

Letters from the Front

The latest on the Watters' fight of faith

October-November 2009

Dear praying friends,

And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well." (Mark 7:37a, ESV)

„He hath done all things well.“ Yes, from first to last, from our cradle to our grave, from the earliest pang of sin's conviction to the latest thrill of sin's forgiveness, from earth to heaven, this will be our testimony in all the way the Lord our God has led us in the wilderness. In providence and in grace, in every truth of His Word, in every lesson of His love, in every stroke of His rod, in every beam that has shone, and in every cloud that has shaded, in every element that has sweetened, and in every ingredient that has embittered, in all that has been mysterious, inscrutable, painful, and humiliating; in all that He gave, and in all that He took away, this testimony is His just due, and this our grateful acknowledgment through time and through eternity—. He hath done all things WELL. "Octavius Winslow, *The Sympathy of Christ* (Harrisonburg, Va.: Sprinkle Publications, 1994), 48-49, <http://firstimportance.org/2008/01/26/our-grateful-acknowledgment/>.

Destination Uganda: the Watters are leaving Minnesota on Nov. 16!

Thank you so much for praying for us! We can hardly wait for the Lord of the harvest to finally thrust us forth—His laborers—into the harvest in Uganda!

Rebecca and I are preparing to leave Minneapolis on Nov. 16 on what we believe to be the last leg of our support-development for Uganda! We will be driving all the way to California and up the West Coast through Oregon to Washington until Nov. 26. Lord willing, we are leaving the U.S. for Manila on Dec. 4 and leaving the Philippines for Kampala in Jan. 2010.

Pray that the Lord will bring in more of the funds that we still need, particularly our outgoing funds, as we travel in the U.S. and in the Philippines. Our ACTION leaders will green-light our departure for Uganda as soon as the Lord brings in His full provision.

For those who have been inquiring: our "outgoing funds" (or one-time set-up funds) include air fares, the purchase of a reliable secondhand vehicle, deposit for apartment rental, installation of internet and telephone, basic furniture, appliances and household needs, and visas and other government requirements. Excess baggage charges to Uganda can run as high as \$50 per kg (or 2.2 lbs). This means that we will not be able to bring much with us except for what is allowed (30 kg or 66 lbs per passenger). Our "monthly support funds" refer to funds for our living expenses and ministry or work funds.

Prayer requests:

1 Pray that the Lord will guide us to the best and safest route to California. Our decision will depend mainly on the weather that the Lord will give us for the week of Nov. 16. The first route will have stopovers in Nebraska, Wyoming, and Nevada; the second, in Kansas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Both routes can be blocked by snow on the mountains of Wyoming or Arizona at this time of the year. We have a third route that will not go through any mountains but will entail longer driving hours. We are targeting only 8-10 hours of driving each day since I will be doing all the driving. Below is our

2 Thank the Lord with us for our longtime friend Ken! He has been a great blessing to us in ensuring that "Caleb," our 1999 Dodge Caravan, is roadworthy. And pray that God will enable Caleb to get the job done! Our minivan has about 160,000 miles on it (and the engine, about 125,000). We are choosing routes which will not require it to climb too much and too high but our faith is in our sovereign God and not on our itineraries!

3 Pray for us because the 10-day road trip will be full of meetings with friends and supporters on the West Coast. Our schedule is tight—and we will need much grace, reasonably good health, and much journey mercy from the Lord to pull it off. Pray for divine appointments and Christ-exalting fellowship and ministry at every stop. Pray also for wisdom as we pencil in as many invitations as we can from those who want to see us. We thank God for giving us so many precious friends in the U.S.! We praise God that both Rebecca and I enjoy road trips and each other's company very much! May our hearts be filled with worship toward God as we feast on the beauty of His creation!

4 When we arrive in Brier, WA, our schedule will be as follows, Lord willing:

5 Pray for our last two weeks in Minnesota as we allocate our time according to the Lord's priorities and meet with supporters, friends, and many brethren, as we finish up current ministry commitments, as we pack our belongings for the

Philippines and Uganda, as we say difficult goodbyes to brethren who have become so dear to us in so short a time! In a way, the brevity of the time we have left is a severe mercy from the Lord. Pray especially for Rebecca who finds these goodbyes one of the most formidable aspects of missionary life.

6 Pray for us as we are sent off by the following groups in Minnesota:

itinerary:

Nov. 16 Minneapolis, MN to Kearney, NE/Emporia, KS
Nov. 17 Kearney/Emporia to Rock Springs, WY/Tucumcari, NM
Nov. 18 Rock Springs/Tucumcari to Las Vegas, NV/Williams, AZ
Nov. 19 Las Vegas/Williams to Escondido, CA
Nov. 20 Escondido to Oceanside to Irvine, CA
Nov. 21 Irvine to Sun Valley to Vallejo, CA
Nov. 22 Speaking at at supporting church
Nov. 23 Vallejo, CA to La Pine, OR
Nov. 24 La Pine to Portland, OR
Nov. 25 Portland, OR to Bellingham, WA
Nov. 26 Bellingham to Brier, WA

Nov. 27 Packing of our stuff in WA and meetings with friends and supporters (also on Nov. 28, Dec. 1-3)
Nov. 29 Speaking at a supporting church and Northern Lights International Ministry
Nov. 30 Meetings with ACTION leaders
Dec. 4 Departure for Manila

Nov. 8 Commissioning service at Grace Baptist Church, Willmar Nov. 11 Sendoff by Desiring God brethren, Minneapolis Nov. 15 Commissioning service at Beacon of Hope Saint Paul, Saint Paul

May God be pleased to set His seal upon our calling and ministry in the hearts of our brethren and may His name be highly exalted at these gatherings!

1 Pray for our packing in Brier, WA. The container to Uganda will accommodate only our books and other donated items and we will need to dispose of our other belongings there.

2 Pray for our meetings with supporters, family, and friends in Manila. (We have four supporting churches in the Philippines.) Pray also for Rebecca's medical check-ups and our travel immunizations all of which will cost less in Manila than here in the U.S. Praise God with us that we had the exact amount of air miles for one-way tickets to Manila! (They were not enough for round-trip tickets to Uganda which is issuing only tourist visas right now. We will be processing our visa extensions when we get to Kampala.)

3 Pray for rental places for us in Kampala and in Gulu as we are oriented on the work there during our first four months in Uganda. Pray that our eyes and ears may be open to all that the Lord would be teaching us as we confirm our ministry locale. This would determine the language that we will be studying and, to a certain extent, the ministries we will be involved in. May the Lord guide us clearly as to where He would have us serve Him—and the particular ministries He is bringing us to Uganda for! Pray also for the Lord to knit together our hearts and the hearts of our team members so that we may receive one another as gifts from the Lord; pray for solid, biblical relationships to be established among us.

4 Pray for us as we work out the other logistics of our move to Uganda: sourcing our maintenance meds locally or arranging for them to be sent to us from the U.S. or the Philippines, looking for the doctors we need, buying our vehicle, identifying our language helper or teacher, getting together with trustworthy nationals who will help us get settled and oriented to the culture, and making contacts with likeminded churches and agencies in the country.

All systems go on the optical front: my eye doctors have cleared me for Uganda!

My last eye exam was moved from Oct. 29 to Nov. 5. The Ahmed shunt is definitely working! All glory to God! The pressure in my left eye was down to 14 where my doctors really want it to be. They have given me eye drops in the left eye too to further reinforce the effect of the shunt. Please continue to pray that God might heal the glaucoma on both of my eyes or at the very least halt further damage to my optic nerves.

The Lord keeps taking care of my eye. Last Monday, Oct. 26, we had to come back to Minneapolis from visiting friends in Moorhead, MN instead of continuing on to Bovey, MN. Our friend in Bovey had gotten sick and thought it best to cancel our visit. As we drove home, my left eye became increasingly red and swollen. By the grace of God, we were able to get an appointment with the VA Eye Clinic the following day. My eye had gotten infected and I was given antibiotic drops. The following day, we were able to leave for our overnight visit to friends in Royalton, MN and by Friday, the infection was clearing up. Praise to our almighty and loving Father!

Other updates/prayer requests

1. Thank the Lord for the following answered prayers:

Our application for the Minnesota state optical and dental benefit for veterans and their spouses was approved!

Rebecca was able to pick up her new eyeglasses last Oct. I was also able to order mine after my eye exam. · I have received my new electronic passport and the renewal of my driver's license, praise God! · The VA loaded us up with prescription meds and a new CPAP machine and supplies. Best of all, we were able to give *Seeing and Savoring Christ* and *For Your Joy* to our doctors and the VA staff who have become close to us and who have made our going to the VA Medical Center a joy! Soli Deo gloria!

1 Pray for Rebecca as she finishes the last few pages of the translation. Thank you for upholding her in prayer thus far.
2 Continue to pray for the faithful Ugandan men and women whom the Lord is preparing for us to disciple (2 Tim. 2:2, ESV). May our great God be glorified as we pour out our lives for them and into them! Pray also for Ugandans of all ages whom the Lord has appointed to hear the Gospel from our lips and see it in our lives. May many come to saving faith by

the preaching of "the power of God for salvation" (Rom. 1:16, ESV)!

4. Thank the Lord with us for the \$70,000 that has come in from God's people worldwide (including the Philippines) for the ACTION Philippines Crisis Relief Fund! The ACTION team in Manila has distributed relief goods and conducted medical clinics in some of the areas hardest-hit by Typhoon Ondoy.

Right now, they are praying for about \$40,000 more to help churches and ministries who lost their buildings and ministry equipment and families who lost everything to the flood. They are also praying for \$12,000 to be used for Bibles and books for about 400 pastors who lost their libraries.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support. You are a great blessing and encouragement to us! We rejoice that "God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints" (Heb. 6:10, ESV). May He bless you richly for the love that you have shown His name in loving us! Soli Deo gloria!

Going out joyfully for the sake of His matchless name,

Mike and Rebecca Watters

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Or send your gift for Mike and Rebecca Watters to: ACTION USA • PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 • Tel. 425.775.4800 • info@actionusa.org
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