



Taiwan Times

Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter
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Greetings from Taiwan.

I apologize that it has been five months since our last newsletter. With being the chair of THIM, January was busier than usual. We also had two funerals this winter. November began with a pastors' meeting at a coffee shop where we did some planning. The last Sunday of the month our churches in Kaohsiung held an outdoor service together. The Lord gave us a perfect day to be outdoors and blessed us with a good service. With the joint retreat in August, this was the second Sunday of 2025 we worshipped together.



more than covered the expenses. This, along with a gift from the US, provided funds for us to do our second pastors' retreat.

I learned from the first retreat that we need to schedule it before Chinese New Year. This year all the pastors and their wives, plus my assistant and Nathanael Bundy, were able to attend. We had a meal together Monday evening and afterward a devotional and discussion time. Tuesday morning after breakfast we had another time of discussion. Pastor Lee and his wife had to leave early because he needed some tests on his heart. They found the problem and were able to put stents in later that week.

In January THIM had its annual business meeting at the Kaohsiung church. Each pastor reported for his church, and Stanley gave the financial reports and led the legal business that needed attention. He takes care of that side of the organization, while I am responsible for activities and spiritual leadership. With both of our joint services in 2025, the offerings





For Christmas this year, our church was again invited to help carol and pass out literature at a large hospital in our city. More people from the church participated. We visited four or five wards. In some rooms we were allowed to pray with people. Other churches and groups also visited all the other wards in the hospital. We have the freedom to do religious activities in public, and it is exciting (and nerve-racking) to reach out to strangers in this way. Doing it in groups makes it easier for people who are more shy.

Because New Year's Eve fell on our prayer meeting evening, I decided to do a watchnight service. This is only the second one I have done. We met from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. Some came to the church, while others joined online. Since COVID many churches do prayer meeting online, so we usually cannot sing together. It was a special time. The next morning I got up and went hiking with a group from the church and others in our local national park.



Last summer about the time the Martins visited Taiwan, a lady we call Lety began attending our church. She was born in Indonesia and has spent time in Singapore. Right now she is teaching AI in a university in our city. She had just gone through a divorce when we met her. She told us that she tried to attend two other churches before she found us. One had moved, and the other was not having service that day in their building. When she is in Singapore, she attends a Methodist church. I have never met an Asian so hungry for God. She has sat in services with tears rolling down her face. During the watchnight service, she shared some of what God is doing in her life. She says Jesus has saved her life. She was at the point of suicide. (Whether she means that literally or spiritually, I am not sure.) She is moving back to Singapore later this year. We are going to offer her the baptism preparation classes. Hopefully she will really be converted before she returns to Southeast Asia.

Another young man is doing graduate studies at another university in our city. He is from eastern Malaysia, the less developed part of the country. He is a Christian but not a very good one. Others in our church were born in



Vietnam or Burma. At Christmas a mother and son from Mainland China started attending at the invitation of someone in the family who is not yet a Christian. It is exciting to see new people coming, most of whom are not even Taiwanese. Keep us in your prayers. God is trying to do something special with our church this year.

In Christ,

Byron and Melissa Manners