

October 14, 2011

Dear Brother Steve and all the beloved at Faith Community Church of God,

The psalmist has shared in the turmoil of our souls, and points the way to the blessing of God's grace and mercy given to us.

“Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.” Psalm 107: 28-30

It has now been over three months since Cheryl slipped the bonds of this earthly life and peacefully entered the reward on which we in faith have set our hearts. It still does not seem real to me at times. Sometimes I call out her name in the house, somehow being comforted just by the sound of it.

I returned to Japan on August 2nd, having seen our kids off to their places of service on July 27th. Since coming back I have kept quite busy, attending the annual Japanese Church of God summer conference, climbing Mt. Fuji with Cheryl's picture in my vest pocket (it was our 8th time up!), visiting and serving briefly in the earthquake/tsunami ravaged coastal area of Miyagi prefecture, and spending time in Kobe helping in the orientation of new SAM Nelecia Murrell and seeing our beloved church family there. There was an informal memorial service for Cheryl in Kobe, and then a well-planned service here in Tokyo sponsored by the Japanese Church of God Renmei (Assembly). School at Tamagawa Seigakuin started on September 1st and things have been a blur since then. Right now, though, busy is good.

I am writing now to send you my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to Cheryl's memorial fund. I have purposely waited until the use of this fund could be clarified. Soon after her death I began correspondence with the Church of God in Meghalaya, northeast India to discuss a plan for the use of Cheryl's fund. Back in the summer of 1997 we spent three weeks serving the church and teaching in and around Shillong,

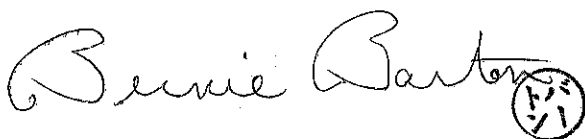
Meghalaya. It was at that time that Brother Amos Moore, then a missionary sent by the Meghalayan Mission Board and pioneer of the Church of God in Nepal, shared his vision for a mission to the Tibetan people living in north-central India. Our hearts were ignited by his passion and since then we have had many opportunities to pray for and support this mission, now being carried on by Kynsai Mihsill, a missionary sent from the Meghalayan Mission Board and his Japanese wife, Chiyomi. Cheryl went several times to the region to encourage and support their work and was always a faithful correspondent and prayer warrior for this difficult work among the mostly unreached Tibetan people.

Just this past spring we got a letter in which Kynsai and Chiyomi shared an expanded vision of building a ministry center for the work there. In their letter they shared the need to first of all purchase a piece of land. With the encouragement of Bro. Moore and the agreement of the Meghalayan Mission Board it has been decided to use Cheryl's memorial fund for the purchase of the land for building this ministry center. I am so excited about this. Cheryl and I spoke together about this need back when we first received that letter, and because her heart was filled with the burden for this work, I know that this is what Cheryl wanted.

I am so happy to tell you that through the generous giving of many people in the United States and Japan we have now received about \$25,000, just over half the cost of the land. I am now in consultation with the Mihsills and the Meghalayan Mission Board about the timing and means of sending this money. Please continue to pray that God will be glorified and His Kingdom advanced among the Tibetan people living in exile in northern India.

May God continue to bless you and fill you with joy as He uses you in His service.

In Christ,



Bernard Barton

Dear Steve,
The book mark is
from Tama Sei - one
for you and one for Jan
to remember your days
of teaching here. God bless!