TAIWAN TIMES



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Greetings again from Taiwan!

I realize I am really late in writing. It seems the older we get, the busier we are. This past summer we felt like Noah. We had heavy rain almost every day for over four weeks. Thankfully we did not experience flooding, but leaks and mold were problems. Just like we had snow days when we were children, here we have typhoon days. This time it was not the wind but seemingly endless rain from a monsoon system.

Before the rain began, we had our annual retreat. This year four other churches joined us. Pastor Ho, from one of the churches, spoke on “Abiding in Christ” from 1 John. We did something different this year by taking time to pray together in small groups between the two sessions.



I was asked to conclude one of the sessions and was able to do so in Chinese. On Sunday morning my interpreter disappeared just as it was time for the main prayer, so I prayed in Chinese again! I think I surprised some of my church people. My Chinese is far from perfect, but most people can understand me.

The summer camps were different this year. We were able to hold the first camp at the Kaohsiung Church on July 4. The second one was canceled due to a typhoon day. We tried to reschedule it, but only two children signed up for the following week. We wondered why our plans kept falling through, but in August we finally understood. Pastor and Mrs. Lee had returned to Korea to enroll their youngest child in university. While there, Pastor Lee had a physical checkup. The doctors discovered that he had a torn rotator cuff and needed surgery to repair it, delaying their return to Taiwan. Mrs. Lee returned at the beginning of September, but with preaching and adult Bible studies to take care of, she needed help with the children's ministry. So for three Saturdays Missy and a group from our church held "summer camp" at Qi-Jin.

The third camp, which was planned for Nanzi, did not take place. The pastor was hospitalized, and the church did not get around to advertising the camp until the Sunday before it was scheduled. However we did have another camp at a Presbyterian church in Nanzi. We will likely be invited to hold that camp again in 2027.



Around Pentecost I preached a series on The Help of the Holy Spirit. One of the sermons covered entire sanctification, probably more clearly than I have been able to explain it in the past. My main interpreter disagreed with my teaching and stopped coming to church.

For the rest of the summer I had to adjust to working with interpreters who were not professionals.



Another lady was experiencing emotional difficulties. I tried to help her, but she eventually decided to return to the church she had attended before coming to us many years ago. She wanted to attribute her struggles to a demonic attack, but I felt she needed counseling. She has experienced a great deal of trauma in her life.

We also began experiencing a period of rapid growth. We have ten new people attending, at least two of whom are not Christians. For a congregation of around fifty, that represents 20 percent growth in about two months! One of the ladies is Irene. She teaches preschool and speaks passable English. We were happy to get her involved in interpreting for Missy during Sunday School. I am still praying for someone to replace my interpreter, but in the meantime God has helped us through what has been a rather discouraging time.

Missy had been experiencing chest pain, so in September her doctor decided she should have a heart catheterization. Thankfully, there were no blockages. However the procedure revealed a congenital condition that causes her to experience pain when she becomes excited or stressed. She is now taking medication to help keep her heart calm.

At the end of September I had to deal with the Nanzi church's decision to become independent. With my roles as field director and THIM chairman, it fell to me to work through the situation. The joys of leadership!

On October 5 I faced a challenge that scared me. I was asked to speak at a Christian school for a chapel service. It had been years since I had spoken to children! The school meets in a Baptist church that does not allow women to speak from the platform, so I had to do it rather than Missy. I adapted a lesson I had used earlier in the summer about Jesus teaching Peter to fish for men.

By the way, the principal talked with me after the service. He anticipates needing a couple of native English speakers who are Christians in the not-too-distant future. This would be a wonderful opportunity for someone interested in teaching the Abeka curriculum overseas.

We are now down to about two months before we return to the US for four months. If you or your church would be interested in hearing about Taiwan, please contact me. We will be at Sea Breeze Camp in February and hope to see some of you there.

Thank you so much for your prayers. This has been a challenging year, and your prayers have helped us through it.

In Christ,

Byron & Missy Manners



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