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PUZZLING REFLECTIONS



Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

1 Corinthians 13:12 New Living Translation

Dear Family and Friends-

What does it look like to move forward without knowing? For me this means that I will continue to make plans but strive to hold onto them more loosely. It is my tendency to hold tightly to my plans and because of this, I feel like a lot has changed since my June update. But in reality, only my timeline has changed, I am still moving in the same direction.

My life and work may look different whether I am overseas or in the US but my job with MTW is to build up the church wherever I am. While I am overseas, my work focuses on literacy and mercy ministries. In the US, my work includes other tasks like visiting churches, plugging into church communities and sharing about life, literacy and the international church.

However, while I am currently in the United States, my heart remains overseas. I want to be doing literacy work with either the Roma people in Košice, Slovakia or an Aboriginal community in Perth, Australia. After much prayer, I can see myself living well and competently working in either place. I have an invitation to join the team in Slovakia and if I accept it, I will begin Slovak classes in Sacramento. Australia is the current wild card and I have a visit planned to Perth during the first two weeks of November. This visit is required by the team before making my final decision. God has given me this time in between now and November to pray and wait. Please pray with me, specifically for God's direction, wisdom and peace.

After the decision has been made, I will begin the task of raising support. In March 2013 I am planning on attending final training in Atlanta and in an ideal world I would have all additional support raised by then. But I realize that with the higher (compared to PNG) cost of living in both of these places, it may take longer to reach that goal. I am fortunate enough to have a base of supporters already. Thank you and please keep giving. If you are interested in where this money goes, I have included a breakdown on the back page.

I find it challenging to be looking into the future with so many unknowns. But I am confident that while I am puzzling over what I see reflected back to me, God already has a clear and complete picture.

Contact Joy!

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Embracing the Unknown-

Joy Candee :-)

- ◆ Pray for wisdom, peace and direction during the decision making process.
- ◆ Pray specifically for the choice between Slovakia and Australia.
- ◆ Pray for the Roma people in Košice.
- ◆ Pray for the Aboriginal people in Perth.
- ◆ Pray for my future team.
- ◆ Pray that I would make the most of my time in the US with family and friends.
- ◆ Pray for new support both financially and through prayer.
- ◆ Pray for new relationships with churches.
- ◆ Pray for community while I am in California.
- ◆ Pray for future community where I will be serving next.
- ◆ Pray for peace with the changing timeline.
- ◆ Simply pray.

The Financial Side

Thank you to those of you who supported me while I was in Papua New Guinea and who continue to support me during this transition. In an effort to be transparent and answer any questions you might have regarding what you are supporting I have tried summarizing my costs to give you a picture of how your support is used while I am overseas and while I am in the US. My expenses have not changed dramatically since arriving back in California, they simply reflect the change in ministry focus.

Admin Fee– 10%

Health Care– This is actually a large part of my monthly needs but I am thankful for good coverage that works all over the world. This also includes medevac insurance.

Salary– This is a set amount that I use to cover living expenses, food, gasoline (in the US) and anything else at my discretion. This is how I afford my special extras like cheese in Papua New Guinea and beer in the US.

Retirement/Life Insurance/Disability/Medicare/FICA– Normal work expenses that all come out of the support I raise.

Communications– Whether I am overseas or in the US, I have a budget for communicating with my supporters. The internet and email help me to keep this cost fairly low.

Housing– In PNG I had a monthly housing allowance which I would also be eligible for in the US. However, because of the higher US cost, I have been trying to save money by living with family and friends.

Travel– In PNG I mostly paid for flights to and from the village. Now this cost has been transferred to the vision trips. These trips have been vital in taking steps towards future overseas work and the teams require them.

Ministry– In PNG this was everything from printing curriculum to lawn mowers, board games to workshop materials and more. In the US this is the gas it takes for me to get to speaking engagements, meetings with supporters and miscellaneous costs that come up when connecting with churches and making presentations.

Other Costs– Visas, Shipping, Credit Card Processing Fees (for those donations given by credit card), Other Agency Fees, etc.