



Dear Partners,

We hope you are doing well, enjoying the beginning of the New Year, and living more intimately with Jesus than ever in 2009! We feel so blessed, both personally and in ministry.

**On the Home front:** On December 15<sup>th</sup>, I (Bonnie) brought our daughter, Brenna, in for her 18-month check up. As the doctor listened to heart, it seemed like *forever*. He said she has a very distinct murmur in the top part of her heart. He diagramed out for me what he thought it was, and explained how it could be more minor and they'll just need to watch it closely, or she could need heart surgery as early as sometime this winter. That's the range of possibilities. So we scheduled an echocardiogram for her on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. How unsettling to have to wait for weeks without knowing when it seems that something is wrong with her HEART of all things! Yet the God who formed her and knows her every detail, inside and out, was in control. And He was not surprised Monday, as I



was. We prayed for a miracle, and that when they would do the echo on the 6th, they'd find NOTHING--that her heart is totally perfect. When big sister Julia (3 ½) would pray for her, she'd say, "God, we pray that Brenna's little heart will be just fine."

So on the 6th we had the Echo. Watching that echo monitor was scary! If you have never seen an image of a heart actually beating away (as I hadn't), it is quite a crazy-looking thing. Looking at that, it totally appeared to my untrained eye that there was a huge hole in her heart, and that the sonographer kept zooming in on that very part, taking measurements and snapping pictures. A couple times I whispered to Scott, "It's a hole. She has a hole in her heart. What else could that be?!" So what a relief just an hour later to find out that nothing is wrong. Brenna's little heart IS just fine! I don't think I've ever been as elated as when the doctor who read her echo found that her heart is totally normal.

I'd like to share a verse a good friend recently shared with me, which speaks of a person who delights in the Lord. It says, "***He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord (Psalm 112:7).***" Notice it doesn't say the bad news will not come, but that we don't have to live in fear. I've been taking a lot of comfort in that verse and hope to remember it in the future, knowing that bad news is never far from any of us. I so want my heart to be steadfast, trusting in the Lord in the midst of anything.

Julia also is doing very well, healthy and active and LOVING pre-school. Her teacher loves Jesus and is great at what she does, and we feel very blessed to have Julia interact with her and her 15 classmates 2 mornings per week. Hard to believe she'll turn 4 in April!

**In Ministry:** Thank the Lord with us for the 170 students from the UW and our local expansion campuses who joined 1,500 students from around the region for our annual TCX Christmas Conference in Minneapolis. Both numbers are a new record, which



is exciting in itself; but even better, it was a life-changing week where the Lord worked mightily in the hearts and lives of students.



The group of women pictured here has been one of the highlights of my year. On Monday nights, I head to campus to meet with this great group of upperclassman leaders for Bible study. It has been fun to see them learn, grow, and take steps of faith. We sent one to East Asia to minister alongside our Stint team there (11 UW students serving on our partnership campuses for a year) and she had an incredible time. It was her second time going on a 10-day “vision trip” to this city, and she had the privilege of meeting up with two students she had shared the gospel with on the last trip. She was encouraged to see that both girls were still reading their Bibles, and happy to answer a lot of questions they’d been having. Sarah’s heart is so burdened to go back to this large country in East Asia. She feels she has left a big piece of her heart there, and that God is calling her back to be reunited with herself! Sarah plans to go back for a year after she graduates in May.

Last night I met with Bridget, another student in the group, who has a real burden to reach those living in the inner cities of our nation with the Good News of Jesus. Last year she went on a Here’s Life Inner City summer project in Milwaukee as a student. This year she’s planning to go back, along with another student in our group, to help lead the project. Bridget says she just doesn’t feel at home here in Madison and has a deep longing to minister to those living in hard times in the inner city. She’s strongly considering a one-year internship with Campus Crusade in Milwaukee after she graduates next year.

It was fun, last night over dinner, to hear of Bridget’s heart for her current co-workers. The Lord has given her several opportunities to share with a couple of them, and she definitely takes the opportunities as He gives them. She’s also built a strong friendship with a Muslim student who came here from Egypt to study. When Bridget invited her to see relatives over the long Thanksgiving weekend, she went along. Bridget has given her much to think about regarding Jesus and the offer He has extended, and we believe this veiled Muslim woman is not far from making a decision for Christ! Please pray to this end.

I could go on, but you get the idea. What a privilege it is to meet with these godly young women, so eager to grow and go and serve. What fun it is to see true faith and life-change through Christ overflowing into the lives of others. As we are filled up and captivated in Him, it is natural to want to share His goodness with others. As natural as it is to tell everyone we know after we get engaged, or have a baby, or any other truly exciting, life-changing news. True Christianity is contagious! And it sure is fun to see it in action.

We’re so grateful for your faithful partnership, which helps make our work possible.

Scott joins me in sending our love,

*Bonnie Roe*