

July 13, 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Missionary Training

Debbie and I completed a 4-week world mission training course in June with our mission agency, EMM (Eastern Mennonite Missions). We were impressed with the training. The teaching, speakers, and testimonies were very good. It is encouraging to hear the amazing things God is doing around the world. God is clearly at work and his kingdom is active.

Update on Debbie

Debbie is doing well. Her fears and manic symptoms are gone, and she attended nearly the entire missions training. She's had some depression since she left the hospital, but it has been steadily dissipating and is nearly gone now. She is much more like her old self, for which I am delighted, of course. I am so grateful to the Lord for her recovery.

We know that a great many of you have been praying for Debbie, for our family, and many of you have also sent us cards, letters, and emails. Though we have not responded to many of those, please know we very much appreciate your prayers and thoughts. Thank you, thank you!

Plans for Returning to Cambodia

We have talked with our supervisors. Because of Debbie's illness, there have been some changes in our plans to return to Cambodia. EMM will first want Debbie's doctor to approve her return to Cambodia. Currently, we are looking to return about early December. The idea is for Debbie to take it slow for most of July and August to ensure that she has completely recovered. Then this fall we hope to visit churches and supporters (you all) that we had originally planned to visit last spring, as that was the primary reason for this trip home to the States in the first place. I hope to soon begin contacting folks to see if we can still visit. I apologize for cancelling all the engagements this past spring that we had previously arranged with you all, but Debbie was simply not ready to go anywhere.

The boys are doing well. While they are glad the school year is over, they did well in school and I think they even enjoyed some of it.

Update on Work in Cambodia

I do not have many details about what is happening in our work back in Cambodia, but I have received a number of brief positive reports from an EMM missionary colleague in Cambodia who has been visiting our area. He says he has been impressed with the Cambodian staff and church leaders - good news.

About My Father

I know that a number of you know my father, Bob (Robert) Coats, who worked in Thailand as a missionary for many years, and now lives in Indianapolis. He is 80 years old. He had a brain hemorrhage and seizure a few days ago, and was in a coma for a day, but he is recovering quickly now and so far shows little evidence of paralysis or other problems. We are with him now.

Thank you all again so much for your prayers for Debbie and our family.
By God's grace, John Coats