



DAVE AND SUE REESE

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The Johnsons are self supported now but still in good fellowship with EOTEM. This is their story. **GRIT AND GRACE**



It was cold in Harbin China when Jonathan and Catherine Johnson along with Steven (4 years old) and baby Lucy (5 months) moved there in 2009. My prophetic advice was “if you can make it in Harbin for the two years orientation, you can make it anywhere.” By grit and the grace of God they did make it.

16 years later (2025) the path was not easy. Hard work by Jonathan and Catherine, combined by our missionary training leaders in Harbin, Jacob and Stephanie Liu, resulted in what foreign missionaries can accomplish in both poor economies and prosperous ones.

Harbin China in 2009 was a poor hardline Communist Province in NE mainland. Hong Kong (2025) is one of the richest cities in the world. Both areas have been part of the Johnson’s journey.

From a small, cold apartment in a poor city where winter temps drop to -30F and rent is \$100 a month to a comfortable apartment which costs \$2500 monthly, tells an amazing story.

The Johnson family has increased by Nicholas (2012) and a pug, Gizmo, since finishing China orientation in conservative Communist Harbin and moving to free Hong Kong in 2009.

Jonathan took a position as assistant pastor of Island Baptist Church, where within 3 years he became head Pastor, at the same time earning a doctorate at Hong Kong Baptist University. Catherine, with a Master’s in elementary education, and in order to provide free tuition for 3 offspring, took a teaching position at an international Christian school.

Island Baptist Church membership grew with new converts and Jonathan took an additional position as faculty member at the University. All of this allowed the Johnsons to be financially free of USA church support in 2025. In addition to pastoring the church, Jonathan’s faculty position allows him evangelistic opportunities to over 15,000 University students.

Not all foreign missionaries can accomplish this. Many live and minister in poor economies where situations do not allow it. The Johnson family was able to free up support so that other missionaries might have their needs met.

I concentrated on hard work and finances in this article and did not mention the many Chinese souls Jonathan and Catherine have led to Christ.



Dave Reese

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