

In this feature, we desire to bring you up-to-date on what God has been doing among us as a team so you can rejoice with us. As we share current events, please pray that He would give us the necessary strength and grace for the coming months.

Language Learning

We were recently inspired that the best investment we can make here is to take the time we need for learning the language. This language is not very hard compared to others, but we still have to really apply ourselves in order to make clear progress. Recently we prayed specifically that God would give us the gift of tongues, so that we would be able to speak in this language. That day both my wife and I noticed that there was special grace and that we could understand almost everything spoken and could likewise express ourselves in the local language. Pray with us that we would find new ways to stay motivated in language learning.

Health and Safety

We have been very thankful for perfect health in our family. Many of our daughter's friends have gotten sick in the last month because of changes in the weather. But she has not been sick at all and our whole team has likewise enjoyed good health to this day.

We thank Him also for safety. Motorcycles are the primary source of transportation here and accidents are not uncommon. So far none of us have been injured, though there have been close calls. Truly, safety is of the Lord.

Visas

Three weeks ago we found out that we would not be able continue to enter the country with the visas we are currently using and the immigration department demanded that we change to a longer term visa. This visa required us to fly to the capital city to get approval from central immigration, which seemed like a huge amount of red tape to us.

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The Lord has really changed the situation. At this point we have the assurance that we will be able to process our visas locally and will not have to go elsewhere for approval. We have the promise from a certain organization to not only sponsor visas for our family, but to also sponsor visas for new workers in the future. Psalms 121:8 has really been a promise for us to stand on. *“The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.”*

English Club

Some time ago I started meeting with some friends at 6:30 a.m. at a local coffee shop, just for the purpose of speaking English. These club meetings have been well attended and lately we have had some very good opportunities to discuss significant life situations, life and death matters, and matters of the heart. The freedom that we have had in these meetings is really an answer to prayer. I rejoice at the opportunity to speak with friends concerning heart matters.

New Developments

There is a good chance that we will be moving in the next six months. This move would take us out of the Chinese neighborhood in town here, and would put us in more of a village setting. We really feel like it would be a turning point in the work here, as we would be working more closely with the local Islamic community.

New Workers

We trust the Lord for two new workers by June. They are needed to replace the two workers who are here now. We know that He is answering our prayers concerning



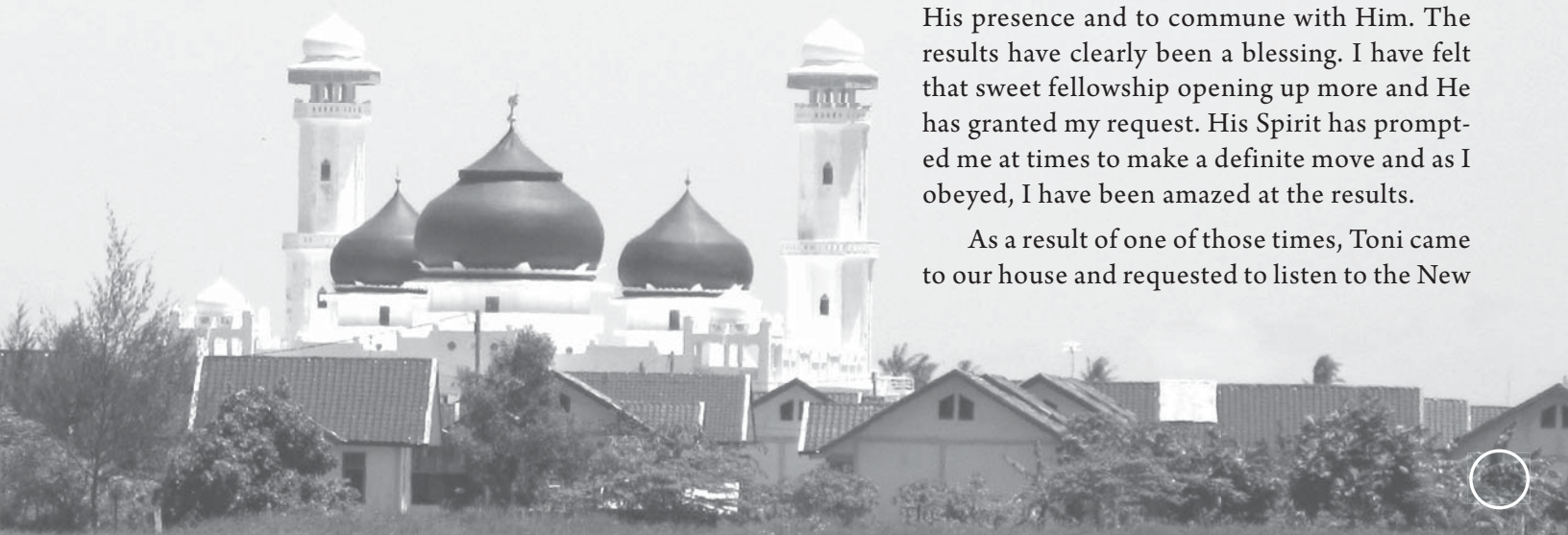
Fishermen mending the nets

this, and that He is raising up additional workers even at this time. We are also praying for several more workers to come at the same time.

From JE (a young person serving in Asia)

Living within a fluid schedule where one can never predict the demands of the next day has the potential of drawing the heart away from deeper things. There are ever-increasing opportunities to spend time with people, but I have found that those opportunities can turn stale if they draw my attention away from a solid gaze on Christ. During the last few months, I had many friends and lots to do, but it seemed like I had no opportunities to really minister. “Are hearts really so closed or what is the problem?” I wondered. As I considered everything, I realized it was my lack of abiding in His presence. I began asking Him to give me definite times of being able to share about Him. And I began to more consciously abide in His presence and to commune with Him. The results have clearly been a blessing. I have felt that sweet fellowship opening up more and He has granted my request. His Spirit has prompted me at times to make a definite move and as I obeyed, I have been amazed at the results.

As a result of one of those times, Toni came to our house and requested to listen to the New



Testament in his heart language. He listened to most of the first eight chapters in Matthew before turning it off. I believe God is definitely working in his heart although he seems to have a long way to go. I desire to continue to pour my life out during the last few months that I have here and at the same time to abide more deeply in Him. Pray with me that I would be all God wants me to be. These sweet words have been ministering to my heart, yet at the same time driving me to my knees. *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”* (John 17:3).

From AY (a young person serving in Asia)

During the last two months I have been teaching three to four English courses, each of which meet several times a week. In the midst of the busyness of teaching and class preparation, my prayer is that God would show me how to invest my energies in what counts. God has been faithfully reminding me to trust Him with all the situations, little and big, that I do not understand or cannot handle on my own. Last week He gave me the thought, “Embrace the challenges and know that you are not alone.” When we know that God’s grace is active in our lives, we can look forward to future challenges with joy, knowing that His grace will be overwhelmingly abundant. Our recent visa run to a neighboring country was an example of God’s faithfulness in orchestrating the little details of our lives. Due to a last-minute change of plans, I ended up on standby for a flight. A few minutes before check-in closed, an official strode past us and cast a look in our direction that said, “Forget it! There is no way you are getting on this flight.” A few minutes later we purchased a ticket and I boarded the plane.

At this point it looks like I will be extending my stay here past June, which was my initial commitment. I am looking forward to facilitating teacher development and assisting the new teachers in their adjustment process.

