

December 2008

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*Elsbeth has decided that she needs a turn to speak, so this comes mostly from her....*

Dear faithful prayer warriors,

“He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.” Psalm 50:23 NIV

September 9, 2008 was an important milestone for me! I want to offer to the Lord my heartfelt thank offerings for bringing me to the five year anniversary of my breast cancer diagnosis. Hallelujah! Five years ago my prognosis was very grim – the doctor told me that I had less than a 50% chance of surviving five years. How merciful the Lord has been to me in hearing and answering the prayers of so many of you, offered on my behalf. After two and a half years of treatment I continue to be well and just “graduated” to yearly checkups with my oncologist. How thankful I am for the daily strength and health God gives me to care for our family and home school our children (only the last five now, still!). Thank you to each one who has lifted me up to the throne of grace. It astonishes me when people tell me they still pray regularly for me – thank you for your labors of love for us all.

Our move back to the USA from England just over three years ago was precipitated by a number of reasons, one of which was concern over my health. Another was to be more available to my parents as they became more frail. (Lewis’ parents had both passed away the year I was diagnosed with breast cancer.) The last few months have been especially stressful , as both of my parents have become more needy, necessitating numerous trips to Lookout Mountain, Georgia, to support them. Pray for us as we juggle work and family needs with caring for aging and ill parents.

It has been our joy to have our whole immediate family nearby in this season of our lives. How excited we all are to welcome the newest member of our family next May, our first grandchild, expected by our oldest son Wim and his wife Libby! Wim told me it was my birthday present to become “Grandma”.

Lewis continues to slog through philanthropy magazines and foundations websites, searching for potential interested donors who might provide the capital funding for various CLC projects. The most urgent need is for the planned bookshop in Astana, Kazakhstan, a project that is close to being ready to launch and which has been long in the works. In the grand scheme of things, CLC's project needs are very modest, and once a bookshop is operational, it is largely self-funding. Still, the bookshops cannot be launched without the needed start up capital, and for struggling servants in needy countries, this is a daunting task. Please pray for the Lord to provide the funding for the Kazakhstan project as well as for the China project next in the pipeline. Pray for encouragement for Lewis as he perseveres in this fundraising effort, which is tedious and for which results are slow in coming. We desire to be faithful on a daily basis.

To break up the monotony of writing countless foundations for project support, Lewis has enjoyed stocking our "Books for You" (free for overseas workers) bookroom in our garage. We love it when folks come and browse and take away books, the more the better! For a true booklover like Lewis, nothing gives him more joy than to pass on a good book, especially to a fellow harvest worker. Please spread the word that we have a ministry book closet!

We enjoyed a cultural diversion recently as we welcomed Lewis' Chinese friend, Louis, and his wife, Grace, into our home. Lewis had attended their wedding last April in China and it was a pleasure for me to meet these fellow laborers from China.

Lewis will be traveling again early next year. In January he will go to Pakistan to orientate the new Asia Director to the team and work there, passing on the responsibilities that he has carried for the last number of years. Then he will attend the CLC semiannual leadership meetings in Sheffield, England. I wish I could go with him! In March, Lewis plans to go to China again with some local fellow laborers. Pray for safety and profitable days as opportunities are explored.

We value your continued interest in and support of our family. In these times of economic crisis we are more aware than ever how dependent we are on how God uses you to enable us to do what we do. We thank you and trust that God will bless you and keep you faithful to him as well.

Have a blessed celebration of the birth of our Savior that we all desire to honor and serve.

With deep gratitude,

Elsbeth & Lewis Codington

### ***LC's Good Reading List...***

I think I can safely say that for the first time in memory, I have enjoyed reading through Jeremiah and Ezekiel, both of which I completed recently. What was so special about this time compared to all the previous wanderings through these long and at times depressing books? A pen. This time through, I have used a wide margin Bible for my reading, and just the fact of holding a pen in my hand as I read has made me more thoughtful and focused in my readings. Adding questions and comments next to the verses has given me an enjoyment in my devotions

that I don't believe I have ever experienced before. If you haven't tried this before, I would challenge you to do it for a couple of months...you may get hooked. Two Bibles I've loved using so far have been the ESV Journaling Bible (though the print size is a little small) and the NLT Notemaker's Bible. Both are great and can be ordered online.

Switching over to my favorite topic these days (China), Liang Heng's book, "Son of the Revolution", (amazon.com) is an easy to read but agonizing narrative of a family's anguish and heartbreak as they travel through the upheavals of the Cultural Revolution in the 1960's and 1970's. It's amazing to think how recently it was that those events took place compared to how China is growing and progressing today. LC

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[www.clcusa.org](http://www.clcusa.org)  
Unique in its global vision and approach is CLC with its 178 Christian bookshops in 54 countries.  
Patrick Johnstone, Operation World

"I pray only when I am in trouble; but I am in trouble all the time so I pray all the time." Isaac Singer

"We can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!" Romans 5 Message

"There is never a time when you are not in his thoughts, close to his side, and near to his heart. His presence in your life is not a small thing or a big thing - it is everything." Roy Lessin