



Germany
Karen Tang
Prayer Letter
July 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” 2 Cor. 4:16

“Welcome to the Senior Club!”. This is often greeted to me by the older sisters in the Bible reading group recently, mainly because I have more problems than they do. Due to the pandemic, a brother had to close his business. So, he had time to bring an older brother to see doctors. When I heard that, I told him that I also had that same need. He therefore took me to see some doctors. First of all, due to my ear infection, we went to see an ENT doctor. She found out that my hearing has dropped and needed a pair of hearing aids. Then we went to see a dentist to find out some serious problems. Later we went to see an orthopedist and started a course of treatments by electrotherapy. During this period, my glasses frame broke for no reason and needed a new pair of glasses. Therefore, I have more appointments than the older sisters have, and my problems appeared earlier. Although these things happened in just past two months, I am still grateful because with the help of the brother, I manage to do the treatments earlier.

After the report from the ENT came out, the next step was to find a shop to get a pair of hearing aids. At first, I was still hoping that I had no problem with my hearing. But the test at the shop gave the same result, meaning hearing aids are needed. Because of the need to wear hearing aids, I discovered some people who also had hearing aids. But they do want to wear them because of the discomfort. Now that I have my own experience, I can identify with them. However, I found out that their discomfort was probably due to their initial testing of wearing the hearing aids. Now I learn that we can try wearing different pairs until we find ones that are most comfortable and satisfiable. I am not sure whether they did not want to take the trouble to try them out. So, they just accept one pair and if not comfortable, they stopped wearing them. I am grateful that I met a nice service lady who let me try different models. I am wearing the 4th pair and will try to wear another pair next time until I find one pair that will be suitable for me. Of course, their price varies a lot.

Regarding the treatment of my teeth, due to the pandemic, my previous dentist only treats urgent matters. Because of that brother who introduced me to a new dentist who started to treat my periodontitis and dental fillings immediately. There will be more long-term treatments and the cost has been sent to my insurance company. We are waiting for their permission to start further treatments.

Because of the pandemic, our meetings were online and I was sitting most of the time, so I had a new pain area. The brother helped me once again to see an orthopedist. His method is by electrotherapy. Each electrotherapy session only lasted 10 minutes, but whether it helped or not, it at least forced me to walk to the clinic each time to get a little more exercise. Otherwise, I don't get much exercise, except for the occasional walk that a sister asks me to do.

I've never had eyeglasses made while living in Germany because I heard that they were expensive. So I always waited until I returned to North America or went to Asia to get new eyeglasses. But now that the frame is broken, I can't wait any longer. A sister introduced me to a cheaper store, but unfortunately, because I have progressive glasses, the price is still higher. When the glasses were ready to be picked up, I found out that they were not clear. So, they were sent back to make new lens again.

There are problems with some of the facial features on my face. Even though I've been running around for the past two months, none of them can be officially assisted till this day. This is a lesson God teaches me to endure, and it also makes me admire God's creation which is most perfect and does not cost any money. That brother laughed at me, saying that after all the configurations on my face, my face will be a treasure.

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

1. I am thankful that the brother took me to the doctors during the pandemic to solve all kinds of physical problems! I am thankful that God's provision is so timely! Due to the unstable nature of the epidemic, after discussing with CEM, we decided that I will not go back for furlough this year, so I could stay in Germany for treatment.
2. Pray for the Lord's mercy that through external aids (hearing aids, glasses, dental bridges, etc.), my body would have the strength to continue to serve the Lord!
3. Thanks to the Lord! A sister received salvation last year and joined our online Bible study. A few months ago, she decided to return home, and asked to be baptized. Unfortunately, the churches near where she lived did not have baptism. So I gave her a baptism class and she was baptized last week before she left. Pray that the Lord would lead her back home and find a spiritual home and that her faith would stay strong!
4. An older sister was hurt by another sister in the Bible reading class and now she does not want to participate in the Bible reading class, but she is still willing to read the Bible on her own. Pray for the Lord's mercy and that they will be reconciled soon so that the sister can return to God's family! I'm thankful for another new member. She broke her collarbone a few weeks ago when she fell from her bike. Pray for God's mercy and for her speedy recovery!

Thank you for your prayers and supports! May the Lord bring you rain to cool off your summer!

Serving Him,
Karen Tang

Please support Karen through prayer and financial contribution.