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Dear Prayer Partners,

After 20 months in England, seasonal events and holidays reminded us that we were not yet in sync with our surrounding environment here. I was so used to celebrating Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May that I haven't caught up with the earlier celebration here on the third Sunday of March. Gifts from our children and flowers given out after Sunday Worship service sent us timely signals to have our own family celebration in the evening. Then the following Sunday, we walked into church and found that it was nearly the end of the Pastor's sermon! Well, since before we moved to England, the Daylight Saving Time in the USA had changed to start on the Second Sunday in March, and here the British Summer Time doesn't start until the last Sunday of March. This time, there was no signal for early warning, and so it was embarrassing to find that we were an hour late to church. Later that evening, we had our family worship time and tried to laugh at ourselves a little. But it is so undeniable that we are still very much foreigners to England.

This is a good lesson for us to learn about the need for incarnate ministry. For us to be effective in the service and work of Christ, we must become like Him. We must follow the path He travels before us. His path is a path to incarnate, to dwell with those He came to serve through unconditional love and sacrifice. If we are to follow the lead of Christ, then we are to merge in the environment He sends us and to identify with (meaning, to become like) its peo-

ple and its culture. But we have been too busy just doing ministry activities, and nearly forgotten about the more important things, like taking time to interact and get involved with the people and culture we are called to serve.

Ever since we came to England we have wrestled with our inadequacy and our limitation. These are questions we often ask ourselves, "How do we embrace the cultural differences that make us so uncomfortable? How do we grow in our love for the people that seem so hard to get to know personally?" Certainly, we cannot love at a distance and our love for them will not grow if we don't get directly involved with people's lives. We have made some efforts, but our busyness being drawn completely into existing work has actually blocked the more needed incarnate ministry. It is time we reset our ministry priorities. We cannot embrace a culture if we don't take time to understand it more fully. We will not love a people that we don't know and don't share anything in life experience with them. Only when we give our attention to incarnate ministry do we find opportunity to understand and to share. Only then do we find our hearts begin to change and our love starts to grow. Please pray for us as we give ourselves fully to the incarnate work of the Lord. May we experience the unconditional love of Christ flowing out through us.

"Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings." (1 Corinthians 9:22-23, NLT)



Updates:

When we revisited our priorities in March we had made a commitment to the children that we would slow down and try not to bring ministry work back home. Since then we had worked hard to guard our regular family time in the evening, to have dinner at home with the whole family and to maintain our family Bible reading/prayer time right after dinner. This hasn't been easy for both of us. The taking off actually made us skip March's writing of our family prayer letter. Ling especially struggled with not using the computer when the children are at home. You probably find that she is much slower in responding to email compared to before.

Some of you have learned and been praying for our daughter Annabel's solo flight across the Atlantic to spend a week of her Easter break back in Amherst. She left on Monday, April 6th and was one of the 6 children on board the plane without parents. Needless to say that she was in good company and hardly had time to read pages we had filled out upon her request hours earlier on her little advice book. Taking the bus with her childhood friend like in the old days, she went to visit the regional middle school and saw many of her classmates from primary school. Going back to our home church and spending time with some of her friends for the weekend was the best part of her trip (we were told). Toward the end, Annabel and her grandparents felt that they hadn't spent enough time together and wish the trip was longer. Annabel arrived home safely yesterday and had slept for 16 consecutive hours since last night!

During the Easter weekend, Henry went to preach at the Northern England Mandarin Conference. This was a special experience for him as he got to know not only young people from mainland China but also those from Malaysia. Ling and Jonathan stayed home to pray and serve as the communication link between Daddy and Annabel. We also enjoyed the quiet time to play games, read and talk and dream...

Prayer requests:

Please pray for Henry to be able to finish his last homework assignment by the end of the week for the course he had taken at All Nations during the past term.

We are taking the rest of the week off to have a mini family vacation, to catch up with Annabel and to celebrate here special 13th birthday. Please pray for our safe travel and some quality time with the children.

Please pray that we will be able to continue giving undivided attention to our children at home and the family tie will become stronger.



Family worship together