
Cross Cultural Discipling Mission Benjamin & Karen Rees July 2009

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS VIA E-MAIL: We value your prayers, but we also value your good will. If anyone who receives this would rather not receive it in future, please let us know and we will remove your address from our list.

IF YOU ARE READING THIS ON THE INTERNET and would like to receive this prayer letter regularly (roughly once a month), please send your request to <reesmission@gmail.com> and we will add you to the mailing list.

Written on July 18. Amended on July 22. Sent on July 23 and thereafter.

U.S. TRIP

As I write this, we are in Indiana, less than two weeks into a six-week trip to the U.S. to report to supporters, visit relatives and friends, and take care of mission and personal business.

I had hoped to send everyone the details before we left Hong Kong, but there was too much to do and too little time. Even now we are still working on the details of things we will do later.

I don't know how soon I can finish this, or how long it will take me to send it once it is finished. To avoid having the letters rejected by spam filters, I can only send a certain number each hour. With only sporadic internet access, it may take me several days to send it. So I'm going to give our whole schedule, both what is still to come and what has already passed.

July 8, 8:20 a.m. – leave Hong Kong; fly to Columbus, Ohio, via Tokyo and Detroit; get picked up by people from the Eden Church of Christ, St. Louisville, OH.

July 8 to 14 – speak for the Eden church adult Bible school, worship service, and DVBS; get over jet-lag; do some of our urgent e-mailing; buy furlough car.

July 15, 5:30 p.m. – present our work to the missions committee of the Church of Christ at Treaty, Wabash, IN. (The minister, Doug Oakes, is a college friend and formerly ministered to another of our supporting churches.)

July 19 – (morning) make a mission report to the Burlington Church of Christ, Burlington, IN; (afternoon) drive to the Lake James Christian Assembly, Angola, IN.

July 19-25 – attend the Lake James School of Missions at LJCA; preach Tuesday evening and make a missions presentation Thursday morning.

July 25 – make a mission report at the Community Church of Christ, Rock Falls, IL.

July 27-29 – head for Joplin, MO., possibly stopping for a night or two in Hannibal, MO, where a church used to support us and we still have friends.

August 2 – (morning.) make a missions report in the First Christian Church, Carthage, MO; (noon) lunch with the Winsome class, FCC, Carthage; (evening – open so far)

August 9 – make a mission report in North Side Christian Church, Oklahoma City, OK. (We are not sure yet if we will be with that church all day or will have part of the day free to speak elsewhere.)

August 16 – (morning – tentative) make a missions report at First Christian Church, Lamar, MO; (afternoon) “Open House” at the College Heights Christian Church, Joplin, MO. (Although this is being held in the CHCC building, all our friends in that area are welcome to come.) (Evening still open so far.)

August 19, 10:53 a.m. – leave from XNA (Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, near Fayetteville, AR.) to return to Hong Kong.

August 20, 10:20 p.m. – arrive in Hong Kong. (No, it isn't a 36 hour flight. We cross the International Date Line on the way. Hong Kong is 13 hours ahead of CDT.)

Besides the appointments listed above, we have a lot of business to do during the weeks in between the last three Sundays – spend time with our kids, spend time with Karen's parents near Gentry, AR., meet with our mission directors, meet with at least one church missions committee and possibly more, and take care of all kinds of mission and personal business.

* Thank God for our safe arrival and safe travel so far.

* Pray for our relations with all the people and churches we visit, that we will all be mutually encouraged, and that our supporters will feel led to continue their partnership with us in our ministry for Christ.

* Pray that we will have some time in this very full schedule to rest and relax so that we don't return to Hong Kong feeling more tired and stressed than when we arrived.

GOD'S PROVISION FOR URGENT NEEDS

Our last e-mail prayer letter included a long list of matters relating to our trip for which we urgently needed some kind of solution. A few of situations produced considerable stress as they were being worked out, but, Praise God!, solutions were found for all of them in the end.

We did hear from all the churches and individuals that we were particularly trying to contact. Not all the details are final yet with, but enough is settled that we feel confident about the rest.

We were able to get air tickets for the dates we wanted to go, and were able to pay for them with frequent flyer miles.

Scott Smyth, son of Ken Smyth, a fellow missionary in Hong Kong, will preach for the church for five of the six Sundays we are gone, and we expect there will be a music and testimony service on the other one.

Fellow missionary Helen Jew recommended a Filipina domestic worker who is willing to keep an eye on our apartment, collect our mail, and water our plants while we are gone.

I was able to get my driving license renewed despite the changes in my vision.

We bought a car in Ohio from Mission Auto Connection, a car dealership run by former missionaries, who offer discounts to missionaries. We bought from them once before and were pleased with what we got. My (Ben's) sister Phoebe is returning from South Africa soon, and we hope to re-sell the car to her when we leave.

* Thank God for providing solutions for all these needs. Pray that everything really does work out as well as things appear at this point.

* Pray especially for the church in Hong Kong in our absence. In several ways it was not a good time to be away, especially for this long. But God knows the situation and the needs better than we do, so we pray He will use everything that happens for His purposes.

Benjamin & Karen Rees, CROSS CULTURAL DISCIPLING MISSION, discipling the peoples of the world from a base in Hong Kong, China.

Address: 85 Broadway, Flat B, 5/F, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Tel: (852) 2742-6484. (**Fax** by arrangement at the same number. Call first.)

E-mail: reeshk@netvigator.com or reesmission@GMail.com.

Forwarding Agent: Penny Graves, 3300 E. 13th, Joplin, MO. 64801-5825, U.S.A. Tel. (417) 659-8105. E-mail: pgraves@joplin.com