



Taiwan Times

Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter
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Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Greetings once again from Taiwan. During July and August we had four one-day summer camps at four churches. With Byron taking over the leadership of the work in Taiwan, Missy needed to lead the camps this year with Nathanael Bundy assisting in planning and teaching. Many Taiwanese helped, and we were especially thankful to see some of our college teens participate. The theme this year was “Summer at Sea.” Nathanael dressed up as a scuba-diver and taught the science part of the lessons. Missy taught the Bible stories and led the singing. Since we had mostly elementary school-aged children, we included a lot of games and other activities to try and keep their attention. Our young people really helped with these.



Rather than focusing on reaching large numbers of children, we hold the camps to help our churches get new children into Sunday School. At Kaohsiung a mom and her two boys have been attending faithfully since the camp there. The Qi-Jin church also has a new family attending. After the camp at Nanzi Missy started an English class on Tuesday evenings. One of the new boys from the camp has attended every week. Although we did not see as many children come back as we wanted, at least the camps have helped the churches reach new people.



In September our church had its annual retreat. We rented a small hotel out in the country for twenty-four hours. The coworkers asked me (Byron) to speak from the book of James. There is no way to cover the whole book in three sessions. I chose faith and works, handling temptation, and wisdom from above for the sessions. The



session on temptation seemed especially helpful. Even though it rained much of the time, we seemed to have a good retreat. I find it hard to judge when I am the one speaking, but we have had some good services since then.



Immediately after the retreat, we took Nathanael on a trip around the island. We thought he needed to see the eastern side of Taiwan. We visited some of the more well-known scenic spots, then spent a day in Taipei at the zoo. I think the picture at the left captures his personality pretty well. He was easy to travel with, and we had a nice time together.

While one of the things I dislike about leadership is meetings, I am grateful we are working with people with whom there is mutual respect and trust. We had a meeting at a coffee shop with the Kaohsiung church pastor and his wife, along with another pastor and his wife who have been cooperating with us. Our churches are planning to join together December 10 to have an outdoor service in a park not too far from the Qi-Jin church. In the past we have done this in an area where we have no churches; this time we hope to attract some attention to the Qi-Jin church.



In September the Lees from Korea took over the leadership of the Qi-Jin church. The couple we had found to take Pastor Hong's place when he passed away did a wonderful job leading the church through a difficult time but felt like they were not to be long-term pastors. We did a lot of praying for that church that God would give them the right pastor. Hopefully we will not be looking for any more pastors for a while!

In August a young lady and her mother came by the church at the recommendation of one of our new families. The young lady wanted to be baptized. She works odd hours at the main airport up north, so cannot attend church much. I explained she needed classes before being baptized. She wanted the classes right then. So my assistant helped me explain what baptism means and how to become a Christian. Since then her mother has started attending our church. When the young lady came back to Kaohsiung for a visit, she was ready to be baptized. Because she is not going to be a member of our church, and I was not sure exactly when she was coming, I did not do the baptism during our main service. It was the first Sunday of the month, and we had a love meal. After lunch we had a short service



where she gave her testimony, and I sprinkled her with water. It is not often that the Lord sends someone to us who is so ready to follow Him. If I had not been flexible when she came to the church that first day, I would have missed the opportunity.

Please continue to pray that God will give us strength in body and emotions as we daily minister to these precious people.



Byron & Missy Manners