



A Plea for Laborers

When we came to Asia, we were not sure what was in store for us. We stored our possessions in the States, knowing that we could easily be back in six months or so. We were, however, open to the idea of staying longer and we knew that the Lord would make His way clear to us as time went on.

Now that we have been here over six months, we have a better sense of what the opportunities are here. Our eyes have been opened to the need for laborers. In this update I want to share some of these opportunities and needs with you, our co-laborers, so that you can intercede with us according to Christ's words to His disciples, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that He will send forth laborers into the harvest."

Most of the work here focuses on English teaching. Our organization has teaching contracts with various schools and organizations here. Typically we teachers teach in several schools throughout the week, two or three times a week in each school. The demand for native English speaking teachers here is far greater than the supply. We find ourselves continually having to turn down invitations to teach English.

JE has been teaching a class of seven students, all workers in an organization across the river. Although JE's contract with this class is now finished, the students like him very much and are learning English so well that they have requested for the classes to continue now that the contract has been completed. They told him that they will try to convince their boss to let them continue with the class. JE is planning, however, to leave the beginning of August, and so far we do not know of anyone who can replace him to teach English to this class.

AY teaches two groups of students at a local English academy. AY's students really like having her as a



teacher, and the academy has asked for AY to take more responsibility in overseeing the national teachers in the academy. Because there are not enough workers to teach all the classes, AY has to

with the students at all times, befriending them, playing, studying, learning with them and being a motivational influence on the whole school. "I will try, but I cannot guarantee anything," I replied, not knowing what else to say.

Is this the voice of a principal, or is it the voice of hundreds, maybe thousands, who are pleading for a chance, their chance...to know...to hear...to see, believe, and live?

I will not take the time to write about the university that wants two teachers to work with their students, most of whom have not spoken to an English speaker, but are studying to be English teachers themselves. Neither do I need to mention the half-dozen other organizations that need English classes for their students or employees as soon as we have a teacher for them.

The question sometimes comes to mind, "Are these just vocational opportunities?" I am quickly reminded that though these seem to be opportunities to meet social and educational needs, hidden in the groups of students of every class of every school, there lie innumerable opportunities to change the course of history; yes, even eternity.

teach every evening of the week except Sunday. This leaves fewer opportunities for AY to spend the evening with her friends and she often wishes there was another teacher to pick up part of her teaching load.

As I listen to another plea for us to come and teach in another school, I wonder, "Is this the voice of a principal, or is it the voice of hundreds, maybe thousands, who are pleading for a chance, their chance...to know...to hear...to see, believe, and live?" The choice is yours today. They have pled. Will you respond?

I was sitting across from a principal in her office at a school in town. She told me, "DH, you should do your best to make sure that we have at least one full-time native English speaker to teach in our school." She proceeded to tell me that she really likes what she sees in our program and teachers and feels like it is vital for her school to have at least one of our teachers to be

Maybe you cannot go today. Will you pray with us to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers?

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" Ps. 126:6.

