

Dear Praying Friends,

Hello from Hong Kong! We hope that this update finds each of you well in the Lord. As is often the case, we apologize for how long it has been since our last update, and as is always the case, we have a lot to share! First of all, we want to say a BIG thank you to all of you who have been praying for us as we made the big move into our new church building. It took a few months to renovate and get it ready, but due to Covid restrictions we had plenty of time to do all of this before the government loosened the restrictions on group gatherings. We still have to hold two services each Sunday due to limits on how many can gather at one time, but we are so thankful to be able to meet together again with our church family after a long period of online services (Dec.-April). Our first service in our new church was on Easter Sunday! Although our congregation fits in our new space during two services, it will be tight when we have no restrictions. Pray with us about starting to rent the adjacent floor, or a nearby overflow.



In spite of not being able to have church services from December - April, we were able to have church members and friends over to our home. Here are a few members of our church's College and Career class (SALT group) fellowshipping in our home.

Here in Hong Kong, we remain under some of the world's strictest Covid measures. Masks are a must outside the home, and we've done several mandatory Covid tests. Here are people in our community lined up for free Covid testing.



In May Jonathan had the privilege of preaching for the ordination service of Jeff Carlson. Jeff and his wife Kimberly have been faithful in serving the Lord here in Hong Kong at Grace Baptist Church in Tuen Mun, the church where we first served at when we arrived in Hong Kong over 11 years ago. This year was bittersweet, in that the long-time pastor of Grace departed for the US (far left in picture), but our good ministry friend pastor James Yuen (second from left) has taken the pastorate there.



June was busy with the closing of the school year and the welcoming back to Hong Kong of the Herbster family! We were so happy to have them back helping us in our ministry after a period of time that they spent in the states. Covid delayed their return by a few months. After spending two weeks in quarantine, they jumped right back into serving here. They have been such a help with our youth group and music ministry. Along with strengthening the youth and college-aged students, Pastor Matt has started a choir program for IBC – we've been surprised how excited our men were!

As if all of that was not exciting enough, we faced another big move for our family! In addition to moving church locations, we also had to move into a new apartment. We had been very thankful that God provided us the large space of a village home during the worst part of the lockdown restrictions here. Most of the school year was spent online, and it was very helpful having the extra space for all of us to spread out while we were online for teaching and learning! Now we are in a new apartment, only 10 minutes from where we used to live. Although we have half the space that we had in the village we are closer to shopping and the MTR (Hong Kong's subway system). We have all adjusted to the smaller space and are really enjoying our new home. Thank you to those who prayed for us during this transition period.



In July we said goodbye to some dear church members. The Ampelonov family had to relocate back to Russia. Please pray for them as Brother Evgenii has a heart for pastoring and will be ministering to Russian brothers and sisters and reaching the lost of Russia. Pray for his job search and also for wisdom about getting seminary training – possibly from Maranatha Baptist University, where Jonathan will offer online courses from here in Hong Kong.

Jonathan also had the privilege of baptizing three in July - one was our own son Nicholas! It was such a joy to see them take this

August 2021

step in sharing their testimony with others. The other brother in the picture (we'll abbreviate his name as 'W') has been wonderfully saved and transformed from a life of drug and alcohol addiction. He now is one of our most faithful men, and is busy inviting his old friends to church. Pastor Matt and Jonathan plan to begin going out to the rehabilitation island (about 1 hour by boat) to preach to the men there – most are Chinese, but there are also several Nepali, Indian, and Filipino men as well.



This month will bring the start of school and university classes. Please pray for Catherine as she starts a new year with a new batch of Grade 6 students. Also please pray for Jonathan as he is preparing for teaching several university classes this fall, divided between Maranatha

Baptist, HKBU, and HKU. Each of the courses in Hong Kong relates to apologetics and religion, so there are opportunities to point students to Christ. Please pray for our children, Steven (15), Lucy (12), and Nicholas (8) as they start a new school year as well. Steven is almost as tall as Jonathan and Lucy as tall as Catherine! Most importantly, please pray that more people of Hong Kong will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior, and that His name will be magnified as we continue to serve Him here in Hong Kong. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support of our ministry here.

In Christ's love,

The Johnson Family

We would love to have you join us for our livestreamed service! Please note that we are 12 hours ahead of EST in the US. You can also find previously recorded services here as well:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzkcnRSx47VOq_T6_hkORQ/featured



Support Address:

EOTEM
PO Box 4574
Beeville, Texas
78104

Sending Church:

Morningside Baptist Church
Greenville, South Carolina
<https://morningside.org/>

Field Mailing Address:

1 Ying Hong St.,
The Visionary,
Tower 7, Flat 5B,
Tung Chung, Hong Kong