

## Bennetts Prayer Update – November 2007

Dear Friends,

In our morning devotions as a couple, we have been studying the Beatitudes. We recently read “blessed are the merciful.” This weekend we witnessed a situation where no mercy was shown and it was not a pretty picture.

Early Sunday morning there was a knock at our gate. When I opened it there was a man who said he lived in our neighborhood. He then went on and told the story of how his wife had given birth to twins the previous week and both of the babies had died. Because of the complications, they had racked up a hospital bill of \$75 which was way beyond their ability to pay. He went on to say that since they couldn't pay the bill, the hospital had basically kept his wife hostage until the bill was paid in full. She had already been stranded there for a week!

Because we have so many con artists come to our gate, my first reaction was to be skeptical, but as I thought about how merciless this situation seemed to be, we decided to check it out. We sent one of our trustworthy neighbors to go and check out this man's story. The report came back that it seemed to be a true story. So that morning, after attending church, we went by the maternity hospital where this woman was and tried to find her.

At the hospital we explained that we were looking for a woman named Christine who had given birth the previous week and wasn't able to pay her bill. We were then taken to the back corner of the hospital where at least five women were crammed into one small room. The nurse called out this woman's name and Christine came out holding a new born baby. As we talked with her, she confirmed what her husband had said so we decided to go ahead and pay her bill. When we asked her to go with us, she replied “What about this baby?” It turned out that this three day old baby girl had been abandoned by her mother, and Christine had been looking after her. The nurse made arrangements for one of the other women in that room to take care of the baby while she went with us to pay the bill.

Seeing this helpless innocent little baby brought tears to Barb's eyes and also to Melissa and Megan's as they saw her start to cry. And then came the inevitable request from the girls, “Why can't we take the baby home with us daddy? We can take care of it!” I was impressed by the mercy our girls were exhibiting in a situation so devoid of mercy. The answer to their question though, was no. The Government has a strong policy that states that abandoned babies must go to state recognized orphanages if no immediate family member is willing or available.

As we left the hospital it was kind of bitter sweet. We had done what we could to extend mercy and help to one lady and her family, but yet there were still others and this innocent little baby that we were unable to give help to.

As we approach this Thanksgiving season we are again reminded of just how incredibly blessed we are to have been born in a nation that was built on Christian values. We are so blessed to be from a country where mercy is valued and exhibited. In spite of all of the short comings of our country, we truly are a blessed people.

Rejoicing in God's blessings,  
Gary, Barb, Melissa and Megan Bennett