

People are asking, "How is SIS doing?"

Dear SIS friend,

I am packing my bags, in preparations for heading to China to evaluate our work. A month ago I didn't know if this trip would be possible. Our December update letter to you was a cliff hanger. Year end contributions at that point were "dangerously low." We've actually never had a negative trend at year end, so we wondered what the Lord was going to do.

In response to the December Update letter people prayed for SIS, emailed, called and have been even more generous than before. We didn't make up the November loss, but, thanks to all the help, we came through with support to carry us up until now.

What does that mean? Our work to rescue, restore and equip girls and women continues from Africa all the way across Asia. Every day at SIS we stop for staff prayer and thank God for allowing us another day to work at something so close to His heart. We often pray scripture and thank God for you. Psalm 103:6 says that He, "works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed." We know God works through people like you. Another person He is working through is Pauline, our China Director. Pauline has been with SIS since our first full year of ministry. She tells me that she has shed more tears since working with the orphans than in her entire adult life. She bears God's broken heart.

Our travels will also take us to solidify a new partnership to rescue girls from trafficking and get them into a safe, nurturing environment where they can gain new skills and a whole new life in Christ. I can't wait to meet these girls. You can go with us in prayer. We deeply appreciate that. I plan to do an email update that can come upon request. If you haven't signed up on our website for e-updates, please do.

New Staff and Volunteers

God continues to bless us with new team members. We now have 15 on the team. Two are new area directors: Erika Holtzclaw and Jill Hagist. They are beginning their orientation, training and support discovery process. Please pray for God to affirm their way with all they need. It will be my privilege to go with Erika to introduce her to our work and co-workers in Sudan – likely this August. Jill will travel with a seasoned area director, Cherylann Sammons, to Indonesia to see an area director in action and learn the ropes.

Our offices are often buzzing with volunteers these days, who come in to help with mailings, research, writing, answering phones...We praise God for these dedicated friends of the ministry, who invest their



China: Daughter of Hope

The story of Mai Lin in *Forgotten Girls* seeks to make sad statistics real, and demonstrate how change is possible. Even though privations are deep, girls can excel and relish the opportunity to go to school when SIS helps them have the chance. (Costing only \$200 per year.) Studies show that when girls are educated, they are far more likely to educate their daughters and give them nutritious food. Michele and Pauline will visit orphans like Mai Lin, and share Christ's love.

time, saving the ministry funds for other work. Pray for the board of directors (7 members) as we seek God for His guidance on adding additional directors.

New Opportunities

New Life Forever. You may recall “The Golden Future Girls” business in Nepal. Through our anti-trafficking work we came upon an entire village that was recently emancipated. They are now despised squatters. In an effort to survive, the people scraped together a little money to send 5 of their best and brightest girls to India for “good jobs.” A trafficker promised to send money back to the village. The girls were rescued, and are now in training for vocations they can be happy to do every day. Here’s the greatest news: each of the girls has come to faith in Christ since the end of ‘09. The girls are being equipped as master trainers - to teach others in their village the skills they’ve learned, to warn families about trafficking, and to share about Christ. The goodness keeps rippling forward with great impact for thousands in villages.

Pray for the new SIS work we’ve just started with the church in N.Iraq to create a program that will help widows start micro and small businesses in order to take care of their children – all led by women of local churches. Women leaders have already been identified and the first installment of seed funds has been sent. It just makes my heart sing to prayerfully put myself in the shoes of war widows and hear how God wants to bless my life and my children through His people.

Media Opportunities. As more people gain insight into the abuse and exploitation of girls and women, great new opportunities are opening for SIS to share the wonderful ways people can join us to help restore lives. Enclosed is a copy of a magazine article that I was asked to write, *Turning the Tide for Women and Girls*. Please read it and pass it along. (It is posted on our website, so you can email attach it to others.) We have had several radio interviews and even an invitation to a television program. We post such happenings on our website, so you can pray us along.

Influencing Christian Missions. I was recently invited to serve as a U.S. delegate at the October Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, (founded by Billy Graham in 1974. See LausanneCongress.org for background, dialogues and volunteer opportunities.) Congress delegates from 200 countries will work in Cape Town, South Africa on strategies to complete the task Jesus left His followers. I will be there to share with particular urgency on the worlds’ most exploited unreached citizens: girls and women. Pray with me as I raise the alarm, particularly for church missions leaders and strategies to include a strong focus and global partnerships to strike at the roots of evil in the light and love of Christ.



We’re encouraged. And hope you are, too, by all the Lord is doing to change lives of girls like Mai Lin, the Golden Future Girls, temporary child brides, slum girls in India, widows and their children in Iraq...

We can’t do it without your prayers, support and advocacy. You can help us by sharing this letter and article with at least one person who needs to know about turning the tide for exploited girls and women. So many wait in sheer desperation for someone to intervene. We need everyone who can to take up their cause.

P.S. We ask you to continue, fueling us with your prayers and the support that it takes to rescue, restore and redeem those who are captive.