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Dear Prayer Partners,

I arrived at Jonathan's school early to wait for him to finish his after-school technology club. For a brief moment I felt like traveling back in time to the first day when we took Jonathan to visit his new class in this school shortly after our relocation to the UK in July 2007. I walked through the same door and saw the same receptionist greeting me from behind the big glass window with the same facial expression. I stood in the same spot to watch Jonathan coming out of the same corridor. Except on that first day he came out alone looking anxious; but this time when he walked out, Jonathan and two other boys were laughing and pushing one another gently with the gesture of comrades. He was now in the cheerful company of friends.

On our way to the parking lot, I asked Jonathan what he did at the technology club. "Oh, we are making a movie with animation. I came up with the idea of using Lego figures to create the characters for the movie." "What is the movie about?" "Aliens. When we are done we will put it on You-Tube so you can watch it." "That sounds really cool." "Yeah!" Jonathan's voice was filled with excitement.

Over the past 2 and a half years, I have grown to love almost everything about Jonathan's school. I have had many pleasant interactions with his teachers, classmates and their parents. The school is well managed by a dedicated and effective team of teachers and professionals. They are proud of being part of the school and work hard to create a wonderful environment for the children. This school has given us by far the best experience of our life in the UK. How I wish our son could stay for 7 more years until he goes to college. But in a few months he will have to leave his encouraging teachers and friendly classmates to transfer to a secondary school much

further away from home. What a huge change to a young child at 11 years of age. It is scary for me just to think about it.

The fear of change always makes it hard for us to leave our familiar environment. Entering a new school and a new developmental stage will not be something easy; Jonathan will surely be confronted by rapid changes along this path. But the nature of growing up demands a child to leave his comfort zone. Saying goodbye to childhood is a very scary yet necessary thing to do. We as parents must overcome our own fear and help our son to overcome his, so that we may boldly go forward to meet the new challenges as well as opportunities the journey of life shall bring to us.



Jonathan and school friends



With Rev. Thumb
and Family in Toronto



With Chinese Students
in Nice, France



With co-worker and supporters
in Scotland

Likewise, the nature of mission work demands us to let go of what we are used to and to leave where we have been comfortable. Changes are inevitable when the guiding hand of the Lord is actively pushing our mission front line boundary and redefining our ministry scope through various external circumstances. Changes are also unavoidable when we say goodbye to co-workers leaving to join other ministries and at the same time welcome those coming on board our team from other parts of the world. It is the mandate of our calling as missionaries to embrace change in our life as well as in our ministry. But we can rest assured that our God never changes or casts a shifting shadow (**James 1:17**). May we continue to trust in our unchangeable God and draw strength from His perfect love to cast out all fear.

Updates and Prayer requests:

During January 21-27, Henry went to Toronto, Canada to speak at the 30th anniversary and mission conference of North Toronto Chinese Baptist Church. Afterwards, he met other churches and supporters of COCM and had the opportunity to share our vision and strategies with them. February 4-8 he was in south of France visiting Chinese churches in Marseilles and Nice. From February 12-22 he drove to Scotland to speak in Dundee's Chinese New Year Gospel meeting as well as to visit other churches and fellowship groups that have close relationship with COCM; he then came back for the Mandarin team building weekend at COCM centre. Praise the Lord for His protection on the road and for fruitful results from these trips. This month Henry will try to stay home to get some rest before becoming busy again with speaking engagement for the North England Mandarin Easter conference and traveling to Australia. Please pray that he will find time to

exercise, connect with the children, and be alone with God.

At the mission centre, Ling is getting involved in more administrative work and struggles to reserve time for prayer ministry. She also finds it harder to write and stay in touch with those who offer us prayer support. Please pray for wisdom, strength and energy so we may be strong in facing our present day challenges.

We thank the Lord that Annabel has made good progress in her relationship with teachers and classmates. At the moment she needs to decide on what subjects to study for her GCSE options. Once chosen she will study these subjects over the next two years and take exams at Year 11. We are all new to this so we must rely on God's wisdom and guidance to provide her the right kind of advice and suggestions. Pray that we will learn to trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding.

After more than 3 months of waiting, early in March we were notified that Jonathan had been allocated to the secondary school of his second choice, a co-ed grammar school in the same town as Annabel's school. We have accepted the school allocation and at the same time asked for his name to be put on the waiting list for the boy's grammar school (his 1st choice) which is next to Annabel's school. If it is God's will, we pray that God will open a door to that school so Annabel and Jonathan may share some joint school experiences (the two schools used to be one co-ed school so they still share many facilities and hold joint events). But if not, we are very happy with the school that accepted him. Pray that either way the children will embrace it with a heart of thanksgiving and trust that God's way will be the best way for them.