

Dear Prayer Team,

In our last letter, we told about the decision of the core group to apply to the Baptist School—the current meeting place for Merciful Love Family Fellowship (MLFF)—to extend our rental contract for another year, and to add one more room to the contract.

Bruce submitted the application the very next day after writing to you. The day after that, he received a reply: “we cannot entertain your request for one more room; in addition we can only rent you the current two rooms through the end of May of next year at the latest”!

This came as a shock, but at least it neatly ended the debate about whether or not we should be looking for another place!

Bruce’s next step was to call the administrative council chairwoman of the Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped, to inquire about the possibility of renting one of their centers on Sunday mornings. This is the same association that initially sponsored our residence visas, and for whom Mary has been volunteering as a physical therapist since 1994. So we had reason to hope for a favorable response. The chairwoman was quite receptive and promised to put it on the agenda for their next meeting, scheduled for September 27th.

On the 28th she called to report that the council had approved the loan of one of their centers for one year! We have not yet worked out the details of when that year will start, exact number of hours we can use it on Sundays, if there is any storage room for us, etc., etc. But we can say that **God has answered our prayers in an amazing way!**

The Parents’ Association has several centers around the city, but most of them are “on loan” to them from the government and they are not permitted to rent those sites to other groups. It just so happens that their newest center was an outright gift to the Association, so they have freedom to use it however they choose. It also just so happens that this center is in the same building (a renovated factory building with an elevator) as the church which had offered us the use of several rooms, but only in the afternoon, which was not practical for us. “Let us know if there are other ways we might cooperate with you,” said the pastor at that time. And now we will be right downstairs!

We are aware that the Parents’ Association hopes that we will be able to find another place when the one-year agreement concludes. (Unless, of course, they find that they like having activities provided in their center every Sunday morning!) In the meantime, we are excited about the potential this arrangement provides for attracting more families from within the Association to come and learn about Jesus. Are God’s ways not amazing??!!

We believe that He is confirming that He has good plans for MLFF to continue after we missionaries retire in 2019. The next thing we are looking for Him to do is to provide a qualified new leader for the work. **Please keep praying that God will send this person by 2019!**

At our most recent core group meeting, we discussed the desire to foster more frequent, more personal interactions within MLFF, especially among our believers. With various factors restricting our time together almost exclusively to Sunday mornings, we need some creative solutions! **Please pray that God will show us the best ways to deepen relationships within our fellowship.**

We are very happy to report that our cat, Duncan, is still with us. When we made the decision to not pursue “heroic measures” at the end of August, we fully expected that he had a few weeks left at most. For now, he is eating and drinking insatiably, and while he is not gaining any weight, he shows no signs of pain or suffering. So we have hope that he will be around for some time yet. **Thank you for your prayers!**

Your partners in Christ,
Bruce and Mary Damon



serving with:

EFCA ReachGlobal
901 E. 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55420-1300
www.goreachglobal.org