

August, 2008

I just returned from two weeks of vacation, and am catching up on correspondence. Thanks for your ongoing interest and investment in God's work around the world through TEAM. We really appreciate you, and are glad to share some of what He is doing through our work here, along with some prayer requests for your participation.

The month of July is a very busy month every year for the Centre for Lifelong Learning here at TEAM. This year it started out with a week of orientation for 20 short term workers (**TEAMServe**), heading for Japan, Central Asia, Germany and Switzerland.



Missionary appointees at **phasetwo** orientation

They left on Saturday afternoon July 12, and by evening we had begun the next week of **phasetwo** and **phasetwo** orientation for 31 adults and 22 MKs preparing for long-term ministry in Africa, Japan, France, Czech Republic, and two different countries in Central Asia. Along with these missionaries, we had representatives from four of their sending churches, who joined our sessions. They were here to help us learn how we can best "help churches send missionaries to establish

reproducing churches among the nations for the glory of God."

The last week of July, we had 116 missionaries with 76 MKs from 27 different countries here for **REAP**, a week of fellowship and learning for missionaries on Home Assignment. They were joined by TEAM Board members, and 26 church representatives from the sending churches of 20 different missionaries, again to strengthen and enrich the partnership among our missionaries, TEAM, and the churches that we are helping to send them.

I was involved in each of these three sessions as a presenter, a group facilitator, and as part of the organizing/planning committees that ran them.

In between **phasetwo** and **REAP**, I (Roger) experienced some neurological symptoms on Tuesday, July 22, which were diagnosed as a TIA (a temporary loss of oxygen to the brain, similar to a stroke, but without any permanent damage). The next few days were filled with an alphabet of tests (CAT, MRI, MRA, EKG, CBC etc.) , and then came the visits with doctors to act on the results. The results were all normal, with no specific pathology to cause the TIA, so the consensus is that it was related to high stress combined with my high risk



Roger facilitates a discussion at **REAP**

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factors of weight, inadequate consistent exercise, and family history. My new task is to lower the risk factors by lifestyle changes in order to avoid future episodes.

August is a “quiet” month, and I am using these next few weeks to finalize an online learning tool for our missionaries that will help them learn the details of financial forms, accountability and reporting while they are doing deputation. In September, preparations begin again for the next **phasetwo** and **phasefour** orientation coming up in October. Also during September, we (the Centre for Lifelong Learning) will be meeting with TEAM’s Global Leadership Team to continue mapping out our leadership development strategy. We are building on the things we learned from our Leadership Development Pilot Project in Asia last year, and extending the scope of the leadership development attitude to all levels within the mission. This will bring considerable added responsibility to the Centre staff as we design, resource, and implement the strategy that emerges from our discussions.

Please pray for wisdom, shared understanding and vision, and for skillful use of resources in order to extend God’s kingdom through the work he asks us to do. Lois and I would appreciate your prayer for us as we work at following our regimen for healthy living more strictly. Thanks for being our partners in this exciting ministry.

In Christ,
Roger and Lois Luce

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