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Dear Prayer Partners,

I parked my car at the bus stop near Furzton Lake to wait for my daughter's return from her new school this afternoon. I figured the bus would arrive late so I decided to step out into the wind instead of sitting inside my car. As I walked across the grass field I noticed the obvious signs of autumn: the sun hanging low on the horizon at 4:30 PM, the fleet of geese flying south in V formation, and ripen apples falling on the ground along the trails... Oh, gone are the days of summer.

This summer, I took a real break from nearly all forms of personal writing. Aside from filling a page in my journal on our way back to the USA, I didn't jot down any more of my thoughts, reflections, or mental notes. As a result, I also neglected the writing of our family prayer letter for the two summer months. But I must say that I had no regrets, for I was able to truly give my time, my attention, and my energy to those I care most deeply and I enjoyed every moment of it. In a way I felt weaken by such overdose

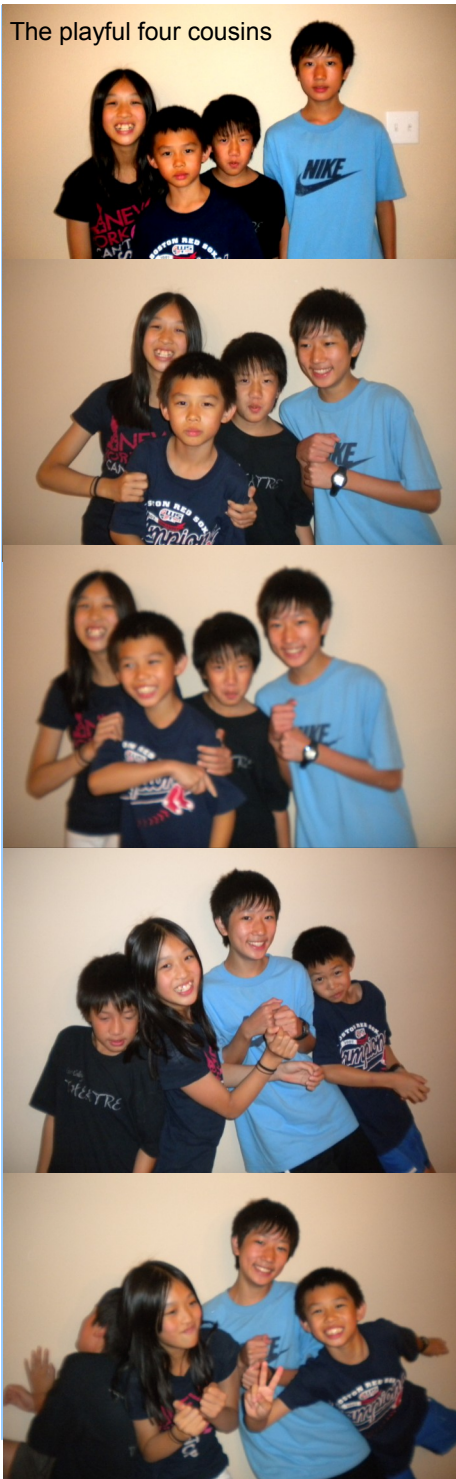
of tender loving care we received from our families and friends in America. At one point, the feeling of wanting to spend more time or even stay with them became so strong I began to worry that we couldn't make it back to England. After coming back to our home in the mission field, I realized that we had actually been strengthened by going through the process of bonding and parting again. It reconfirmed our conviction of serving the Lord as overseas missionaries. It also renewed our confidence in the support of our loved ones back home. Most importantly, it reminded us that whether together or apart God shall be with us and lead us according to His special plans.

I took a dual voltage hair dryer with me on this trip. It was a gift from a sister for me to use during international travel. I used it on the day we arrived at my parents' home, it didn't produce enough hot air to do its job. I remembered the need to change its voltage setting from 220V to 110V. No harm done and it worked fine afterwards. Then the day after we came



Epcot Centre, Disney World, with brother Howard's family

The playful four cousins



back to England, I used it without remembering to change the voltage setting back from 110V to 220V. This time the air coming out was so hot it almost burned my skin. Worse yet, it burned the motor and shut down instantly.

I had to laugh out loud seeing just how fitting an illustration the fate of my poor hair dryer had been in depicting our transition to the time in the USA and back. I recalled my first week back to Amherst, I seemed to have difficulty letting go and was constantly going to the computer to respond to email messages. I also had the urge to draft up a To-Do list and make a schedule for my days. After repeating 1 Peter 5:7 in my prayer more than a few days, I finally learned to cast my anxieties to the Lord and allow myself to relax, to go with the flow, and to embrace the spirit of Sabbath. Unfortunately, upon coming back to the mission centre both Henry and I plunged into the piled up work right away without making a visible switch. My dead hair dryer might be a warning sign for us to be careful, least we exhaust ourselves and become burned out instantly.

A year ago I was given a clear role from the Lord in intercessory prayers. But now I am faced with a dilemma. While my passion and burden for intercessory prayer continue to increase, I am also being drawn into the administrative duties in the mission headquarter. On the one hand, I do enjoy the challenge of on demand problem solving in the involvement of the administrative side of things. But on the other hand, I agonize over the lack of time and energy to devote myself in intentional and serious intercession for our mission.

Likewise, Henry is faced with the challenge of how to set the right priorities among the many needs coming from internal, external, administrative, pastoral, planning, execution, time along with God and time with people. May we help one another to remember to come to our Lord daily, to be wise and understand His will. Let us **“figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.”** (Ephesians 5:10 The Message)

Updates and Prayer requests:

For those of you who haven't heard from us since June, we are excited to report that on July 1st, our family received the approval of our UK Visa extension for 3 years. It was right on the day our initial 2 year visa expired. Our new missionary Rebecca Mao from New York was also granted UK Visa and she came to COCM mission centre with us on August 26th. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness!

The children and Ling had two wonderful weeks to stay in Amherst to be with our church family and friends. Jonathan enjoyed the Vacation Bible School very much and Ling was greatly encouraged by the fellowship and prayers at various prayer meetings. After nearly two hours of delay at Boston Logan airport due to heavy fog, Henry arrived safely to join Ling and the children in mid-August. Our family spent a fun filled week in Florida and we felt like traveling back to 7 years ago when we took the children to Disney World for the first time. It was added excitement when Henry's brother and his family met us in the Disney resort, Annabel, Jonathan together with their cousins Albert and Kevin had great time at the hotel, in the theme parks, and especially in the swimming pool. The highlight for all of us young and old is the visit to the water park. Everyone wished we had an extra day to go back. Well, maybe we will do it again some other time.

Please continue to pray for Annabel as she adjusts to life in her new school this September. She now has to get up early to take a designated bus to go to school. The journey takes about an hour each way and it is a rather frightening experience when you don't get to sit with a friend, or don't get to sit at all. Please continue to pray for her to be able to make good friends with those going to the same classes. Also she is behind in French for almost two school years, pray that there will be ways to help her transition and to close the learning gaps in her new school environment.