



Dear Friends,

The past several months have been a beehive of activity! In addition to VBS this summer, Ashli and I were thankful to begin a small Wednesday evening English club with several high school students. Almost none of them currently attend church, so we used the Bible as our study material! We enjoyed games, English conversation, and—most importantly—the opportunity to share Jesus with these young people. Please pray with us for these precious students, and for the many more like them who need to hear about Christ here in Hong Kong.

As August came to a close, and before the arrival of the newest Baucum, we managed to host all our Sunday school groups in our home for food and fellowship over the course of two weeks. We're so thankful for the wonderful people God allows us to serve alongside here in Hong Kong.

Speaking of those we serve with, around midnight on September 1, our newest addition began to make his arrival known! Ashli's mom was already en route to help with the birth and the kids but wasn't scheduled to arrive until the 3rd. Thankfully, after a few calls, a dear sister from church came to our home at 1 a.m. to stay with the kids while I drove Ashli to the hospital. Baby arrived safely at 6:30 a.m. that morning, and we're so grateful for Sister Fei stepping in to help!

Although our newest son had arrived safely, we still didn't have a name! It wasn't until nearly two weeks later—just before going to the government office for his birth certificate—we finally settled on Elias Theodore Baucum. These weren't family names but were chosen prayerfully. Elias means "my God is Yahweh," and Theodore means "gift of God." Both express our hope and prayer for his future. Our home is now a bit fuller and noisier, but our hearts couldn't be more thankful for this wonderful blessing.

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Ashli's mom stayed with us for several weeks, and the kids loved having their "Yaya" here and showing her around Hong Kong. The week after baby Elias arrived, we also had the joy of celebrating the 40th anniversary of Lighthouse Baptist Church. It was amazing to see God's faithfulness as we reflected together on all He has brought our church through. During the celebrations, we honored several leaders who have served faithfully for 10, 20, and 30 years. It's humbling to serve alongside such dedicated servants of God, and we're excited about what He has in store for the next 40 years!

While it was encouraging to remember all that God has done in the past, it also stirred in us a deeper hunger to see His hand at work in the present. For a couple of months, we hadn't seen any new salvations or baptisms, but God reminded us that He is always at work—even when we can't see it. In September, we rejoiced to witness several decisions for Christ. A young adult visiting our services with a friend joined his friend in his discipleship class after the service. The lesson was on assurance of salvation and by the end of it, he had accepted Christ!

We also welcomed a new family who recently moved to Hong Kong for work and a young woman from the U.S. who came to teach at an international school, desiring to make an impact on students who need the gospel. Another encouraging moment came when one of our men completed his initial discipleship course and is now preparing for baptism later this month. Though we can sometimes grow discouraged by a lack of visible "results," we're reminded that God is always drawing people to Himself and building His church.

We're deeply thankful for your prayers and partnership with our family. It's a humbling privilege to live and serve here in Hong Kong. Thank you for standing with us in this work!

Yours for Hong Kong,

Ben & Ashli Baucum
Levi, Titus, Jude, Selah, and now - Elias!

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