

The Johnson Family

January 2016

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Christ from a very cold Hong Kong! The start of 2016 has seen us feeling the coldest weather southeast China has received in almost half a century! Thankfully our family is staying (fairly) warm in our new apartment in Tung Chung. We appreciate your prayers during our recent move, and we thank the Lord for providing both the location and the funds to make the move in a very short time. Just this month Hong Kong was again ranked the city with the most expensive real estate in the entire world! On the reverse of our letter you can also see some of the ongoing unrest in the city over political issues. The protest parade was literally at the doorstep of our church, but thankfully it remained peaceful. Economic and political issues keep many local people agitated – pray along with us for continued peace here in “the Pearl of the Orient” (*“Pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”* Jer. 29:7b).

Because of the huge rent problem, each lease renewal brings some apprehension for both families and churches. Please pray for a Chinese church in Tuen Mun (Pastor Wong, whom we've worked with for many years) facing possible rent increases or changes, and for our own church on Hong Kong island, where our rent has increased almost by ten thousand HKD per month! In happier news, we've seen two visitors accept Christ as their Savior since our last writing, and we still have a number of unsaved visitors attending we wish you would pray for. As mentioned before, we've also had some families begin attending that had been away for a number of years. One of the challenges and blessings of working in an international metropolis like Hong Kong is that many of our families are multicultural, with husbands and wives from very different backgrounds. Although it can be challenging to minister to each need, it is rewarding to see God's word speak to people from a wide range of backgrounds. (II Cor. 9:8)



Passing out Christmas tracts

Our Christmas programs and outreaches went well, and we were able to pass out over 200 bilingual Gospel tracts in the neighborhood surrounding our church. We're heading into the Chinese New Year (the year of the Monkey, by the way!) in which we hope to have some New Year-themed outreaches as well.

Catherine has been able to lead the ladies in the church in a monthly Bible-study and also introduce many of them to American "chili", which was a revelation for most! Pray as Catherine seeks to get some other ladies involved in teaching roles, and as she and the children start learning Cantonese - Jonathan is sticking to Mandarin (Putonghua) for now, but having to learn traditional characters, which is almost like relearning the language again! The Friday Bible study continues to go well and we've started to see families from that group join us on Sundays, which is real encouragement.



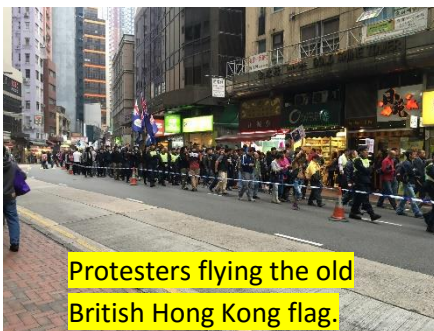
Sunday special music



Christmas morning service

Jonathan also continues to have opportunities in university and philosophy sessions, and Lord-willing will be teaching apologetics in a Bible institute later in the spring. Among this season's challenges are explanation of the truth of the Bible to a liberal religious professor, and witnessing to a Confucian agnostic who enjoys spending time together. Continue praying for conviction for "C", who has moved from atheism/agnosticism to belief in God, but not in Christ; for "S" a Hindu artist; many others met through university and academic settings. We praise the Lord for a good number of university students attending our Wednesday and Sunday services, and would like you to pray for those who are believers to grow and share among their

classmates, and for the unbelievers to accept the message of salvation in Jesus Christ alone.



Protesters flying the old British Hong Kong flag.

We thank the Lord for plenty to do, and ask you to pray for strength to do it! It has been at times an overwhelmingly busy season, but we thank the Lord for giving us the chance to serve Him here and for your partnering with us.

In Christ,

The Johnson Family

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