

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

May 5, 2009

Dear Friends,

It's spring! We have seen some beautiful spring days here in Japan during the past month. We are currently in the middle of "Golden Week" in Japan. There are several holidays during the first week of May so many people have the whole week off. Roads are usually jam-packed as people travel to visit their families or take short vacations.

We have enjoyed being home for the past few weeks, but have been busy. We have had a constant stream of friends visiting and staying with us. Last week we invited a pastor and his family to come, but he ended up bringing his whole staff of about 20 people to stay overnight. It was fun. God has blessed us with the capacity to have 15-20 people come and stay. This is a great blessing, especially in Japan, because it is so expensive and difficult to travel and stay anywhere with a group of that size.

I want to briefly review some of the prayer requests that I mentioned in our last letter. I asked you to pray for the following:

- Family
- Trip to Nepal & Myanmar
- Selection of candidates for Class III in Nepal & Myanmar
- Retreat in the Philippines for Chinese workers
- Funds for the retreat
- Session in Mongolia

I will depart from Tokyo on May 10 for Nepal with David Lanning. After the session in Kathmandu, we will travel to Myanmar for the session there. Please pray for each session and for the pastors who will be finishing the program. Pray that God will use them to make disciples and multiply churches. Also, please pray for the selection process of candidates for Class III in both countries.

Pray for the retreat in the Philippines. Abe Huber will be coming from Brazil on May 28. We travel to Manila on June 1. The retreat will be from Tuesday through Friday. We want to video-tape the teachings so that we can reproduce DVDs for leaders in China. I believe that many leaders in China will be very blessed by Abe's teachings.

We will fly back to Tokyo on Saturday morning and catch a plane to Beijing on the same day. Then we will fly to Mongolia early Sunday morning. The session there will begin on Monday. We will return to Japan the following Monday, June 15. As you can see our plate is full. Please pray that we can abide in Christ and be Spirit led throughout these travels. God has provided wonderful open doors for ministry in these countries. Please pray for Mongolia and the Church there.

Please pray for the funds for the ministry in the Philippines. We need \$9000 dollars!

We are always amazed by how God leads and how he answers prayer. We met our Chinese friends who are now in the Philippines through a divine encounter. Several years ago I was returning from Mongolia with the teacher who had come. We stayed overnight in Beijing and I offered to take him to see the Great Wall, which was about an hour drive from our hotel. We hired a taxi and began to drive towards our destination. I had a little book with Chinese phrases and was trying to talk with the taxi driver. My Chinese pronunciation was so bad the driver could not understand what I was saying and just laughed.

After about 30 minutes in the car the driver said in broken English, *"Do you know Jesus?"* These were the only words of English he knew! Somehow he figured out that we were believers. He had been led to Christ two months before that time by two young female evangelists who had been sent to Beijing from the countryside. He pulled out his cell phone and called them for me. We met them later in downtown Beijing. One of them is named Harmony and her husband is Nathan (not their real names). They were a part of a network of more than 5 million house church members.

Since meeting Harmony we have met regularly with leaders in their network in Beijing. Until they moved to the Philippines we held 3-day retreats for leaders each time we returned from Mongolia through Beijing. Harmony and Nathan moved to Manila a year ago to attend school and to reach out to Chinese students from Mainland China. They already have more than 150 coming to their church.

We went to the Philippines twice last year to share with co-workers in their group. The situation is different than in China, but many Chinese students are coming to Christ. Masako and I want to continue working with Chinese leaders even after Nathan and Harmony return to Beijing in 2-3 years. Anyway, we are amazed and thankful that God led us in such an interesting way to this ministry.

Note: The work we do in China, the Philippines, Cambodia (and sometimes in other countries) are ministries of Sunrise International. We must raise funds for these endeavors.

Although we live in troubled times and there are many difficulties in the world today, I believe that God wants us to be aggressive and to continue to step forward in faith. Ephesians 6:10 encourages us to, *"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."* 1 Peter 4:10-11 teaches us to use our gifts to serve others, speaking and serving with God's power. And Joshua 1:9 admonishes us to *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Sometimes I think God has given me the ministry of being an attack dog. I do not want to maintain the status quo or stay in my comfort zone. We are called to invade the kingdom of darkness and bring in the Kingdom of Light. Of course in ourselves we are weak and powerless, but he encourages us to be strong and full of courage. I want to move forward in this spirit.

Please continue to pray for our family. Masako and I will be in Oregon in July and hope to see you then.

In Christ,



Jim & Masako Millard