



Taiwan Times

Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter
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Greetings to you again from Taiwan:

While most of you are enjoying autumn, it still feels like summer here. Perhaps because of age, perhaps because we were not here last summer, the heat and humidity have affected us this year. However, we still had a profitable season of ministry.



In July Missy, Nathanael Bundy, and several helpers from the North Kaohsiung Church held summer camps at three of our churches. Pictured on the left is the largest group at our Qi-Jin church. They have an active children's ministry, and we were there to help them. Kaohsiung Church was able to get several new children in, and some have continued to come back to Nathanael's weekly children's class. Nanzi had a good camp. The children have not yet come to church services, but we will continue to pray for them.

Over three months I held a series of baptism preparation classes. Two university students and a mother signed up. Others who are already baptized asked to join, and I was happy to oblige. The Lord applied the truth I taught. Deborah gave a very clear testimony when the coworkers interviewed her. We baptized her the first Sunday in October. The second student had been baptized previously. Like so many here, she was baptized without being taught anything. The other lady is not quite ready but asked me not to give up praying for her. She wants to break completely with ancestor worship, including having anything to do with preparing food for the offerings. We normally only ask that they do not participate in the worship. My hope is that while the Lord is dealing with her, she will not put off making a decision.



The last two weekends of July HIM President Harold Martin visited Taiwan with his wife Kayla. She came with quite a list of foods she wanted to try. I think she found everything but decided not to taste stinky tofu. The first Sunday we accompanied them to our church in Zhong-Li. An excellent spirit was in the service, and Bro. Martin shared some of what HIM is doing around the world. On the right the Martins are trying to communicate with the pastor and his wife. They do not speak much English.



The second weekend the churches in the south came together with an independent church for a joint retreat. Rev. Martin spoke to us from Haggai about wrong priorities, wrong perceptions, and misunderstood purity. I enjoyed his ministry and felt the times of worship and fellowship were very important. Amazingly, without any push for money, the offering taken Sunday morning more than covered the expenses of the retreat. The picture below is of the five pastors with Rev. Martin.



In the church I pastor, we started the new school year with a wonderful sense of God's presence in our services. Also we have had several visitors come. Some walked in, and others were invited. Some of them are not Christians and have come more than once. We are finally getting back to where we were before COVID started, with about one-third our congregation being new in the last five years.

The last weekend of September I attended the funeral for Pastor Rich's father. At the age of eighty he became a Christian and was baptized. What a wonderful testimony to God's saving grace. Bradley Halter preached the funeral message and did a wonderful job. As I sat in the service listening to him, I sadly realized this could be the last message I hear him preach. He and Anita are wonderful missionary heroes and have had many years of fruitful service.

Thank you for your prayers and support,
Byron and Missy Manners

