



Fall / Winter 2022

Dear Friends,

Hello from Hong Kong! Our family is excited that the seasons have started to change here, which means that our temperature is dipping below 80° F, and the humidity below 60% - this feels wonderful for our hot and humid region! We are also excited to catch you up on how the family and ministry are, and how you can pray for us in this busy season.

Growth in the Family:

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” 1 Corinthians 3:6

We thank the Lord for good health in our family. Like many here in Hong Kong, it seems we caught COVID during one of our big ‘waves’ of high numbers. Although we and most people here recovered well, Hong Kong continues to have some of the world’s strictest COVID-prevention measures. This has caused a number of missionaries and local families to be separated or to leave Hong Kong for a time, and we hope you will pray for the regulations to ease. Lately there have been some reductions and now travelers can return to HK. Please do pray for a full resumption of normal life.

The children are growing up so fast! Nicholas just turned 10 (soon to join his school’s rock-climbing team), Lucy is now 13 (excelling in school and working on Spanish and German),

and Steven is 17! He is busy playing volleyball and basketball, and enjoys time with his friends. It is hard to believe that he will soon be thinking about university! Pray for us as he decides where to go. At the moment he is leaning towards Maranatha Baptist University, where



Jonathan teaches online courses as adjunct faculty.



It isn’t just family growth that we are thankful for, but also ministry growth: One of the greatest blessings of long-term ministry is seeing young Christians go on themselves to serve the Lord. Our people at IBC have really been hard at work bringing new visitors to church, evangelizing their families, and sharing the love of Christ in their workplace. On recent Sundays we have had over 100 in attendance, and many of these have been visitors, including unsaved family and friends. We’re also delighted to have several new children coming as well. As a result of this growth, we are praying for a new location for the church – a major undertaking anywhere, but especially in expensive Hong Kong. Will you pray along with us for wisdom and clarity in direction?

As specific examples of this sort of growth, one young woman, 'V', has been witnessing to her family, and finally saw her sister come to faith in Christ. 'K', the sister, was baptized recently, along with 5 others (3 countries! Chinese, Korean, Filipino). Joining her were a mother and father from another family ('D&A'), who were led to the Lord by Pastor Matt Herbster, after their close friend 'W' had witnessed to them for about a year. 'W' himself came to faith in Christ after leaving a life of drug and alcohol abuse. He has since become one of our most passionate evangelists! There are others we could tell you about, but suffice it to say that we

thank God for 'giving the increase' as we and the Christians in Hong Kong 'sow' and 'water'. Pray for continued growth and the revival of hearts!

In relation to the church ministry, please also pray for our upcoming Christmas season. We plan to have our caroling and tract distribution again, and this year we will have two Christmas services due to the size of our space being a bit tight. The Herbster family continue to

be a tremendous blessing, not only in our music ministry, but also in evangelism and outreach to the youth of Hong Kong as well. Please pray for Matt, Tiffany, and Jonathan as they reach different groups throughout our region.

In our teaching ministries, Catherine is enjoying her time working with a new grade level. She switched from what would be considered middle school level to primary school level, and she loves the interaction with the younger children. We have also enjoyed seeing some Christian teachers join the school where she teaches. If you know of any Christian teachers with an education degree and experience teaching who would be interesting in working and ministering in Hong Kong, let us know! Jonathan has taught two different classes for the local Chinese seminary since we last wrote: first a selection of OT books, then a class on apologetics. He is also currently teaching the same course in apologetics for Maranatha Baptist University, and recently saw some of his writings on apologetics published in Frontline Magazine. Pray too for his classes at a local Hong Kong University, especially one he was asked to teach entitled: "Matters of Life and Death"! In that class, a young man ('F') came up on the first day and said, "I am afraid to die, and I do not know if I have a soul. If I do, I want to know where it will go when I die." What a great opportunity to help these students in philosophy and religion to see the hope found in Jesus Christ. Please pray for 'F' and all the university students.

Thank you so much for your prayer and support. **As we shared in our last letter, please let us know if we can connect for an audio or video call – you may reach us most immediately by messaging the number below our sign-off.** One of our greatest challenges internally is being separated from our family and friends back 'home' in the USA, especially during the season of separation caused by COVID. We hope that you know that you are loved and appreciated, and we look forward to day or reunion – on earth or in Heaven!



IBC Men's fellowship (7 countries!)



Love in Christ,

Jonathan, Catherine, Steven, Lucy & Nicholas

johnsonsinchina@gmail.com

Country code (+852)69046831

Support Address: EOTEM, PO Box 4574, Beeville, Texas, 78104