



Taiwan Times

Byron and Melissa Manners Newsletter

Blog: <http://taiwantimesblog.wordpress.com>

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Greetings again from Taiwan. Life as a missionary is usually not boring. The only time in recent years we have struggled with that problem was during the pandemic. Most of the time we have the opposite problem. So during the New Year break, we made arrangements to travel to Japan for the first time. We were able to fly directly from Taipei to Sapporo in the far north for five days over our anniversary. The tollways reminded us of the Pennsylvania turnpike and the scenery of Colorado. Japan is much cleaner and more orderly than Taiwan, but the people did not seem to be as friendly. It was



nice to flee the hot weather for a week, but we about froze as we traveled around Hokkaido. Sapporo has a whole level underground so that people can walk around without having to go outside. We tried it some, but it was easy to get lost. Someday we may return to Japan, but we would like to visit a different area.



On May 1 something amazing happened. We were asked to visit the mother of a lady who occasionally attends our church. Because it was Labor Day, I had gone hiking that morning with a group from the church in the national park in our city. So I was

tired when we drove across town to see 85-year-old Zhuang Mama that afternoon. She had heard some about the gospel and knew the song, "Jesus Loves Me." She had an appointment at the hospital the next week and was frightened. She also told us there was darkness inside.

Our assistant pastor shared the gospel with her in Taiwanese. I did not understand because I cannot speak that language. Zhuang Mama immediately wanted to pray and ask Jesus into her heart, so my assistant led her to pray the sinners prayer. She testified the darkness was gone, so I immediately baptized her. She never kept her hospital appointment. Three days later she was gone. I am so glad we made the effort to visit her. After I returned from Japan, I had her funeral. The grace of God in this case staggers me.





Easter morning Missy held the Sunrise Service for me. She used items in plastic eggs to share the story of the crucifixion and resurrection. An older man also shared his testimony. Then we had breakfast together in our kitchen upstairs. Missy then rushed over to Kaohsiung Church for a baptism they were having. (Christmas and Easter are very popular times to do baptismal services in Taiwan.) The mother-in-law and the fiancée of a

man we used to pastor were baptized, and we wanted to be there. I could not go because it was Easter, and I did not want to be away from my pulpit that Sunday.

On Mother's Day we had fifteen mothers in the service. For the first time I used the story of Hannah. I had been saving a couple of sermons about her for years. This year I was asked to preach about a mother in the Bible. The lady sitting in the picture has not been to church for many months. I have heard she is soon going to move to a nursing home. So it is probably the last time she will be in church.



May also brought around the first anniversary of something I would rather not remember. Steve, a junior-high school student, passed away last year. The family is still struggling with this, and it is hard for his father Bruce to come to church. The family wanted to do something to remember Steve, so they held a family gathering on Friday evening. However, I had Bible study. I have some new students and did not feel I should cancel as I just missed because of being in Japan. So Missy, Miss Joy, and Janice went and ate, sang, and prayed with the extended family.

We have been having good Bible studies on Friday evening and wonderful services on Sunday. We are getting new people in, three of whom look like they are going to stay. All of them have been baptized, but two stopped going to church during the pandemic. Satan is fighting, but that often happens when God is working.



We ask for your prayers for our annual retreat June 20-21. Five churches are going together this year, and it is our most important activity of the year. Missy would also appreciate prayer as she and Nathanael Bundy will be doing five summer camps in July.

In Christ,

Byron and Melissa Manners