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Life & Lim update from February 2007

Drs. Paul & Susan Lim
Justin, Karis, Madeleine

Moving to Africa again...to Egypt

Dear Friends,

It's been almost nine years since we moved back to the US from Ethiopia. During those years, we actively pursued a number of long term opportunities. However, given that the doors to these all unexpectedly closed on us, it appeared that it was not the Lord's will for us to move back overseas again anytime soon...or so we thought.

Just 10 months ago, I heard a presentation given by the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons ([PAACS](#)) residency training program director at [Harpur Memorial Hospital](#) in Menouf, Egypt and was deeply moved by the needs of the people of the region the hospital serves.

And, they were looking for more doctors to come and help (as volunteers; the

longer term, the better). You may recall that I'm a plastic/reconstructive surgeon, and Susan is a pediatrician.

So, long story short, we're moving to Egypt--in early 2020.

Will you be treating patients with cleft lips like you did in Ethiopia?

We do hope to start a cleft lip/palate program at the hospital (here's a link to a [slide show](#) of some of the children we treated when we lived in Ethiopia). But, since it is a general hospital, I'll also be doing a broad range of adult and pediatric reconstructive surgery, and Susan will be a consultant in pediatrics.

And, what about your kids?

The closest international school is in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, which is a 2-3 hour drive from Menouf (not do-able to commute). So, our two older children, Justin and Karis, will attend a boarding school in East Africa, while our youngest, Madeleine, will be home-schooled in Menouf.



A family photo just prior to moving to Ethiopia in 2007.

Justin was pre-school age and Karis was a toddler.



A recent family photo. Justin stands a bit taller than he did in 2007. Karis, on the left, is no longer doll-size. Madeleine, on my lap, is starting kindergarten this fall.

How will you be funded?

Harpur Hospital is in a relatively poor city in a relatively poor province. So, the hospital (and their patients) are unable to pay us for our work (as I mentioned, we'll be coming as volunteers).

We have been accepted and appointed by a sending agency (an IRS registered non-profit) through which we raise our financial support from donors to cover our living/working expenses and which will manage us while we're on the field.

By moving to Egypt, we view that what we are doing is not so much as *walking away* from physician incomes (and, from all the people we hold dear in the US) but rather as *investing* our physician incomes (and the relationships we treasure) for greater gain in this life and in eternity:

- Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. (Mark 10:29–30)

I calculate a "hundredfold" (100x) to be a 10,000% return on investment (ROI) which would be a preposterous claim had it not come from the Lord of the universe "who gives life to the dead and calls in to existence the things that do not exist." (Romans 5:17) But, since it did, we can bank on it.

An invitation to gain

I believe I have biblical warrant, based on what the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians, to suggest that you, if you decide to be a sender, gain. The church of Philippi was the only one in Macedonia willing to support him in his journeys (Phil 4:15). Indeed, the epistle is essentially a thank you letter to a supporting church. But, interestingly, as he concluded his letter regarding the material support they gave him, he wrote this:

- Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. (Phil 4:16–17)

So then, we invite you to invest in this enterprise as senders--with your time (in prayer for us) and with your treasure as an opportunity to exercise your gifting in order that you might gain.

Grace be with you all.

Paul

Support raising (determined by our agency)

One time outgoing expenses

- This includes travel expenses to Africa, 6 months of orientation and language training in Cairo (tuition, rent, living expenses, etc...), and expenses related to the move to and initial set up in Menouf.

Monthly

- For maintenance living/working expenses long term (after relocating to

Menouf)

Any funds received prior to our final move to Menouf (which is when our monthly support is needed) will go to our outgoing expenses.

So, feel free to start sending in funds at any time!

For online tax-deductible donations, click on this:

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To send us an email with a pledge to support:

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To email me for more information (i.e. other ways to donate such as by check, details of monthly support target and outgoing expenses, etc...), click below:

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Email us by hitting reply or:

slee_ped@yahoo.com (Susan)

drpaulklm@icloud.com (Paul)

Our mailing address (*for now!*):

Paul & Susan Lim

1 Meadowlark Ln

North Oaks MN 55127

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