Lord speaking to me recently from Deuteronomy 8:3, "*Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*" (Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 4:4). Although I have read this verse and thought about it perhaps hundreds of times, I sensed that the Lord was speaking through it. He was trying to tell me that I cannot be sustained or find satisfaction even in the ministries I am involved in. Life comes from him alone. This was another of those regular reminders to live in love relationship with him and to make Christ the focus every step of the way.

Although we are resting and catching up we are still staying busy! We have had several friends over during the past couple of weeks. Masako and I have commented to each other a number of times recently how grateful we are for the many friends God has given us. We have many friends from the past, but have also made several new friends in this area since moving here. Please pray for Roberto & Mizue, Hoyt and Kim (strong believers), Miki & Hiroshi, Mr. & Mrs. Yamada-san, and Mr. & Mrs. Sato-san.

Our friends Takeshi & Dorrie Takazawa came to our house yesterday from Tokyo and went back after 10 p.m. We had a great time of fellowship. They have a house church that meets in their home on Sunday nights. Their son Kei is 15 years old and just finished junior high school. In one of their fellowship times they talked about "BIG prayers" compared to "small prayers." Kei said, "*A big prayer for me would be for someone from my school to become a Christian before I finish school.*" There was only 3 weeks of school left and he was the only Christian among hundreds of students. This prayer seemed about as likely as a snowstorm in the middle of summer.

Nevertheless their church began to pray. A few days later one of Kei's friends asked if he could go to church with him. Kei answered, "*It is only a few people, is that ok?*" His friend agreed to come the next Sunday night. Only 4 people came that night. After a time of worship and Bible study Kei asked his mom if he should ask his friend if he wanted to receive Christ. His mom said, "*No, he doesn't understand anything yet!*" But Kei asked him anyway and he prayed to receive Christ!

I guess we need a little more faith in the Holy Spirit's work and leading! May God give us a spirit of faith that doesn't think in terms of BIG prayers and small prayers. "*Nothing is too hard for the Lord!*" Even the obstacles of evangelism in Japan are small things for the Lord! I often get too concerned about theory and strategy. In the end it all depends on God.

I read the account of the walls of Jericho falling in Joshua 6. The walls did not collapse because of someone's ability or strategy, but because they obeyed the Lord and he did it! This is what I wrote in my morning devotions: "*Don't expect the walls in Japan to be broken by strategy or missiology alone. You must hear and obey the Captain of the armies of the Lord of hosts. Your expectation should not be that your strategy will work, but that God will work.*"

Thank you so much for your prayers and support during the first three months of 2009. It has already been a great year. We have seen God do wonderful things in Nepal, Myanmar and Mongolia as I have shared in the past couple of letters. Please continue to pray for our friends in these countries.

Also please continue to pray for our family. Noah just returned from Columbia where he took a team of 6 Japanese on a short term mission trip. They had a powerful time, but came home a little sick. Now they will re-engage in their church planting efforts here. Davy & Yumiko and Joey and Ai are still working in western Tokyo. There is always a stream of young people going in and out of their houses. They visit us once in a while to stay sane. Anna is in Oregon, but will probably come to Japan for the summer. Please pray that God will specifically lead her in the next steps of her life. She doesn't know whether she should continue school in Oregon, go to another school in the States or return to Japan.

Please pray for the sessions coming up in May. David Lanning from Springfield Faith Center will come with me on this trip. It will be session 8 and the final session for Class II in each country. Each pastor in the group will present his strategy paper during this time. These are the actual plans each of them have developed with their church leaders to reach the lost, make disciples and multiply churches. Pray that these plans will come to fruition. At the end of the week we will have a graduation ceremony and give each of them a certificate.

Another very important thing that is taking place while we are completing Class II in both Nepal and in Myanmar is the selection process for Class III. I have mentioned this before, but want to ask you to fast and pray about this. We will select 12-15 pastors to be a part of the next class in each country. We want to train and equip strong leaders who will be able to impact others. Since we only take a few into the program choosing the right people is extremely important. We will invest a lot of time, money and energy into these people during the next three years. Please pray for God to lead in the SELECTION PROCESS.

I also want to ask you to pray for the retreat we will have in the Philippines during the first week of June. As you know we have been working with house church leaders in China for many years. Some of our good friends moved to Manila for 3-4 years to plant churches among Chinese students there. They already have more than 100 coming after a year and a half. Last year more than 60 were baptized!

We will fly to Manila on June 1 (Monday). The retreat will be Tuesday through Friday (June 2-5). We are planning for 60 co-workers to attend this event. Abe Huber from Brazil will be the speaker for this conference. He will be traveling with me to Mongolia the following week so we arranged for him to come to this conference first. He is like the Eddy Leo of Brazil. He is a prominent leader there and has been greatly used by God. They have planted more than 500 churches and reached tens of thousands with the gospel of Christ.

Our plan is to video record Abe's teachings on disciple making, leadership and church multiplication. Then we will put them into a DVD format so that they can be copied and distributed throughout China. I believe this will be a big blessing to Chinese leaders.

I want to ask for your help in this project. It will cost \$150 for each person to attend. If 60 people come it will come to a total of \$9000. Further, it will cost us about \$3000 to fly from Tokyo to Manila. It will also cost to make a quality video recording of the sessions as well as other miscellaneous costs. Most of the Chinese there cannot afford \$150 to attend the retreat. They will be asked to pay for at least half of the conference fee (\$75-100). I would like to raise the balance needed for this retreat.

We need approximately \$9000 for this entire project. Would you pray about supporting his effort? It will be a blessing to the Chinese leaders not only in the Philippines, but to leaders across China. If 90 people give \$100 we will have enough to meet this need. **Please send your check for this project in the enclosed return envelope. You can also give online at <http://sunriseministries.tripod.com>.** May God bless you all!

In Christ,



Jim & Masako Millard