

Preamble

May the year 2009 be filled with such blessings from God that we do not shy away from becoming generous conduits of His manifold grace and practical love to others He would send to cross our paths!

May we be ever more attentive to His promptings, leadings, and guidance, and seek more of His wisdom in our life, work and ministry! May we look back on 2009 at the end of the year and rejoice that we have matured in our faith, and exhibited more the fruit of the Spirit as we yield to Him daily!

May more people be brought to the saving knowledge of our Master and Savior this year across the globe as we wait with anxiety the return of our King! In Jesus name we pray! Amen!



Statement of Understanding

We seek the understanding of our supporters at Bethesda Chapel (the Missions Committee) as well as personal friends, to pray with us even in the months that we do not send any monthly updates or reports. My studies and Teaching Assistant and Graduate Assistant responsibilities, and including the administrations required in this country has been overwhelming, so much so that it is very difficult to commit to a monthly update.

Praise Report, 13th January 2009

- Praise God for his ever-abiding strength as we crossed over the New Year – we basically coordinated a simple renovation for the house (with the help of a local Christian Home Rehab Group who only charged us for the cost of the materials), and we were quickly relocated over the Christmas and New Year school-break!
- Praise God that He has been helping us to stretch our dollar for our studies. We were able to find used furniture for the house at very inexpensive price, and/or for free. Our monthly housing mortgage is now lower than our previous rental payment! This financial savings is crucial as (1) the Divinity School had just announced that due to the financial downturn, all Teaching/Graduate Assistant jobs for students will cease for a 3-6 months period from March 2009, and (2) there was an increment on tuition fees at the beginning of the last semester.
- Praise God for the boys' developments! **Matthew**, our eldest son (5 years old) is slowly and surely beginning to read as he attends his new school (Greenbrier Primary School). He is also praying more intentionally for family members and friends (local and overseas), and expressing his likes and dislikes! **Owen**, our middle boy (3-year old) is beginning to behave like a little 3-year old and looking after himself more! It is a joy for us as parents to see that he is growing! **Zachary**, (now 9 months+ old) is beginning to ask for more solid food beyond his 2nd stage Geber baby food.



Prayer Items, January & February 2009

1. For God to help us get adjusted to living away from our social network (the School Housing Village), and where we would now have to look into home repairs by ourselves and get adjusted to a new environment. We have since had to arrange for an exterminator to clear the house of rodent, e.g., squirrels!!! Please also pray that Matthew would get adjusted to his new school, new teachers and friends.
2. For patience as we live in America for the duration of our studies. The bureaucracy is sometimes incomprehensible. For instance, the Townhome Association requires it that we fenced up the backyard using an alternate French Gothic design within 60 days from the time we move in. Interestingly, when we try to arrange for a contractor to put up fences (according to the housing board's guidelines), we were told that we must file an application for the project and wait for an approval from the Housing Committee (which only meets once in 2 months) so as to be granted permission for us to build a fence which in the first place is mandated and not by choice.



3. For God to continue to grant us health and wisdom as we get adjusted/settled to living here, with the change of weather in the winter season. It is mostly 0-8 degree Celsius (or 32–46 degrees FH) at night. Currently, our heater-thermostat is kept at a temperature of 12.7 -degree Celsius (or 55 degree FH). We will adjust our thermostat after receiving our first-two month's bill, so as to ensure that we would be living as closely to our budgeted expenditure.
4. For God to grant Sharlene, love, joy, peace and wisdom as she takes on the role to nurture the boys, especially when the dad now has to return to focusing on his studies /work after being at home for 3 weeks due to the move, etc.

5. For God to open up a driving education course (36 hours) for Sharlene. She was not able to enroll for any classes, nor undergo any driving theory and practical tests for a driver license conversion.



6. For God to grant me wisdom and supernatural ability to integrate all that I am learning and reading critically for both, all of my coursework, and for framing of my dissertation proposal. I would need to sharpen my speed-reading skills (with so much to read), critical thinking skills, and especially, writing skills. These are all needed skills, along with theological acumen for researching and writing my several upcoming research papers with excellence. Also kindly pray that my Grade Point Average (GPA) would qualify for scholarships.
7. For God's wisdom and grace as I revise my research papers for submission to appropriate academic, and/or theological journals. I have received encouragements to submit these papers in for peer-reading journals. I will however need time and wisdom to complete it –with speed and excellence!

8. I have begun a brief self-study of the German language program. A German exchange student is assisting me every few weeks to work on my German proficiency. Do pray that God would grant me the linguistic ability to master Theological German for a proficiency test by the end of the year 2009. A pass grade is necessary.



9. For ability to live a balanced life with competing demands and responsibilities. This would also include completing duties for my two professors proficiently and expediently. This involves research projects, proofreading, type-setting, and indexing books written by my bosses which are or have been scheduled for publication, etc..
10. Several opportunities have also opened up for me to participate in – coordination for a Chinese training ministry within the campus, and a speaking engagement. Please pray with me that God will enable me to do what is befitting of His name and glory.
11. For God to grant us family unity and good family time, and especially fruitful family altar time in amidst a new study-cum-work semester and lifestyle.
12. For God to teach us to continually draw close to Him, and be sensitive to what He may be saying to us, or be wanting us to do. This would include the few people God has sent into our paths for us to journey with them pastorally. This may include the new neighborhood we are now residing.

Bethesda Chapel, BGST & Our other few Prayer Warriors, we have been thinking and praying for God's blessings upon each of you!

Thanks for journeying with us!

Do download the free international call facility – www.skype.com to have a chat with us!
We are at the moment 13 hours difference in time.

Blessings

Tim, Shar, Matt, Owen and Zach.

Skype id : worldtim (for Tim);
mozboys1 (for Shar)

Email : worldtim@hotmail.com;
shar@asia.com

Address : 917 Still Harbor Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320

Tel : 757-401-7145 (Hp)