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Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (3/2021)

1 message

SIMON YUEN <skk_yuen@yahoo.co.uk>
To: Karen Tsang <karen.tsang@mcbc.com>

Thu, Jul 1, 2021 at 8:55 PM

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From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: Joyce.Lau.ExternalMail <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 1 July 2021, 06:30:40 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (3/2021)

Dear friends,

It is often said we walk by faith not by sight. Yet this is easier said than done, especially when everything before, behind and blanketing you tells you otherwise. I had originally planned to return to Singapore today for a 3 month home assignment. However, I needed to delay my return by 19 days. These last few years have been challenging and difficult for our Hong Kong headquarters. Today marks the return of Hong Kong to the mainland with muted celebrations in front of us and uneasy times enveloping us. The pandemic compounds these vagaries. There is an increasing sense of distance and a decreasing camaraderie and shared destiny as society gets more divided. As an extrovert who enjoys the company of others, I often feel bewildered sad and hapless as I witness lines drawn up due to vaccination and non-vaccination, economic, social and political differences. My heart grows heavy as I learn of coworkers and their family members who are plagued by cancer and other debilitating diseases. These realities are right in our faces and we cannot ignore them.

How do we walk by faith not by sight? Only if we have the eyes of faith. And eyes of faith are not created or conjured by powerful effort, positive thinking or patient waiting. We have them when our eyes are focused on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith (Heb 12:2). I know of no other way. In these last two months, many things happened which made me lose my focus on Him and I often chose to walk by sight not by faith. I am grateful for friends and co-workers who love me and endeavoured in various ways to lift my heavy spirit. I appreciate reflections and quiet times which gave me much needed rest and respite. Through all these, He gently reminds me to fix my eyes on Him and not on people, strategies, finances, circumstances and everything my eyes could see. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1). Once again, I realise nothing I could do or not do would ever change His love for me. Once again, I learn I need to let go and let Him take charge. Once again, I discover freedom and joy when I live for the audience of One.

It is not easy for me, an innate people-pleaser who craves human approval and delights in intimate connections. It is difficult for me to disappoint and not meet people's expectations of me as a leader. It is very difficult for me to see and accept there are problems I cannot fix, conflicts I cannot mend, and diseases I cannot heal. Yet I am very, very, very slowly gaining endurance when I look to Him. At the same time, we are all running this race of faith and He has given us companions to spur us on. We do not and should not run this race alone! I look forward to listening and cheering you on your journey of faith...

Please remember the following:

1. MSI's HQ team in Hong Kong are undergoing changes in personnel, processes and work. Pray for His peace, provision and presence to be with us all. Please remember Cedric C and Hui Kheng who deputise for me during these 3 months.
2. Please pray for His presence and healing on David Leung, a dear brother and previous MSI President, who was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus.
3. I plan to return to Singapore on 19 July 2021 for 3 months. Please pray for suitable flights and quarantine arrangements. Pray also for good times of catching up with family and friends and to complete simple renovation for my new home. My thanks and appreciation to all the generous supporters of Joyce's House Warming Fund which is now officially closed as I received all I needed! 😊