

March 21, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

Goals And Souls

We have had a good start to the new year, and I trust each of you have as well. In January, I challenged our church with 3 church-wide goals. The first goal is to distribute 25,000 tracts this year. We are well on our way towards reaching that goal. It is good to see our long-time members faithfully reaching out to the lost week-by-week and month-by-month, but it is equally exciting to see new believers getting involved! The second goal for 2024 is to see 100 visitors in our services. We have had just under 25 so far, thus we are on target to hit that goal as well. Our third goal is to see 25 people trust Christ as Savior this year. So far we've had 6 professions of faith and about 6 more people are currently at various stages of being taught the Gospel one-on-one. Please pray for us as we continue just doing the same thing we've been trying to do for many years - winning more people to Christ, and training believers to share the Gospel with the lost.

Please pray especially for an elderly man named Ohm Yuen. You may remember him from my last two prayer letters. 6 months ago while we were away caring for our daughter during her medical crisis, a couple of our members met Ohm Yuen while passing out tracts door-to-door. When we returned from that trip, he was attending services, and at that time, he claimed to be a Christian. Over these past 6 months, I have had numerous conversations with him trying to get a clear idea of why he considered himself a Christian, but it was always very vague. In January, I finally had a really good visit with him in his home and he told me the most detailed version of his story that I had heard yet. The problem was, it confirmed my suspicions that he was not yet a true believer in Christ. At that point, I started him at the very beginning of our Gospel study, and began to go through it very slowly and very thoroughly. I have taught these lessons to hundreds and hundreds of people over the years, and rarely have I ever had someone more dialed in. He has listened to every word with rapt attention, truly pondering every word I've said, as well as the implications of those words. As an added blessing, his wife (who has not yet attended church) has sat and listened nearly as well as he has. Two weeks ago I wrapped up the series fully expecting them both to trust Christ as Savior. When it came time to draw the net, I was dismayed to see that they were still under the illusion that they themselves weren't all that bad. They agreed that in a literal sense surely they had committed some small sin in their lifetime (because after all, the Bible says that all have sinned), but they were under no apparent conviction from the Holy Spirit to repent and turn to Christ for salvation. Please pray for this dear couple, that God would convict them of their need for Christ.

There is one more person I would like to ask prayer for specifically. Another person who started attending church while we were away last year was a young lady named Teeda (she was mentioned in my letter of October 10th, 2023). She came off and on for several months, but around the first part of this year she began to express a real hunger to know the Lord. A couple of our ladies taught her for several weeks, and she trusted Christ as Savior. Ever since she got saved, she has been really excited about the Lord, and 2 weeks ago she brought her husband to church. He is friendly and open to learning about Jesus, so please pray for Seuk Leen, as we are attempting to set up a time to begin teaching him. It's always a blessing to lead anyone to Christ, but it's a special blessing to see a married couple come to Christ and begin to grow in the Lord together. Please pray for them.

Memory Verse Awards

Last year, I challenged our church members to memorize and quote 52 Bible verses on the topic of the characteristics of God. We had 12 people quote all 52 verses, and on our church anniversary last month, we were delighted to award each of them a beautiful canvas of a Scripture verse of their choice to hang in their homes. (I'll attach photos of a few of the memory verse award recipients). Those canvases made such a hit that we have about twice as many people this year attempting to quote the weekly memory verses. Those who got a canvas last year want another one! And those who didn't get one have made it known they are not missing out this year! I decreased the number of verses from 52 to 50, and the topic this year is "50 Important Verses About The Word of God." My goal is that by the end of the year, every one of them will have a greater confidence than ever before that the Bible is the Word of God.

Piano Lessons

Please pray for me as I have undertaken a brand-new project of teaching piano lessons. Currently I have 7 students. 3 of the students are adult men, all of whom are very faithful in church, and have some natural musical ability. The other 4 are children (ages 8 to 12), all of whom have attended our church for most or all of their lives. I don't know much about teaching piano, but I believe this is what God wants me to do. I figure I'll teach them all I can, and then we'll have to trust God to provide more qualified teachers in the future for those who really take to it.

We are trusting God to do His work as we are faithful to do ours. Thank you so much for standing behind us with your prayers and financial support. We thank God for each of you.

Sincerely,

Stephen Benefield



Here are 4 of our guys singing a special on our Anniversary Sunday in February. Great guys! God's doing a work in and through each of them.



One of our good ladies, Karona, getting her Bible memory award. She teaches our ladies Sunday School class.



Another of our good ladies, Ming Rhadee. She loves to go soul winning and goes out several times a week. She is always working on somebody specific.



Chanthay got back into church last year after being saved many years ago. She's been through some tough trials recently, but God is doing a work of grace in her life.



Ezra. Love this guy! His dad and mom do so much in the church, and he is growing up into a fine young man



Rut is such a blessing to our church. Very committed to Christ and growing in the Lord.



This picture was sent 6 months ago, but I decided to send it again because two the people I talked about in this letter are pictured here. The elderly gentleman next to me is Ohm Yuen and the young lady is Teeda. We are still praying for and working on the young man, but have not made much progress. His name is Kaleen.