

September 2007 De Jong Newsletter

Tucked away in Ephesians 5:15 and 16 is a verse that should be a part of every believer's life in these days of huge transition. It says, **“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”**

The days are indeed evil. Wherever we turn, we see evil events and people doing evil things to each other and to others. While we were in Kansas City during early August helping James with a remodeling project, just a few blocks away the police had two shootouts with drug dealers and peddlers. A drug lord was killed, others involved were captured and jailed, but some policemen were also injured in the process of doing their job of protecting the community. A funeral was held, at the church next door, for a married couple. The husband shot his wife, then shot himself. In the meantime, behind the scenes, James and Kyleen are committed to being God's instruments of reconciliation and peace by making use of the **opportunities** around them. It was a joy for three generations of De Jongs to be working together on their home, even though it was over a 100 degrees while we were pouring concrete. **Pray they will be light in the darkness.**

What a difference it makes when we seek to “be careful” the way we live. Also, while in Kansas City, we were able to visit with a Kenyan family that is in the U.S seeking to be wise by getting an education that will help them make the most of every **opportunity**. The father, who is retired, came to KC with his wife, Rachel, to visit the family and while here is taking some Bible courses from Carver. He has offered to help Sylvia by editing her book being translated into Kiswahili and has offered to translate it into his own mother tongue. While in their home it was such a testimony as they invited us to join the family as they gathered together after the evening meal to read Scripture, discuss it, pray and also have the children quote the memory verses they were learning.

We also saw the way a very wealthy man makes a difference by using his wealth to develop boundless **opportunities** for young men and women who have been unwise and were not careful in the way they lived. Not only is he providing healing by his lifestyle example, but also by providing jobs as these young men and women try to find themselves. He has the largest dairy herd in the state of Missouri where these young people can learn a trade and work, but he also established several other professional **opportunities**, such as a print shop, an auto repair shop, a gas station, a restaurant, a cannery and a lodge, so these young people can learn trades, a work ethic, and earn money at the same time they find healing for their soul and mind. This 80 year old man, Charlie Sharpe, is now concentrating some of his effort on evangelistic crusades as well. As we were eating together on Sunday, he was sharing with us the exciting crusades he had in Egypt and Syria. That is right – Syria. In fact, he was so well received in both countries that they begged him to come back for more such crusades. He shared how many accepted Christ. You talk about “making use of every **opportunity**.” You may learn more about the above ministries by going to www.heartland-ministries.org.

As we met with the missionaries we served with in South Africa, we were encouraged that so many of them in their latter seventies and early eighties still actively serve their Lord. We also are desirous of following the admonition of these verses “ to be careful how we live, by being wise, and making use of every **opportunity**”, which for us means, we will continue to serve our Lord without going into retirement as long as He gives us health and a sound mind.

The **BIG opportunity** before us at the moment is getting Sylvia’s book, *Widows of the Old Testament*, to as many women as possible. Yes, her book is now published in English, and you may purchase it through www.essencepublishers.com or it can be ordered through your local bookstore. You may also get it directly from us. Sylvia is currently working on **Bible study guides** for students and teachers, and these will be available on our web site, www.dejongministries.com. **Pray for their completion.**

Another big **opportunity** is the translation of her book into other languages. It has been translated into Spanish and is being edited. Several other languages are in the translation stage. Next year, Lord willing, we will make a trip to Africa to monitor these translations and to look for a publisher and distributor. All of this takes money, so if the Lord should nudge you to help us publish these translations or with travel expenses, you may send your gifts to Interlink ministries Inc designated “De Jong Widow Project” Their address is below. **Pray for wisdom for the translators – Beth, Paul, Davison and Prudence.**

Another **opportunity** we had was when we stayed overnight in a motel in Indianapolis. In the morning when we had breakfast in the motel, we bowed our heads to pray. Afterwards the Mexican lady attending to the food came to our table and asked Sylvia, “What can you tell me about God?” As other guests listened, Sylvia shared the gospel with her. She was so excited and told us she was a believer. Later, in the hall she stopped Sylvia and asked her to share the gospel with her sister and cousin, who did not speak English, so as Sylvia shared, she translated into Spanish. Since they were on duty, they could not take long to converse, but she assured Sylvia that she would follow through by encouraging them to accept Christ as Savior. **Pray for their salvation.**

Sylvia was able to go down memory lane as we stopped to see one of the parishioners of the first church she and her husband pastored in Illinois during the early sixties.

So, as you read what God is doing in our lives, may you also make use of the **opportunities** God gives you to serve Him. Thanks for being partners with us by your prayers, and by ministry gifts. **Pray for God’s provision and health for us and for safety as we travel to NC and GA September 15-24**
With love,

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Project/Ministry Gifts-Interlink Ministries Inc., PO Box 460. Apple Creek, OH, 44606
Support Gifts - Africa Inland Mission - PO Box 178, Pearl River, NY 10965
Some additional prayer requests:

* Pray for **Rhonda** (Sylvia's daughter). She has had a relapse of MS symptoms and is considering taking a new IV MS medication.

* Pray for **Shawn** (Rhonda's son). He completed his summer job and was enjoying a new job. A former employee returned and asked for his job back. Since he was already trained he got it. Pray God will open the job door of His choice to help Shawn grow spiritually and in his ability to live life well.

* Pray for **Daniel and Heather** (grandson and wife) who had a 14 week old baby die in the womb. She had a D&C Sept. 10 and is to rest and not lift anything over 20 lbs. for two weeks. They are just getting settled from a move and change in churches. Daniel is a youth pastor at Macedonia Baptist Church in Jackson, GA.