



Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Sometimes a story just catches your attention.

On Monday mornings at AMG, we ask one of the staff members of the Missions Department to give a report from somewhere around the world where God is making an impact through our ministries. About two weeks ago, Karen Farney, a worker in the Child Sponsorship Department, gave a report of the results of a recent trip to Lima, Peru. Karen is a recent graduate of Bryan College, and came to work with us because of her love for missions. I was just reading her blog at the beginning of the year. She set the personal goal of praying through the Mission prayer guide Operation World for 2011. Karen agreed to raise half of her salary, as if she were an overseas missionary, so that there would be more budget for other expenses at AMG.

During chapel, Karen related, with emotion and love, her experience in ministering to the needs of Melanie, a child that she and her husband, Ryan, sponsor in a needy slum of Lima. The poor family was living in a shack that only had three walls of cardboard and scrap with no door. The child's mother, Norma, works as a day-laborer, doing laundry and going door to door asking for work. Karen was shocked that Norma carried their only mattress every day to keep it from being stolen.



Ryan and Karen Farney with Melanie at the "front door" of her house

Karen says that Melanie is a precious little girl...that she is like a member of their family. She and Ryan have been sponsoring Melanie since December 2010. Melanie is now 10 years old and in the 5th grade.

Karen and Ryan were excited to finally visit the "Spiros Zodhiates Childcare Center" last February, where they met their Melanie personally. They were so happy to see the program where the children learn about the Lord, are educated, sing songs, play games, do crafts, and are fed nourishing food each day. One of the most important aspects of the center is that the children are kept in a safe environment while their parents work.

Lois and I had the privilege of visiting this center to participate in its dedication to Lois's father in December, 2009. During the visit, Lutgarda, the project director, related that without the center, the majority of these children living in abject poverty would end up on the streets involved a life of crime or drug abuse. Poverty and crime are so bad in that area that the police will not help the people, and they are always vulnerable.

We were also shocked to see the living conditions of the families. Water is dispensed by the bucket, and the households must pay as they receive the water. The father of one family we visited worked in a distant mine and only visited home one weekend per month. Karen doesn't know the whereabouts of Melanie's father, which is typical in these communities. Most dwellings are single rooms and only have one bed for several people. But Melanie's home was one of the farthest from the center and was one of the farthest from the center and was the worst that Karen saw, not even having a door!



Melanie's home and bed where she slept with her mother, Norma, and brother, Ryan

After sharing her story, Karen's best friend decided to sponsor Melanie's four year old brother, Aaron. Karen's parents were also touched and decided to visit the center. Together, they used local help to build the family a safer house with a floor and door, two beds and a table.

Melanie's situation is typical of many children in Peru and other areas where AMG provides for sponsored children. It reminds me of the story of the starfish dying on the beach. A boy threw one back into the water. A skeptic nearby mocked, "What difference will that make?" The boy replied, "Made a difference to that starfish!"



The front "door" of Melanie's house

As Christmas approaches, it is good to be reminded that we can make a difference, just as Jesus has made a difference in our lives. If you would like to help one of these little ones, you can do so with a Bundle of Love Christmas gift, or a child sponsorship which is ongoing.



Melanie inside her new home, smiling

Following is the link to Karen's blog post from February 2011, after her family first visited Melanie at her home...<http://karensentiments.blogspot.com/2011/02/lima-childcare-centerthe-second-time.html>

This is the link to the blog post Karen wrote after Melanie's home was completed...<http://karensentiments.blogspot.com/2011/09/this-is-what-its-all-about.html>

Thanks so much for standing with us month after month! We couldn't do it without your faithful partnership. Following are a few of our current prayer requests:

- ❖ AMG is appealing to receive grant money for a Christian nursing school in Uganda. Malaria and HIV are a significant health issue there, and medical resources are sorely lacking. We have been approached by Christian International School of Healthcare Professionals of Florida to partner with them in piloting a nursing school project. Because of current funding issues however, it is critical that we first are able to get the seed money needed to begin the project.
- ❖ Please pray for Curtis Brickley, AMG Missionary to Northern Thailand. Curtis and his wife Stacey are focused on church planting and discipleship to the unreached people group, the Palaung people, along the Thai/Myanmar border. They went to the field in late June 2011, so this is their first year on the field.

Please pray:

- For their Thai language study
- Praise that the Lord has provided a visa and work permit (these documents are as important as a passport for a missionary working in Thailand)
- Truck problems (a head gasket)
- Plumbing problems (This sounds minor, but when it is nearly 95 degrees for more than half of the year you enjoy being able to take a shower.)
- School costs – a constant issue with missionaries

- ❖ Another young couple went out to Asia with AMG this summer, Bill and Dana Passons. Bill's father, Erbie, was the recipient of Lois' kidney about four years ago, and we are very close to this family.

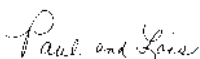
Please pray:

- For Indonesia (the central part of the island of Java, about an hour away from where the church bombing took place recently). [See the article - **Suicide bombing at Indonesian church injures 22** - <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Suicide-bomb-attack-at-Indonesia-church-injures-20-2187826.php>]
- For the 22 people injured, their families and fellow church members
- For our seminary and church planter's headquarters in Solo (the very town where the bombing took place) – it is a radical stronghold
- For the Muslim majority of the country – Pray that the love and peace of Christ will be seen in the lives of the fearless yet forgiving Christians there.

Please continue to pray for AMG's hospital in Greece (St. Luke's Hospital) and for our FM radio station in Cyprus. Pray for Greece that the people of the country will wake up and be realistic about life and bend their hearts and lives toward the Lord Jesus for salvation and peace of mind.

As always, please pray for wisdom and guidance for me in many decisions needed to be made on a daily basis, as well as for wisdom in the prioritization of ministry focus around the world.

Love and Blessings to each of you,



Paul and Lois Jenks