

**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.** John 15:8

Hello Friend,

Thank you so much for your prayers for Chen from my last newsletter! I had the opportunity to take her on a tour of the Christian college she is wanting to attend and while we were there she said she would like to be baptized at this college! I know the outward expression of baptism is such a big step in her new walk of faith and such a quick answer to your prayers.

In a recent discipleship meeting, a student read something from the comments of her Bible. It talked about Jesus' life being an example and how we are to strive to be like Christ. She stopped and shared a pivotal discovery "Melanie, I can't be like Jesus. He was God and I have no idea how to be like God. Jesus surprises me with the things He did in the chapters we are reading." To look at Jesus as a mere example of how to live often means we think we have what it takes to be like Christ. If we could be like Christ then we wouldn't need Him. The irony of becoming like Christ is to humble ourselves and realize we cannot. I explained to the student that she was absolutely right, we in and of ourselves cannot be like Christ that's why Jesus has to dwell in us, transform us and give us an alternative way to live contrary to our humanity. May Christ live in us and teach us to live by the Spirit.

These last several weeks have been sweet as my husband, Charlie, and I prepare for the arrival of our little one. Our baby boy, Kalel, is due May 21st and the excitement and responsibility of becoming new parents overwhelms us. We were delighted to celebrate the upcoming arrival of our baby with my former roommate who hosted a baby book making party with students I have not seen in person in over a year.

I am still exploring the various opportunities in ministry and evangelism for the next season. My heart and mind remind me regularly that it is the greatest tragedy for people not to hear of the incredible display of God's love for them made through the person of Christ. I have the ongoing desire to be an active catalyst for the lost encountering God. I hope to find a good fit where I can share this with those who have yet to hear. I continue to appreciate your prayers that I find peace and confidence with the next step.

Blessings,



**Melanie Otarola**

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*A beach stop with Chen  
after a college visit*



*Baby Book Making Party*

## ***Prayer Points***

- *Chen*
- *The Arrival of Our Baby*
- *God's Guidance for Next Steps*



*Awaiting Baby Kalel due  
May 21st*