

March 2008 Goracke Newsletter

Singapore International Bible Institute

Dear Family & Friends,

Incredibly, another month in this year is almost gone! But it has certainly been enjoyable to finally see spring arrive... even though in this part of the country most people would never agree that it is really here. We had 3 inches of snow after the first day of Spring officially arrived and it is still possible that our April showers might be snow showers. The temperature continues to get below freezing every night, but the days are warming up fast! On to the news of this past month!

Nancy and I spent the first few days of this month doing what most people really don't look forward to doing... taxes. Fortunately, everything went well and that is behind us for another year!



In preparation for serving in Singapore, I continue in the task of contacting Christians/churches in search of those who would join with us in this ministry to equip many workers for Asia. Understandably many churches have fully committed budgets. I fully understand the wisdom for a church budget to be set and followed for the year. However, I know that God's people, when they hear and know of a need, and are convinced of its worthiness, have and will make individual sacrifices to help fill the need.

Many of our supporters are individual Christians and not necessarily individual churches. If you are a church leader whom I have talked to and have had to decline as a financial partner to this Singapore ministry due to a fully committed budget, please consider giving me the opportunity to give a presentation about this Singapore ministry so that individual Christians who are able and convicted, once they hear of this ministry need, may have the opportunity to share with us in this work, without taking away from their regular contribution given to the church you serve with. The opportunity for brethren to hear of this ministry is vital to the success of those called to serve in it.

Consider the Spirit inspired words of the apostle Paul in the letter to the Roman Christians... (Rom.10:14&15) ***"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?..."*** (NIV). I am willing to be sent for the preaching, teaching and training of other faithful and reliable men to work in Asia. Some who are willing to help send me and my family may be meeting with you each Lord's day.

Concerning the work in Singapore which we are hoping to be sent to soon... The third course of studies at SIBI Singapore, the book of Acts of the Apostles, was completed on March 16th with 20+ students enrolled. About half of these students were auditing the course while the rest received full credit for their studies. The picture to the right is of some of the students of that study as well as the teacher, George Carman, and his wife, Hilda.



Other news from the month of March... Due to the death of my step-aunt, we traveled back to eastern Nebraska to attend the funeral with family. It has been several years since I have seen some of my siblings so our time together was an opportunity to catch up on each others' lives. We returned back to western Nebraska a few days later. Upon our return, I have helped to start and facilitate a weekly small group Bible study with its emphasis on reaching out to those who don't know Jesus.

Nancy's Family Notes:

Greetings! Hope this finds you healthy and full of energy to accomplish things on your "to do list" today. Speaking of energy, our two little turbo booster tots continue to burst with energy. No energy crisis here, except maybe on Dad's and Mom's parts trying to keep up with them. I'm convinced nap time is more for my benefit than theirs at this stage. With the weather warming up we go to the park as often as we can to burn off some of their abundant charge.

Besides bursting with energy, they are also bursting with questions. They continue to be a source of smiles for us as we learn along with them and watch the wheels turning in their minds. While traveling last week, when we stopped to fill the car up with gas, Shayla asked me, "Is Dad done putting gas in the tires so we can go?" I had to smile. The wheels were turning as she tried to piece together a previous conversation and my explanation that cars needed gas to go. They have so many questions and sometimes my answers or explanations aren't quite enough. I'm reminded of a few of Jaydon's questions I shared with some of you: "Do fish sneeze? Do shark's burp? (And one of my favorites as we watched the sun coming up one morning) Can we taste the sunrise?" I know I don't have all the answers, and my answers may not always satisfy them, but I tell them I do know the One who does have them and that's why I teach them about God. He has all the answers and His answers will satisfy.

Other news--school is an event we are starting to prepare for and research. Jaydon turns five in May and I continue to gather information about our schooling options for the fall. Right now homeschooling is the avenue we will take our first year in Singapore. Now I am considering different homeschooling materials, researching on the internet, and talking to others who have experience homeschooling. I have much to learn and welcome suggestions and recommendations concerning homeschooling materials and other helpful learning tips as I question and research this new stage in Jaydon's life.

Well, I'm out of space for this time. May God be the source of all your answers for your important questions in life. Know that we love you, but God loves you the most!

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In closing, I want to note that Charles Cook, my co-worker as the administrator of the Singapore ministry training institute, is scheduled to leave for Singapore with his wife Tamara on April 3rd to begin his fulltime work there. We are eager to join with them in our part of the work as soon as possible. To date the Lord has blessed our support search by securing approximately 80% of our 1st year budget needs. Some of this support is in the form of one-time offerings which we are allotting towards our 1st year monthly needs. We ask you to please keep us in your prayers concerning the funds we will need not only to supply our needs for the first year, but also for the following years of our commitment to this ministry. With the recent and gradual decline in the value of the US dollar in Singapore, we will actually need to secure even more funds as the dollar value continues its downward trend. We know that God has always and will always provide for His people to accomplish His work. For those of you who wish to contribute toward this ministry, please send your offering made to our overseeing church (see name and address to the right) with "Singapore mission" written on the memo line of your check.