

Luce Leaf Notebook

Insert No. 57

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When we arrived in the US almost two years ago, a pastor/friend shared a verse with us. He typed on a small 3X5 card "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11, NIV). Those few words have taken on deep meaning for us in the time since then, as we have seen His plans unfold.

On January 4 of this year, Lois' Mom went to be with the Lord, and just last week, on May 1, my Dad also was promoted to glory. We are saddened by our loss, but rejoice at their gain. They both knew the Lord's plans for them were best, and though their physical bodies were growing weaker, they both looked forward with assurance to the joy of being with their Lord. We rejoice that His plans for us included the opportunity to minister to Lois' Mom by caring for her for the last two and a half years. While we have been in the States we have had several opportunities to spend time with my folks in Florida as well.

My studies continue to go well, challenging me to intellectual growth and spiritual alertness as I seek to share my faith on a secular university campus. The Lord has graciously opened the door on several occasions for me to express my Christian philosophy of education to professors and classmates alike. There has been at least one Hispanic student in every class I have taken so far, so I have been able to keep from getting too rusty in using the Spanish language. Praise God for a receptive spirit on the part of several, and please continue to pray that I will be able to communicate my faith effectively.

The Lord provided a special opportunity for me to serve Him in Africa last week. The International Ministries Director for ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) asked me to lead a team of consultants to do an evaluation of an MK school in Cote d'Ivoire. Four Christian educators came from four continents to spend ten days at the International Christian Academy in Bouaké, and offer some recommendations as the school looks for a new director

and as they prepare for renewal of their accreditation status with ACSI and the MSA (a public school accrediting organization.) It was like a dream come true for me to be able to use the preparation that God is giving me now at the University of Massachusetts, together with other experienced missionary educators, as a service to this MK school. I came back to the US this weekend with a renewed eagerness to serve the Lord in ministry with the MK education community.

As my classroom work in the doctoral program at UMass is winding down, Lois and I have talked to the folks at TEAM headquarters, and we will be re-activating with the Mission as of July 1, 1998. While I finish up my coursework at UMass, we will be visiting churches this fall in preparation for our return to Venezuela. I will be taking comprehensive exams in July and October, and we plan to head for the field as soon as the Lord provides full support. I also hope to travel to Bolivia in January of 1999 to participate in the MKOA convention of MK educators. This is the same group which met in Guatemala in 1996.

This intense study program and time of caregiving would have been physically and emotionally impossible without your encouragement and prayer. It is our privilege to serve Him as your representatives in obeying the Great Commission. We are workers together in accomplishing His plans.

Roger, Lois, Kevin and Chris

UPDATE on our own MKs' plans: Kevin is beginning his second year as Youth Director at the Mullein Hill Baptist Church in Lakeville. He is engaged to Bridget Thompson, a WONDERFUL girl he met at Houghton. We'd love to see many of you at their wedding on July 11. Chris is not revealing his plans to add a creative element to the occasion. This summer he wants to work as an EMT and is preparing to enter his junior year at Houghton in the Fall.