

July 2008

Dear Friends of City In Focus – Asian Ministries:

With the current warm weather, summer has finally arrived. I want to wish you all a happy Canada Day!

At the end of May, I went to emergency at St. Paul's Hospital because my heart was beating irregularly and at a high rate. I had experienced this (atrial fibrillation) before in the past but only for short periods of time. However, this episode lasted about 3 days. So my wife suggested that I go to emergency to have it checked out. The ER team was unable to convert my heart back to sinus or normal rhythm and I was admitted into the Cardiac Care Unit for further examinations. While in the hospital for the next five days, I was given various medications to control my heart rhythm and beat, but to no avail. Finally, on the last day just prior to being discharged, the cardiologist prescribed a "last resort" medication, which seemed to work. My heart has been mostly in sinus rhythm and at a normal rate. The concern with the medication is the possible side effects that may come with use over a longer term. My prayer request is that I would not have any side effects from this medication or that the cardiologist would prescribe a different and less potent medication for the longer term.

**Wallet Open:** The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic and auction were held on June 18<sup>th</sup> to help raise funds to send underprivileged, inner-city kids to summer camps. City In Focus is very pleased and grateful to announce that over \$40,000 was raised from the event. We thank all those who participated for their generosity!

**Staff News:** We want to thank **Dana Telep**, Manager of Operations, for her 3 years of faithful service at CIF. She and her husband, Andrew, who recently completed his seminary degree at Regent College, are leaving Vancouver to go back east. Let's welcome **Hannah Lee**, who recently joined as Events Manager. She along with **Crystal Chu**, Office Manager, will be running the office until we find someone to replace Dana.

### ***Reflections of a Christian in the Marketplace:***

A Christian brother who has organized a number of study trips over the years to the Holy Lands, recently shared about the preparations in the weeks leading up to the groups' departures. He would have a series of orientation meetings in preparation for these trips, which included schedules, hotel accommodations, places to see, contact information, etc. – which all could be changed at a moment's notice for various reasons.

For that reason, during the preparation times he always stressed the need for flexibility – a willingness to go with the flow and adjust to whatever changes they might encounter, given the sometime volatile situation in and around Israel. Even life seems to have an element of unpredictability for which flexibility is the best response.

While in the hospital, I spent time reading the Bible. I came across a passage in the book of James in the New Testament that spoke clearly to me as I 'reluctantly' rested from my normal activities. In Chapter 4, James expressed a worldview of flexibility, similar to what my Christian brother alluded to. While it is wise to plan for the future, we must do so with the recognition that God's purposes might be different from ours. Instead of rigidly saying, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." (v. 13), James counselled us to be flexible to God's direction in our lives. James continued in verse 15: "Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"

The adventure of following Christ is one that rests in His perfect plans and not necessarily ours. We still need to make plans, but we also need to be flexible. Flexibility helps us to be prepared (and not be disappointed) for whatever His purposes might take us. Have a great summer!

Blessings and shalom!

Bill Wong

### ***Upcoming events:***

- The **City In Focus monthly breakfasts** ended in June and will start up again in September.
- **BC Leadership Weekend**, Resort at Semiahmoo on October 24-26, 2008. More information to come

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