

December 07 Update

All around us are reminders of this special time of year. Most of the media and stores celebrate “holidays” but we would encourage you to celebrate and rejoice in the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We want to shout with the angels who told the shepherds, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.” Luke 2:14.

**Support News** - We also want to rejoice that we see our monthly pledged support rising towards the 100% level that MTW requires for us to be able to leave for the new ministry in Puerto Rico. The team with International Leadership Development Program that we are joining wants us there by the end of January so that we can be involved in the planning for the classes to start up in June and to begin language study.

**91% of monthly need**



We are so thankful for those who have pledged towards our monthly support. The current level is at 91%!!! The one time need is coming in also – we need about \$9000 for relocation expenses and language study. If you have increased your monthly pledge, please make sure you email us personally with that information as well as let MTW know of your intention, so that we can keep track of the level of support needed. Also, if you give a one-time gift, please let us know that too.

We are also looking forward to returning to East Asia in 2008 to continue the pastoral care for the MTW folks who work there.

Support for this part of our ministry is going to be handled in a different way. MTW is going to be putting the money budgeted for these trips in a special reserve account so that it is easier to track these funds that are given for the purpose of member care. If you want your gifts to go solely to the East Asia special reserve fund – please make a note of that when you give.

**Family news** - John's recovery from knee replacement surgery is going very well. His physical therapist says he is ahead of schedule and the PA at the surgeon's office has been very pleased with his progress also. Here is a photo of John going up the stairs at Rebekah's house. Showing off his progress! He is working hard at exercises at home and in physical therapy. He no longer needs any walking aids... gone are the walker, the crutches and the cane!



Rebekah and Ruthanne are moving in together!!! Yes, our girls



will be living together for the first time since 2000 when they lived with us in Australia. Ruthanne has accepted an invitation to join the Global Youth and Family ministry with MTW. She will be based here in Atlanta. It will be hard for her to leave Birmingham, AL after so many years and the ministry she loves there with the youth of Briarwood PCA, but she is excited about this new opportunity. Be in touch with her if you want to know more...[ruthanneclare@mac.com](mailto:ruthanneclare@mac.com)

Rebekah continues to serve the public as a Pharmacy Manager with Publix Pharmacy. She is also involved with the Abundant Life Fellowship at our church, Intown Community Church here in Atlanta. She is also looking forward to having Ruthanne here in her home.

John's mom has been experiencing a lot of health problems of late. She has fallen several times over the last months and been in hospital for different reasons. On this past Monday, she had surgery to remove a constriction in her small intestine and will spend a while in a rehab facility after she leaves hospital. She is 88 years old and John's dad – the Colonel, will turn 89 next week. John's siblings are looking in to finding a new living situation for both of them. They would appreciate your prayers for their parents as they transition into this new season of their lives.

We had a surprise over Thanksgiving!!! Sue's sister, Clare, and her three children arrived at our door the night before Thanksgiving with smiling faces! Sue was really surprised – John and our girls knew and had made secret plans so that all the food and sleeping arrangements were taken care of. This Christmas will find Clare returning with the kids and also Sue's sister, Judy, will join us. Next week, Sue will travel to Florida to visit sister Mary Beth and her family and also our dear Aunt Lois. These family times are really important in saying good Good – Byes before we leave the country.



You may remember that Sue's nephew, Sgt. Scott L Kirkpatrick was killed in Iraq in August. Sue's brother, Ed, has started writing a blog and is quite a good writer. Have a look at the entries at <http://pickupthepen.wordpress.com>. Some of Scott's story will be featured in a magazine called "Details" in the next issue. We believe that it will be coming out soon, so look for it on newsstands just about anywhere.



Celebrating and shouting with the angels –

Glory to God in the Highest!!! John and Sue Burch

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