



Dear Friends,

Has this summer flown by for your family? It certainly has for ours here in Hong Kong! It seems like just a few days ago that we were celebrating Titus' graduation from kindergarten, preparing for special summer outreaches, and praying for a new rental home.

In June just before Father's Day, we hosted our first men's meeting and were encouraged by a challenge from a retired local pastor that I (Ben) was privileged to know during my early years in Hong Kong. God has blessed our church with a great group of faithful men, and we're praying God uses them mightily for His purposes in the years ahead. Our prayer is for them to grow into spiritual leaders first at home and then in the church and community.

Family & Schooling

Our family was grateful to celebrate a special time with Titus and Jude, who both finished their first semester at a local kindergarten in June. While it was bittersweet for extroverted Titus as this was his first and final semester in kindergarten, we're thankful to see his growth over the past few months. Both boys had struggles along the way, but God carried them (and us) through and we're thankful for the new friendships and connections made. Both boys started picking up Cantonese and we're looking forward to it developing even further this next school year.

Speaking of next school year- our two oldest (Levi and Titus) began a new year of homeschooling two weeks ago. While the next two (Jude and Selah) are set to begin at the same local kindergarten. While Jude is now a veteran, this will be a brand-new experience for Selah. Please pray for these little ones as they enter the next school year.

Not only are we kicking off the school year with two at home and two in kindergarten, we're also expecting the arrival of baby #5 in just two short weeks! It's going to be a busy Fall on many fronts, so please pray with us for strength, organization, and sanity along the way!

(Side note – we haven't decided on a name for the new baby yet, so if you have any suggestions – send them along!)

Transition and Typhoon!

July was a big month for our family as we prepared to move out of our rental village house and into a wonderful new rental apartment that the Lord graciously provided. During the month, we were blessed to be able to welcome our former pastor and friend, Dwight Tomlinson and his wife Gayle into our home. We were grateful to have him preach to our church family and share an update about the ministry of Barnabas1040. (if you'd like to learn more about this amazing ministry please check out Barnabas1040.com).

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The week before our move, we experienced our first typhoon (aka HK hurricane). It was a fairly significant storm for the city, however, after spending years in Florida, we were not intimidated! Unfortunately, the storm hit Hong Kong on Sunday morning (July 20th), so we decided to move our service online as the public transportation shut down for nearly the entire day. We enjoyed a great time of worship together and were able to resume a normal schedule for the rest of the week.

After the storm passed, we got back to packing for our move. When moving day came, we were blessed with many willing hands from the church family and were able to get most of our furniture moved over in a matter of hours. The new home has already been a huge blessing to our family, especially Ashli who is thankful she no longer needs to climb multiple sets of stairs every day during this last month of pregnancy.

Vacation Bible School & Beyond

Our family kicked off a very busy first half of August with Vacation Bible School! We were grateful to have over 40 children join us each day and were especially thankful to welcome one of our neighbors' sons whom our boys have befriended. Their family had never attended church, but the boy raised his hand during one of the invitations indicating his desire to trust Christ! Pray with us for this young boy's parents and siblings to come to Christ as we continue building a relationship with them. Our church volunteers did a phenomenal job putting the entire program together, with several taking days off work to help and even returning to work after assisting with VBS in the morning. Thank God for dedicated servants who are working for the Kingdom!

In addition to the number of children who made decisions during VBS, we've been privileged to see a number of adults trust Christ this summer – including one man who came for the first time just two months ago. We have three new believers currently in discipleship and looking forward to several baptisms soon.

We're reminded regularly of the faithfulness of God through the prayers and generosity of His people. Just this past month we were surprised by several special gifts that covered all our moving expenses as well as some medical expenses for Ashli's pregnancy. We serve an amazing God. He always provides exactly what we need.

Thank you for your partnership with us.

Yours for Hong Kong,
Ben & Ashli Baucum
(Levi, Titus, Jude, Selah, and unnamed #5)

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