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Dwight and Mary Kay Martin Serving with MAF in SE Asia



How far would you travel for help?

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to SE Asia. One of the purposes of the trip was to meet with ministries interested in MAF's Learning Technologies. One ministry I met with is a counseling ministry located in southern China.

Today in China, there are widespread family and social problems due to many reasons, including:

- *The country's single child family policy*
- *Lingering effects of the Cultural Revolution*
- *The government's mandatory teaching on atheism*
- *The country's rapidly changing economic and social structures*
- *Very few Christians in China are trained to deal with family and social problems*

An example is a call received from a Christian couple who live in the NW corner of China. They had been struggling with marriage problems and could not find anyone who could provide Christian counsel to help them. When a missionary told them about the discipleship and counseling ministry located in southern China, they were willing to travel for **five days and nights** by railroad to receive help.

To allow more Christians to be helped and not have to travel so far, this counseling ministry has been asked by church leaders to expand to other locations. For this to occur they need to train and disciple other Christians throughout China in how to counsel others.

MAF's Learning Technologies has been asked to assist them in training other counselors through the use of computer technology.

Jesus is my favorite...

When I was in Asia, I visited Singapore, Thailand, and China. In Singapore, I had a conversation with a young man from India, named Salim. We met in the lobby of the Garden Hotel where we were staying.

During our conversation, he told me that he was a believer in God and that all the major religions have the same God, whether they were Christians, Muslims, or Hindus. He continued to say that he believed God has sent 10 "avatars" (messengers from God) throughout history to help mankind. These avatars consisted of Adam, Noah, Moses, Ramah, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammad, his current

spiritual leader and the 10th avatar is yet to come.

He then said that of all the "avatars", **Jesus is my favorite**. There was something about Jesus that made him different. I told him that I did not find that surprising because He is different from the others, and that God was revealing that to him.

After further discussion about who Jesus is, the grace He provides and that He died on the cross, Salim prayed to accept Jesus as his Savior that evening in the hotel lobby.

Please pray for Salim that he will meet Christians to continue to disciple him.



Learning Technologies' planning meeting in China

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Our Family Plans

We have had numerous changes in our lives over the past months. We praise the Lord that Dwight has completely recovered from the surgery he had last fall. In fact, he has been able to go bike riding and exercise with the blessings of his cardiologist. He is amazed that his heart does not hurt at all even when he is biking hard. Dwight is finishing his employment agreement at his job and calling on individuals and churches to complete our monthly ministry support need.

Mary Kay is finishing up at the school where she has worked for the past nine years. Last week, they surprised her with a farewell luncheon. Now she will be able to concentrate on getting things ready and packed for our move to Thailand.

Timothy is enjoying school at Samford University. He still has at least a year and a half of education before he graduates with a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science/Geographic Information Systems.

Crystal has changed plans and is no longer attending Asbury College after one semester. She liked Asbury and developed some dear friends there but decided that playing flute was an important part of her life and did not want to give it up. Currently she is working at Starbucks while she looks for a new college that will allow her to develop her music abilities. Currently, she is considering Baylor University or the University of Alabama.

After much prayer and discussion with friends, we have chosen not to sell our house and instead, decided to rent part of it. This way our children will live in a familiar place, and it will give them a sense of stability.

Timothy will be staying at the house and we are praying for a couple of guys to rent the two extra rooms to help pay for the mortgage and expenses. We will still have a room available for Crystal when she is back from college. When the kids have finished college and find a place of their own, we will either sell the house at that time or rent it out.



Buddhist Worshippers

Praise

- ◆ 90% of our monthly ministry support has been raised.
- ◆ All our outgoing ministry support has been raised.
- ◆ Dwight has completely recovered from last year's surgeries.

Prayer

- ◆ New members to join our financial and prayer team.
- ◆ Wisdom for Crystal in determining which college she should attend.
- ◆ We will find Christian guys to rent the spare rooms in our house.

Our Current Status: Confirmation Needed!

We are so grateful for you who have joined our prayer and ministry support team! You have enabled us to reach the **90% monthly support** goal, and to attend our final training classes. MAF would like us to **depart for our ministry in Thailand on May 22, 2006!**

Before our tickets can be purchased in April, MAF requires us to have **confirmation** of **100% monthly support**. We would like to invite you to help us in one of the following ways:

- 1) **Please begin** - if you have indicated your desire to partner with us, but have not done so, please begin now in sending in your financial support so two months of giving can be recorded by May.
- 2) **Please consider**- prayerfully, if God is calling you to be part of this ministry to spread His word in Southeast Asia. You can join our team by filling out the envelope that came with this letter and indicating when you will begin your support.
- 3) **Please pray** - that the additional \$500 in needed monthly ministry support will be received and confirmed.
- 4) **Please note** – MAF does not “bill” you or send you a reminder for your donation. Your receipt acts as a reminder of the next gift.

Thank you for helping us begin our ministry in serving the people of Southeast Asia.

