

Praise and Prayer Update August 2008

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled in the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19 NIV.

We stand in awe at God's love that fills our lives in so many ways. We are excited to share what he has been doing since our last update. "Thank you" to those who pray for us and those who support our ministry financially. God uses your prayers and help to make our ministry possible and to love others through us.

- **April 18 - 28**, we had safe travel by car to **NC and GA**. We were able to introduce Joseph Kavuli, Child Evangelism Fellowship Director of Central and East Africa, to several churches in Augusta. He came to the U.S. for CEF International conferences and to raise support for his African ministry with CEF leaders. We also participated in a five day mission conference at Hickory Community Chapel in NC the end of April.
- We celebrated David's 80th birthday, May 20, with close friends for a dinner party. He continues to enjoy good health, praise God!
- **June 7 - 23**, we traveled by plane to **Kansas City, MO**, where we helped James and Kyleen's family prepare for **Sheila's wedding to Brian Weller**, June 21. See picture below. It was a productive time preparing James and Kyleen's "future home" to house people in the wedding party and us. David worked on electrical wiring and installed two bathrooms. James and Sheila prepared walls and sanded. Kyleen painted (as well as purchased food for the wedding). Sylvia cleaned floors, doors and windows, also helped with food. We enjoyed it when the house guests - our granddaughter Heidi and great-grandson Mitchel, and the wedding party - arrived. We were blessed. **It was a beautiful outdoor wedding in a park. God gave them perfect weather.** James and Kyleen hope to move their family into the house by late fall. There is still a lot to do. Continue to **pray** for Heidi and the ongoing custody battle concerning Mitchel.
- **God gave Sylvia rapid healing** in her left eye (three months) and she had the **cornea transplant** in the right eye **June 27**. The donor graft adhered right away and she already can read with it. She was Dr. Reinhart's last patient at the Metro Health Surgical Center in Cleveland, before his retirement. The phrase from an old hymn keeps coming to Sylvia's mind "Once I was blind, but now I can see." God be praised! Please **pray** for complete healing. We have another health issue - Sylvia has a tooth that needs extensive work. We hope it can be done by a dentist in Augusta, when we go to GA for the SLM board meeting in September. The cost is much more reasonable there (+-\$700).
- **July 18 - 28** we traveled to Iowa and Missouri. A supporting church, Fellowship Bible Church in Oskaloosa, IA (where we met), celebrated their 60th anniversary the first weekend. It was a great reunion with other missionaries and old friends. Monday through Friday, we helped James and Kyleen, in Kansas City, put a new kitchen (plumbing, electrical wiring and framing) in the home they bought. It is

- ready for the wall board. We spoke at another supporting church, Christian Bible Church, in Ferguson, IA, July 27. Then a quick trip to see our grandson and wife, Nathan and Joyce De Jong, in Dubuque, IA, over night and home on Monday. Nathan and Joyce are expecting our next great grandchild (# 8) in November.
- **Translations** - We are waiting for confirmation of publishing for the **Spanish** translation of Sylvia's book by ELA Publishers, CAM International's publication ministry in Mexico. The **Kiswahili** translation process is temporarily on hold while the translator works on his doctorate thesis. God has provided a Kiswahili editor in Tanzania to help the translation have a wider area of understanding and use. We have had many requests to have the book translated into **Kikamba**. Several possible translators did not work out. We attended a Kenyan church recently in Kansas City. While there, we met a man from Machakos who is from the Kamba tribe and knows the Manza widows. He has a degree in literature and enjoys translation work. He has volunteered to do the Kikamba translation. The first draft of the **Chinyanja/Chichewa** translation is nearing completion. Davison Zulu, the translator, is seeking out a Malawi editor as this tribal language is used both in Zambia and Malawi. **Pray** for God to meet Davison and Jean's financial needs as they are going through hard times, with their large family.
 - **Rhonda**, Sylvia's daughter, has applied for her required Masters studies at Malone University. If accepted, she will both teach and begin the courses in the fall. She recently had an MS exacerbation and received strong steroids to bring it under control. **Pray** God will grant her a quick recovery. Her son, **Shawn**, continues to manage his bipolar disorder fairly well. He has completed the first segment of job rehabilitation well. Now it is his responsibility to schedule and conduct interviews, write reports and other paper work to complete assignments. **Pray** for maturity and growth through this process. He hopes to begin college courses this fall.
 - We requested prayer for "**Rose**" a widow seeking asylum in the U.S. The court hearings are over. Both lawyers will present their closing arguments in writing and the judge will make her decision. **Pray!** "Rose" will learn of the final decision concerning political asylum in November. She needs **a job** and God's **protection** for her and her sons, who remain in Africa at this time. She will begin the process for the family to be reunited, once asylum is granted. It has been four years since she and her three young sons were separated. Praise God, her international tribunal testimony went well and He granted safety, housing, and close friends to be with her. Thank you to those who prayed.
 - **Adam** was released from prison in June. He is living at home and working with his father. He is interested in pursuing barber school. **Pray** that his relationship with the Lord will deepen and that he will recognize his specific needs. This is a critical period of time for him as a new believer. **Pray** for **Bob and Denise**, his parents, to be wise with tough love.
 - **Praise God** for **one new support resource** since our April Update. We are trusting God to meet our medical, dental and car expenses. We praise His name for His faithfulness.

- **We praise the Lord** for God's provision of \$700 through our Sunday School Class to help **Janet**, a Kamba student at Scott Theological College, to stay in school and continue her preparations to minister to widows. See picture below. Her internship was in her home church, AIC Muunyini, where she ministered to the widows, teaching them Bible studies from Sylvia's book. **Pray** God will provide the **\$1,657** she now needs to complete her education. If you would like to help, send us the check, made out to Scott Theological College Foundation and write "Janet Nzioka" in the memo line. The full amount will go toward her tuition.
- **August 21 - September 10** we hope to travel to Georgia and Florida. This is a multipurpose trip (like usual). Sylvia will be having dental work and David hopes to make a DVD of his Ghana trip, plus time with the De Jong clan. We want to be with our daughter-in-law Ruthi's parents, Art & Evie Yohner, life time missionaries, as they celebrate the close of 52 years of ministry on August 30, in Bradenton, FL and enjoy time with Mark and Ruthi and their family. SLM board meetings are Sept. 8 - 9 and we hope to return home Wednesday, September 10. **Please pray for safety and God's provision for the trips.**
- **March/April 2009** - We have a number of invitations and many open doors to minister in several countries of **Africa**. We want to say yes, however, we are aware that it will take miraculous provisions from God for it to happen. If it is His will for us to go, He will make it clear and He will provide financially. Please pray for us as we slowly move forward with plans to meet with translators and editors, search out publishers for the translations, as we do research and preparation work for the seminars we've been asked to lead, and as we determine where and when to travel. We want God's direction and His purposes to be fulfilled. If He says, "No, stay home", then we will do that. It is in His Hands. **Pray** for God to provide the \$5,000 - 7,000 for trip expenses according to His plan. If you wish to help, send a check to Interlink with De Jong Africa Trip in the memo line.

With love,

David and Sylvia De Jong

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Janet Nzioka – Student at Scott



Bryon and Sheila Weller with
David and Sylvia

