



July 2009

Hello Pastor and Friends!

I like the month of June! I'm a person that really enjoys the lengthening daylight hours that come with summer solstice. In the northern hemisphere that happens to take place every June 21st. I am also a June baby – born exactly six months before and six months after Christmas. Thank you to so many of you who thought about me and sent birthday wishes.

June also has special significance to me, as it was in June 2004 that I had surgery to remove two cancerous tumors. As anyone with cancer experience knows, five-years without recurrence is a milestone. This year I got to celebrate that milestone. However, this year the Lord gave me a far more eternal cause to celebrate. My home church has been praying for a neighbor of one of our church members for several months. She has stage IV cancer and has been given a grim prognosis. Worse than that, she had no understanding of the prognosis of sin ... *"for the wages of sin is death"*. She told my pastor's wife that she needed to speak with someone who had survived cancer – she wanted hope. One Thursday evening I got to share the hope of eternal life with her, her daughter and her fiancé. Because of ground richly bathed in prayer and tears, all three came to a saving knowledge of Christ. I have had many reasons to rejoice in having had cancer, but seeing it used as a tool to give the gospel makes me shout! Please pray for Kyong and her family.

Thanks to your prayerful and financial support, I have yet another reason to rejoice in the month of June. On June 30th I stood at the FedEx drop box and, with nervous excitement, dropped in my application to language school in Albertville, France. As the Lord wills, I should be departing the United States in late December to spend a year in language school before heading to the Ivory Coast. It seems so surreal to think I have less than five months left in my homeland. Yet, this isn't my homeland, is it? While the remainder of my earthly belongings are split between my school home in Texas and a storage unit in Pennsylvania, home is really where Papa Father is. I'm kind of homesick. Aren't you?

By His grace,

Becky Pope

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