

The Emra Express

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Speaking in Code

Sheryl and I went out for lunch last week with Maria.

We were talking about the highs and lows of this past year as she has prepared herself for returning to China, November 2nd, and starting an after school program there. We were talking about the preparations still to be made - and the 'what if's'.

When you are presenting the reality of *Life Is Full OF Choices* to kids and their families in a Communist Country there are so many "what if's" and not many concrete facts.

What do I do if this happens? How can I do this if that happens?

There were two things that surprised me that day:

The first was when Maria started talking about how her Prayer Letters were going to have to be written in code. She couldn't openly talk about Church, prayer, salvation or name any individual people or organization she happened to meet with. Missionaries in China use abbreviations. Church will be written as "Ch**ch" and "slvshon" is code for salvation.

It sounds like a James Bond spy movie. A government that has such total control over the lives and thoughts of everyone in the country that you have to communicate in code.

The second was her reaction when Sheryl and I offered to come to China if she needed our help setting up the after school program. She won't need our help - but we wanted to offer. Anyway, Maria starting crying. As we talked about her reaction, Maria said that she couldn't believe we would be willing to travel to China just to help her. I am glad we spent the time encouraging her this past year and we look foreword to seeing what God will do through her life.

Every day we get up wondering where God will take us today. And every day we are grateful that you are with us with through your prayers and your financial support. We could not have trained Maria without your help. She is the result of the choices you have made to support us.

Please pray with us that Maria will find a way to communicate to people that even in a communist society they do have choices. *And that the choices they make today will determine the quality of their life, both now, into the future - and for eternity.*

Gratefully,



for John and Sheryl Emra



Answered Prayer

Thank you for praying for our trip this past summer.

Many miles and 18 services in seven weeks. We are praising God for the safety He provided.

Thank you for your prayers for our grandsons Liam and David. They have been dealing with illness for much of the summer. They are doing better now.

Prayer Request

I am trying to schedule a S.A.Y. Yes! Training in November. This is a busy time of year but five Churches have expressed an interest in attending including a Middle East Evangelical Church. They are reaching out to Iraqi immigrants in the Los Angeles area.

Nov 4-8 Sheryl will be participating at a Women's retreat in Wenatchee, Washington. She will be teaching different aspects of inner healing. Pray that the hearts of the women will be open and receptive to Gods moving in their lives.