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Dear Prayer Partners,

I never thought the London Heathrow airport would become our most frequently visited airport in the world. Here we were again, waiting in line to check in for our departure to Boston. Finally, we were all set to go and it was time to say goodbye. We lingered a bit to find someone to take a family photo for us. Henry gave each of us a hug and stood around to watch as the children and I passed the door into the security check point area. Little did he know that we had to call him minutes later to meet us at that same spot. The backpack Jonathan loaded with his plastic Nerf guns was stopped by the security scanning machine and he was told to discard them before boarding the plane (mom's fault for not conducting security check at home). Fortunately, Daddy hadn't left the

airport parking so he was able to come back to save those toys.

This awkward and embarrassing moment reminded me of the time in January 2004 when the children and I flew into Heathrow airport to join Henry for our family's first short term mission trip. At age 5 and 7, both Jonathan and Annabel were required to have car seats. Therefore, I was obliged to bring their American size car seats to board the plane and then push them on a trolley down the long corridor of Heathrow in the early morning hours while two young children trailing behind. As it turned out, the car seats were too fat to be fitted in the mini bus we traveled so they were left at the COCM mission centre during our



London Heathrow Airport July 2011

entire trip. I described that experience in my journal as the trip of “an accidental missionary”.

How time flies. My children are now young teens traveling with adult fare tickets. It is hard to believe that we finished our first 4 year term this past July. And it feels like we had just gone through 4 years of missionary school in an intensive program of being disciplined by our Heavenly Father. How true it is that the first term is largely for us to learn about what it means to become a missionary in heart and soul. The greatest lesson we have learned is to serve God with humility as unworthy servants (Luke 17:10).

As we were plunged into many unexpected circumstances and had to rise to the occasions like we had never done before, our weakness was exposed and magnified under God’s laser beam. When circumstances forced us to operate in our weakness rather than in our natural strength, we found that having given up something we worked hard to achieve to become a missionary did not mean we had arrived on a higher spiritual ground. We still had to deal with the desires of our flesh and must continue to practice spiritual discipline. We still had to struggle each time we faced the challenge of denying ourselves to obey God’s will. So often our spirit was willing but our flesh became weak, and there were times our heart wanted to obey but our mind was filled with rebellious thoughts.

By allowing us to experience painful loss in material possession, in comfort and security, in relationship and human trust, God gave us opportunities to discover the secret of being strengthened and growing spiritually through brokenness. We came to understand that if we were to serve God with a humble servant attitude we must always remember that it is our privilege to be called, that God owes us nothing, but we owe him everything, including our lives.

Looking back, we are amazed to see that even though we were naïve in our initial passion for overseas mission, God’s vision was clear to us and our conviction remains the same. The road of this adventurous journey has been winding and full of surprises at every turn, but God’s providential care was always there for us. At times we were shaken and became discouraged, yet God’s grace was more than sufficient and his presence was with us always. God’s people have been encouraging and faithfully supporting us along the way.

God’s grace has brought us this far. We have passed our first round of tests. But we understand that there is still much to be learned. While we are confident in our calling, we also recognize that most of the time we are not as strong as we think we are; it is very easy for us to make mistakes

and to fall into temptations. We must continue to walk humbly with God and willingly receive His discipline. As we follow Jesus further on our life journey, let us remember to not develop an attitude of entitlement to God’s love and grace. May we submit ourselves as His servants, and learn to be obedient to His will in every way, so that we may be called His “friends.” (John 15:13-15)



### Updates and Prayer Requests

Ling and the children went back to the USA for 3 weeks in August. We are thankful that Ling had several opportunities to share at our home church and different supporting churches in New England. We thank the Lord for our safe journey back to the UK.

We are thankful that our daughter Annabel received good results for her first round of GCSE exams in June. In Year 11 she will sit two more rounds of GCSE exams in January and June 2012. Within the next year she will also need to decide on what subjects she should study in future years. We pray that God will grant her confidence and strength to face the challenge and pressure from school work and exams, that she will discover her passion and learn to seek God’s will for her life. Pray for us to have the wisdom to guide her in making critical decisions.

Ling is thankful for the volunteers to help with the running of the COCM Bookroom in August. Please continue to pray that we will have a full time staff to take on the bookroom operation soon. She is getting to know the work involved in publishing the Living Water Magazine and prays for wisdom and energy to take on more responsibilities in the literature ministry.

Henry traveled to Hong Kong on 30<sup>th</sup> of August. He will be visiting China and different places in Southeast Asia, including a trip to attend the 8th Chinese Congress on World Evangelization (CCOWE) held in Bali, Indonesia from 12-16 of September, 2011. Please pray for his health and travel safety, that he will be able to renew while on the run.