Jean Giles
Prayer Letter
October 23, 2008

Update and Urgent Prayer Request:

Dear Friends and Family,

Much has happened since I last wrote to you. I will be as brief as possible because I am lying on my back with my computer propped up in front of me. The past months have been filled with teacher training, teacher observations, curriculum writing, and student testing. The time I have spent with teachers has been very encouraging. They were overwhelmed with the new Open Court Curriculum. Their expressions matched the expressions of my former co-workers when we first saw it. However, after workshops and actually getting into the classroom and teaching it, they are excited at what their students are learning. They are realizing they need to be purposeful with their instruction of skills they had previously assumed children were able to do. **Pray that they learn to transfer the teaching strategies they are learning into all subject areas.**

The one-on-one time with teachers is my favorite time. It has allowed me to begin developing a deeper relationship with some of the teachers. As we spend time together they are becoming more willing to share a little more of themselves with me. **Pray God will open the doors for more spiritual discipling in these relationships.**

Since the last prayer letter, I have had more break-ins into my yard with items stolen. Thankfully, none in the recent weeks. However, due to multiple break-ins in the neighborhood and serious repairs needing to be made on the house I am presently in (replacement of the rotting rafters above my head), I am once again moving. When I was originally looking for a house to rent, there was one across the street from Carla Stevens (by boss) which had security in place, but needed a lot of repairs and work. It is also small and would not have allowed for hosting of the team and a spare bedroom. God has shown me in the time I've been here that those are not necessary. Thankfully God has provided, through a very generous group of people in my home church, the funds to do the repairs on the house. The owner has done the repairs and I offered to do others with the assurance that rent will remain the same for the time I am there.

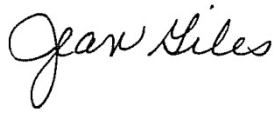
God is faithful to bring us through the mountains and valleys. It's in the valleys that he teaches me the most. Through a women's Bible study of Galatians I'm learning things about myself that I do not like to see. Thankfully, God shows us what we need to see. In his study of Galatians Tim Keller says, "The Spirit does not work apart from the Gospel…the Gospel does not bring the power of God, but ***is*** the power of God…We are not just saved by the Gospel, we grow by applying the Gospel to every area of our life." I'm finding that I usually view the Gospel as how I was saved, but revert to dealing with my sanctification more through "works" than "grace." My sin of self-righteousness keeps me in a vacillating state between works and grace. I get these small glimpses of

true grace and then I revert back into seeking approval of man. Oh, for the day we experience grace in its fullness, never to revert back to our sinful ways. I long for heaven!

The last month has been very different from the previous months. I have spent much of it on by back. After a week which involved a lot of sitting due to traveling and writing of curriculum, a previous back condition became aggravated. Sitting aggravates it the most. After trying anti-inflammatories and muscle relaxers I thought I was improving, but last night and this morning, after severe muscle spasm, it is much worse.

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for relief and for wisdom. I am to fly on Saturday to Orlando for my nieces wedding and then on to Crystal River for appointments with various doctors. My chiropractor was already scheduled. At this point I'm not sure I can even fly. Please pray that God will show me what I should do regarding all of this. I will send an update letting you know the outcome. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

In His Hands,



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