

A Brighter Day

We hope our last letter didn't cause you any worry on our behalf! For the many expressions of encouragement, identification with our struggles as parents and indications of prayer, we are truly grateful.

The situation with Ryan will continue to be an ongoing challenge, but we have definitely seen a de-intensification over the past few months. We feel like we have a pretty good handle on the physical factors that contribute to irritation and the doctor has been very helpful--both with strategies for Ryan to deal with anger/frustration and strategies for us in dealing with his behavior.

It will be interesting to see how the summer goes as he spends his days at home rather than school. *Please keep praying--We need wisdom* about fostering positive play and interaction between our children while also teaching each of them to value time alone. They're so diverse! Ryan would occupy all of Emily's time if he could and often shuts Michael out; Emily just wants to do her own thing alone or with friends, and Michael longs to have them both include him.

Our biggest goal is that they would each turn to Jesus to meet the deepest needs and desires of their hearts, which will foster an enduring love, respect and unity among them...

"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ" (Colossians 1:28).

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2,3).

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful" (Colossians 3:15).



Personalities Plus

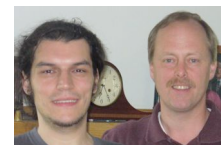
Where are they now?

Please use the paragraphs below as a guide for praying for these students/families with whom we've had ongoing contact. If you don't want to save the letter, jot a few notes to yourself on how to pray for them.

The last half of the spring semester is often a bittersweet time of good-byes and transitions. Last year, we said good-bye to **Chip** as he headed to Washington D.C. for his diplomatic internship. Chip called recently. He has been lonely in our nation's capitol and misses us and his other friends in Nebraska. However, he expressed thanks for linking him with Cito, our InterFACE staff representative at American University. He has been ministered to by Cito's work there whenever his schedule has allowed him to participate. *Pray that the Lord would have full reign in Chip's life as he continues to pursue his dream of one day becoming president of the Republic of Congo.*

Ken and Yen said good-bye and moved to Omaha on Saturday in order for him to continue his Ph.D. work in gerontology. As I thanked a couple from their church small group on Sunday for enfolded them, the reply was, "Oh, we think *they* enfolded us!" This couple, themselves in full-time ministry, were expressing what a blessing it was to have these first generation Taiwanese believers in the group for the school year. Both from interactions with Ken and Yen and with others from the group, we know that the relationships went deep in a short time. Ken and Yen feel they are better equipped to handle the challenges of their time in America. Through connections we'll foster in Omaha, they will be also be able to continue preparation for serving Christ back in Taiwan in their medical practices and through their home church. *Pray that transitions go well for them and their little daughter, Esther.*

Savana is enjoying some down time now that her Master's degree is complete. We'll get together again soon, before she and the children visit family in Turkey this summer. She has decided to continue with her studies at UNL despite the challenges of being separated from her husband and having full responsibility for three young children (5, 8 and 11). We had some great discussion recently about trust and how sin interferes in relationships and also about the coming, End Times judgment of the world. *We'll have several more years to develop a basis of Christ's love in our already warm relationship.*



Kerr has returned to Turkey for the summer. We had him over for a meal shortly before he left, and he told us he was planning to propose to his girlfriend! He e-mailed the other day to let us know it was the big day to have tea with both sets of parents and ask her hand in marriage. Later he reported that things went well and he will return with his bride in August. We're storing his belongings for him. *Pray that the Lord would open both of their hearts to Christ that they could pursue a relationship with Him together. Nanette will have the opportunity to help her with English and adjustment to life in the U.S.*

EVENTS

Summer Speaking Tour

Waynesville, MO area:

- June 13 Eureka Baptist Church 6PM
June 18 Westside Baptist Open House
(Details TBA)
June 21 Westside Baptist Mission Minutes
(evening service)

July/August TBA

IRO at NWU is suspended for summer, but we may have the chance to host another Japanese nursing student this August.

International Women & Children (IWC) is officially breaking for summer, but Nanette is welcoming them to our home for a more informal play group on the following dates (subject to change):

- June 5, 26
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
August 7, 14

Parables Study (church small group)

Meets Sundays at 6PM--over summer we will address specific questions our international friends have about the Bible and Christianity.

FOR PRAYER

*Please keep the above dates & events in prayer.

*If we host a Japanese student in August, we would like to have our guest bathroom fully finished and functional. Praise God for His provision so far and request time and resources to complete the project.

*Pray for God to fill the gap left behind in their church small group when Ken and Yen moved to Omaha. Some members had their horizons broadened and are better equipped than before to minister cross-culturally due to the experience.

*Pray for Sue and her teenaged boys (Taiwanese seeker(s)) who came to Ken and Yen's farewell dinner at church. They may plug in with their small group.

*Pray for wisdom about what to study after the Parables with our church small group. There is a diverse mix of non-believers with believers, both young and mature and participants from at least 3 continents!

*Pray for IWC to continue meeting families' needs through the summer, especially as it serves to connect internationals with spiritual resources. Jen and her little daughter came for the home group. They had come to IWC once before, about a year ago!

*Pray that "Janine" & "Wilkins" would be overwhelmed by Christ's love and drawn into an eternal relationship with Him.

*Pray for open hearts among other nonbelievers, like Kerr, Henry & Amanda, Jay, Savana and her children, and the Turkish couple we met this weekend. Continue praying for open doors to make the Gospel message clear with gentleness and all respect.

*Pray for increasing contact with Muslims who desire to understand Biblical Christianity.

*Pray for Acts 1:8 witnesses of Christ for the nations to be raised up through His ministry here.



Takuro is finished with his studies at UNL and returned to Japan for good. The kids enjoyed playing with him the evening of our farewell meal with him. Takuro expressed faith in Christ during his time as an undergraduate here, but a visit to Japan that summer led him to believe he couldn't be both Japanese and Christian. He chose to spend his free time with Christians consistently during his graduate studies and Kurt took several opportunities to challenge him spiritually. *Pray for him to connect with Japanese Christians and to submit his whole life to Christ unashamedly as he pursues his career.*

Kurt has also had significant conversations with **Ezequias**, our Mexican/Mayan friend. He has completed the second year of his Ph.D. program and chose to be involved both with ISF and our church small group Parables study this year. He found a discussion of the booklet "Have you made the wonderful discovery of the Spirit-filled life?" very helpful and seems to be taking steps to apply these principles for walking with the Lord. *Pray that he would gain a vision for reaching the lost with the Good News and return to Mexico as one of Christ's laborers in a few years.*

It continues to be a pure delight to interact with **Wilkins and Janine**. They never miss church, small group or other events if they can help it. We had them over for a meal and were able to discuss the Gospel in great detail. This clarified a lot of questions for them and raised some others. We asked them to identify themselves on a scale regarding how close they are to being able to express faith in Christ. Wilkins at first placed himself on the positive side, but when he realized that the zero indicates a decision to trust Jesus as Savior, he changed to -1 or 2. Janine placed herself around -9, but she needed a day or so to decide this and took the initiative to e-mail her answer. They watched the film Jesus with us in Mandarin Chinese on Easter Sunday and Janine said it helped her understand Jesus much better. (By the way, our children watched the Mandarin version intently and interacted with us about it—we were very proud of them.) *Continue to pray for their understanding and faith.*



Henry and Amanda were able to extend their time beyond the initial six-month visa for a visiting scholar. It has been difficult to spend time with them recently due to scheduling conflicts and Hank expresses a lot of bias toward Islam. *Pray for them to have open hearts and for us to have wisdom with how much to pursue them.*

This weekend, we invited a Turkish couple over to pick from among the baby things we no longer need. Kerr put us in touch with them, because he knew they were expecting their first child and could use a little help. *Pray that we will have the opportunity to be vocal with them about Christ's love in addition to showing them His love by our actions.*

Jay came several times to the Parables Study with his wife, **Mei-Lin**, and seemed to participate with full interest. Their two girls, ages 9 and 7 are very grateful for a setting where other children accept them naturally and include them. Mei-Lin will start bringing the girls with her to IWC in June after public schools break for summer. *Pray that Jay and the girls would be drawn to Christ as the small group transitions over summer and we continue to meet with them.*



Memorial Weekend Picnic
With Parables Small Group



"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-14)"

With gratitude for your partnership in the Gospel,

Kurt & Nanette Olsen