

Updates from the Rabenaus

Email Dated 12/18/09

Happiness...

When I first arrived at the evangelistic dinner, I was introduced to a sharp dressed, energetic man who was to be the MC for the evening. He was a Christian director from Hong Kong. I knew this evening was going to be good...

Before I get ahead of myself, I need to share an interesting story that my children remembered most. After an hour car ride, we let our children out to explore. They found the live fish tanks. They were having a great time just watching and looking at all the fish. As they got close to the end of all the tanks, where Patcharee and I found a couple chairs, Hannah spotted a cage with only fishnet covering. Then Richie yelled "snakes." It was a cage of cobras. Sarah, staying a good distance from the cage, read the handwritten Chinese note on top that read, "poisonous." You can imagine that Patcharee and I jumped up and told the kids it's time to move. (I thought I left the snakes back in Hainan.)

When I sat down at our table, I couldn't wait for Director Dan and the others to share Christ, so I asked if everyone believed in Jesus. There was one young woman who had not. I asked her what was the most important thing in life? After she thought for a moment, she answered "Happiness." I then shared about the eternal happiness found in Christ Jesus. I shared mostly through dinner. Then Dan began the evening with worship, prayer, and testimonies. At the end of the dinner, Director Dan gave an invitation for those who would like to receive Christ to come to the front. She, with over twenty others, came forward to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. I was able to pray with six of them. She told me afterwards that she was truly happy now.

The evening was joyous, the testimonies were wonderful, and happiness was found. Thank you for praying for us and being part of our ministry.

Merry Christmas,

Richard and Patcharee

Pictures attached (Director Dan is back row second from left, young woman is in blue in front, I am the foreigner in the back row)



Email Dated December 20, 2009

We are preparing for a wonderful Christmas. We have two events that we would love for you to pray for.

Christmas Tracts

Patcharee and another lady are preparing over 70 Christmas bags for people and workers in our apartment complex. They are baking cookies to put in a the gift bag, along with gifts for children, and EV tracts. Please pray that the Lord will use these gifts to move in their hearts.

Christmas Party

We are also having a Christmas dinner for local non-believers. This dinner won't be like the one we just had, where we had 20+ new believers and was hosted by a television director from Hong Kong. It is on a much smaller scale. We are having it in our home for some of the locals we have met since moving to our new city. This is a great opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas. Please pray the Lord will convict them of sin, righteousness, and the need for a Savior.

We have one more prayer request. Recently, it has been more difficult for our family to live and do ministry in China. The cost of 4 growing children is rising fast and we are not able to keep pace. (Living in a city as expensive than New York and the rising Yuan against the dollar plays a big part also.)

- Thailand Trip. The Board is allowing us to attend a Family Education Conference. We are in need of one more plane ticket and housing for the whole family to attend the conference. It is in Thailand, so we can visit Patcharee's family. This is a great conference for homeschooling families, and it will allow us to have a break too.
- Medical. Our medical premiums have increased fivefold per year.
- Retirement. Though our retirement is only enough for one, it has now been cut by 50%.
- Children's Education. As many of you know, this has been a big prayer request. One alternative is for our children to attend a local international school.

Please know that we pray for all those on Joanne's email. She is doing a wonderful job, and we appreciate receiving her updates. Thank you for praying for our family, our needs, and our ministry.

Merry Christmas,

Richard, Patcharee, Sarah, Richie, Hannah, and Esther

Thank you for supporting Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

For love offerings, please mail to Richard F Rabenau at 1090 Baldwin Ln, Birmingham, AL 35242