



International Ministries
American Baptist Churches
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

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Greetings,

In the May's newsletter, I mentioned the visitation trips in April to the ministers who are receiving the F-2 sponsorships. As I returned from those trips, I felt a little unsteady as I was walking home. My first concern was hypertension and tried to measure my own blood pressure. All the readings were not consistent and ranged from 180 to 130 at times. In May, I was able to consult with two doctors in Hong Kong and ran some lab tests. Thank to the good Lord, it was nothing serious. It might be due to exhaustion from the stress of the travelling. It did not indicate hypertension, and the only prescription was lots and lots of rest.

On July 21, the F-2 Board has moved to pass several proposals during a teleconference. 1) Guangdong Province Christian Council—a staffer had undergone two surgeries and eight courses of chemo-therapy for her aggressive breast cancer last year. She is alive because of God's mercy and love, but the follow up medication and injection cost was just too overwhelming for her. The F-2 will be sending her an amount of RMB 5,000 to assist her medical bill. 2) Shan-Xi Province, Xia County Christian Church—Rev. Li En-Le will receive living expense of RMB 800 per month. Rev. Li, who is 64 years old, was a full time minister since 1979. He is also the founder of a music institute which trains underprivileged youths in various music instruments. Currently, there are more than seventy students enrolled in that program. 3) Po-Ning City, Guang-Tai Church—Minister Yao Xiao-Hua is a 2006 Guangdong Union Theological Seminary graduate. An amount of RMB 800 per month will be granted to pay for her living expenses. Guang-Tai Church was without a minister for seven years. Minister Yao's husband was employed as the church minister this year. This village church with limited resources can only afford to pay her husband's salary. It is the F-2's intention to reach out to this church and this minister couple so that they are able to serve the Lord together. 4) Hubei Province, Bao-Kang County—RMB 600 per month for Minister Qu Shu-Juan who is a 2011 graduate of Wuhan Zhong Nan Theological Seminary. Bao-Kang County is the poorest County in China, yet the Gospel reached this area more than a century ago. Churches building were closed down during the Cultural Revolution in 1966. Worshipers and church meetings were held at homes of villagers until 1999. Since the church property had already been occupied by squatters, villagers resorted to a rental home for church worships. The number of believers had been growing during the years and a church building project began in 2009. In exchange for the church original property, a piece of land was granted by the government. The church complex with a multipurpose building and fellowship hall was built with a price tag of RMB 1,210,000 prepaid by the developers. The church dedication ceremony was held in September, 2010. The amount of church building fund raised at that time was RMB 560,000 and an additional RMB 250,000 was raised in April this year. The church can only afford to pay the minister a RMB 200 per month salary. The F-2 will subsidize her living expenses with RMB 600.

On June 23, I accompanied Rev. Calvin Hsu of Los Angeles Rock Mountain Baptist Church on a tour to Tai-Po County Christian Council and their training center. He was preaching at Tai-Po County Cha-Yang Christian Church the next morning with an afternoon trip to Jiao-Ling Christian Church in Rev. Hsu's home town. Preaching at the Meizhou East Gate Christian Church at night concluded the whole day's activities. East Gate Christian Church and Guang-Ying Middle School was found by Rev. & Mrs. George Campbell in 1887. Rev. J.H. Griffin was the principal of Guang-Ying Middle School for many years. Current East Gate minister Rev. Wang Shan-En and some elderly sisters were Rev. Griffin's daughter Alice Griffin's Sunday school students. There are two services each Sunday with an average attendance of 800 worshipers. A new church will be constructed on the adjacent old school site. The cost to build this new church of over 2000 square feet is RMB 10,000,000. Let's remember them in our prayers.

On July 29, Rev. and Mrs. Benjamin Chan from ABC International Ministries and I visited Tian-He Church which is being built by the Guangzhou Christian Council. It was formerly named Xiao-Gang Church, one of the Free Evangelical Churches in the Hai-Zhu District. Squatters occupied the church building during the Cultural Revolution and used it as a printing shop. In 1978, with the new religious policy, the church body had the right to reclaim ownership of the building. With much delay and excuses, the print shop finally moved out in 2001. The building was already red-tagged and was beyond repair. There were numerous meetings and dialogue between the Guangzhou Christian Council and the government agencies. A lot in Tian-He District, Dong-Pu Xiao-Xin-Tang was granted in exchange for the condemned building. Dr. Wing Pang from the Christian Leadership Exchange provided the design and drafting services without charge. This new community has a population of several millions. Corporate and residential buildings are continuously being built. It is Tian-He Church's duty to evangelize this new community. May God's grace and blessings be upon this new church.

Rev. David Wong