



Dear Friends,

While many are already long past school graduations and well into summer holidays, the school routine continues here in Hong Kong. Children here will still be attending classes until mid-July, when their approximately six-week summer vacation finally begins. While this has been an adjustment, the kids are learning to adapt and still keep a smile on their faces! Levi and Titus will be completing their first semester in Chinese school, Jude is finishing kindergarten, and Selah is wrapping up her first year in kindergarten. God has been gracious to them, and while there have been some struggles, God has seen them through. We're already looking ahead to the fall and praying about whether or not to continue in local school or return to homeschooling. While language acquisition has been our primary goal for them in local school, we're also concerned with their spiritual formation and making sure they have godly influences in their lives. Pray with us about this important decision, as we believe one of our primary discipleship opportunities is with our own children.

While the kids have been hard at work in school, we've also been hard at work with ministry opportunities and open doors. We were honored to have one of our sending church pastors, Ryan Thompson, and his son, Trey, with us for several days in April. We packed a ton into their nearly five-day visit, including at least six speaking opportunities in our church and even a trip to Disneyland! We're so thankful for Pastor Ryan and his love for missions and missionaries. Liberty Baptist in Newport Beach holds a special place in our hearts, and we're so thankful for their faithful partnership in the work of missions.

In May, we were honored not only to celebrate Mother's Day with our own church family, but also with another church family about 30 minutes from us. Liberty Baptist Church was planted by our friend Andrew Au and his family 18 years ago, and they graciously invited me (Ben) to speak for their Mother's Day and Anniversary service. We're thankful for faithful laborers like the AUs, who have been ministering faithfully, leading not just one but two churches, and continuing to serve the Lord with sacrifice and faithfulness.

The Saturday following Mother's Day, our church had the opportunity to hold our first of several outreach events geared primarily toward inviting our community to join us for VBS this summer. Here in Hong Kong, because the summer is short and spaces can be limited, parents begin planning early for summer activities. We wanted to make the most of that opportunity by inviting families to our summer VBS. We had a wonderful response, with many great conversations not just about VBS, but about Jesus. We saw two young people make decisions for Christ right there on the side of the road as our people faithfully shared the truth of the gospel. We even had several first-time guests attend church the next day as a result of this special outreach.

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We closed out May as a church family with a special overnight retreat camp focused on worship. We enjoyed a great outdoor BBQ, games, singing, and challenges from God's Word about what we worship. The only injuries were a broken light as the result of a "big ball" game.

The full schedule continued into June with the official launch of our English worship service. As I've mentioned previously, over the past year, God has brought several English speakers to our services. My initial reaction was to try to find them an English-speaking church in our area. While there are a number of great Bible-preaching churches across Hong Kong, there is a shortage in Yuen Long. Up until this time, we've provided translation for our worship services and also started an English Adult Small Group. However, God seemed to continue reminding us of the opportunities with English speakers in our area. After sharing the need with our church family and spending several months in prayer, we decided to launch our English worship service on June 14. God blessed, and we had around 20 in attendance for our first service. It was a special blessing to have my (Ben's) older brother Tim and his family visiting that same weekend, and they were able to help serve during the English service and adult small group. We're praying that God will grow this new outreach ministry as we continue to share the gospel with all who need to hear.

We're so grateful for our faithful God, who continues to open doors and bless in unexpected ways. One massive personal blessing came in just the last two weeks when Ashli received a call from a connection she made with a Christian homeschool group last year. The lady told her there was a wealthy Christian family in Hong Kong who wanted to donate one of their very lightly used vehicles to a ministry family. While God had already provided us a vehicle this past year, the lady said this would be a much newer and more fuel-efficient vehicle. We hesitantly said we would, of course, be grateful, but we didn't think anything would come of it. However, the following week, the ownership papers were sent, and the vehicle was officially transferred to us for absolutely nothing. Ashli and I could hardly believe this was actually happening as we sat in this like-new vehicle after driving it for the first time. I'm still not sure how to describe it and frankly feel very undeserving, but at the same time thankful for a God who does not only the unexpected but the miraculous. We knew we had to pass the blessing on, so the day we received the new vehicle, we donated our current vehicle to another local pastor who had just returned to Hong Kong with his family. There are so many special parts to this story, but we just want to give all glory to God for His gracious care and love for us. He is embarrassingly good and does far beyond what we could even imagine. What a privilege to serve a King like this!

We're thankful for you!

Yours for Hong Kong,

The Baucums

Ben, Ashli, Levi, Titus, Jude, Selah, and Elias

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