

Isaiah 52:7

那報佳音、傳平安、報好信、傳救恩的、對錫安說、你的神作王了。這人的腳登山何等佳美。



Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

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Beautiful Feet Ministries

I am not certain where we were at this time last year, or if we were just oblivious to what the locals were doing at the time, because we were so new to Hong Kong.

Since we have been back, we have been making more cross border trips which means we are staying in Hong Kong much more. As we look around our building complex we see steel barrels, and sand boxes laying out near the street, with fires burning in them, and an endless supply of incense burning around them. Also there are plates of fruit and food presumably left for a sacrifice of some kind. As we investigated we discovered that we are in the middle of the Ghost Festival! The Ghost Festival is a traditional Chinese festival and holiday, which is celebrated by the Chinese. In the Chinese calendar (a lunar calendar), the Ghost Festival is on the 14th night of the seventh lunar month. In Chinese tradition, the seventh month in the Chinese calendar is called the Ghost Month (鬼月), in which ghosts and spirits, including those of the deceased ancestors, come out from the lower world to visit earth. The Ghost Festival is the climax of a series of the Ghost Month celebrations. Traditionally, ancestor worshiping was an important part of the festivals, with activities including preparing ritualistic offering food, and burning hell money (See Below),



Hell money Bank note to burn to send along to your ancestor's.

and burning bags containing clothing to please the visiting ghosts and spirits of the ancestors, as well as other deities.

The name "hell" In Chinese mythology, does not carry a negative connotation. The hell they refer to is Di Yu (trad. 地獄, simp. 地狱; lit. "underground hold/court"). Diyu is a maze of underground levels and chambers where souls are taken to atone for their earthly sins. Despite the explanation of the Chinese interpretation of hell, a more popular story says that the word hell was introduced to China by

Christian missionaries. These missionaries preached that all non-Christian Chinese people would "go to hell" when they died, and through a classic case of misinterpretation, it was believed that the word "Hell" was the proper English term



King of Hell (Yen Loo).

for the Chinese afterlife. Hence the word was adopted.

Furthermore, it is believed in Chinese mythology that all who die will automatically enter the underworld of Diyu, to be judged before

either being sent to heaven, or to be punished in the underworld, or to be reincarnated.

Hell bank notes (Simplified Chinese: 冥币; Traditional Chinese: 冥幣; Pinyin: míng bì) are a special form of joss (incense) paper, an afterlife monetary paper offering used in traditional Chinese ancestor veneration, that can be printed in the style of western or Chinese paper bank notes. In order to ensure that spirits have lots of good things in the afterlife, their relatives send them (by burning) papier-mâché presents, (paper representations of stereo's, tv's, jewelry, and just about anything else you can think of). One of the most popular things that are usually sent to ancestors are Hell Bank Notes – money to spend in the afterworld. In some mythology, the Hell Bank Notes are sent by living relatives to dead ancestors as a tribute to the King of Hell for a shorter stay or to escape punishment, or for the ancestors to use themselves in spending on lavish items in the afterlife. Regardless of the presentation, Hell Bank Notes are well known for their outrageously large denominations, ranging from

\$10,000, \$100,000, \$1,000,000 or even \$500,000,000. On every bill, it will usually feature an image of the Jade Emperor, and his Western signature (Yu Wong, or Yuk Wong) countersigned by Yanluo, King of Hell (Yen Loo). On the back of each bill, it features a portrait of the bank of Hell. It is amazing to me that Hong Kong is considered a Post Christian society. It had been evangelized many years

Isaiah 44...

9 Those who fashion a graven image are all of them futile, and their precious things are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame.

10 Who has fashioned a god or cast an idol to no profit?

11 Behold, all his companions will be put to shame, for the craftsmen themselves are mere men. Let them all assemble themselves, let them stand up, let them tremble, let them together be put to shame.

ago. There are "Christian" schools everywhere. But that usually just means that they teach English. Please pray for us as we live and work among this culture. Please pray for us that God will give us the Word's of truth to share with our Cantonese and Chinese neighbors.

A Day at the Border ...

Last week a new border area opened between Hong Kong, and Shenzhen, China via the KCR (Kowloon Canton Railway). We have been prayerfully waiting for this border to open as it may allow us to send twice as many teams across the border with bags of God's precious Word. The fateful day came, and we hopped on the first train with our packs full of His precious cargo. It was no problem to get through as there were television camera's, and very many reporters there marking the historic occasion. I was even allowed to take pictures in the No Mans land area where pictures are strictly forbidden. It was great!

So the next day came and we decided to use this border again and see what it is really like when there are no television crews watching. Well, needless to say, all four of us were stopped, and detained, and all our precious cargo was confiscated. We were told we could recover our Bibles on the way out of China later that evening.

We did not even have to put our bags on the scanner, they just stopped us because we are westerners. On our way back into Hong Kong, we stopped in confiscation to pay our fine and retrieve our Bibles, and as we were practicing our Chinese language on the customs official (a curious young woman), she told us she did not have an English name. Well, we discussed it with her, and decided to name her Zhong (her family name), Sarah Esther. We got to tell her all about Esther in the Bible, and how it means "Star" in Hebrew, and we also got to tell her a little about Sarah. She was so very excited to receive such a famous English name. We even got to show her in the Bibles that they had confiscated from us, her new names. We could tell that she wanted a Bible, but she kept eying the ever vigilant camera's that watch every move that we make. We were not able to leave her one, THIS TIME. Please pray for our new friend Zhong Sarah Esther, that we will get another chance to give her the Word of life.



Craig, Deborah, and Cantonese friend Maggie, enjoying an ice cream cone in the heat...

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You may send us letters or packages to either address.

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Our dear sister in Christ, Becky Murphy, (Hi Becky!) is picking up our mail and sending it to us in Hong Kong twice a month or more as needed.

Please email us at;

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Praise Him ...

That HE will never give us more than we can handle ...

For HIS Word that can transform lives ...

For every single copy of HIS Word that gets into HIS kids hands in China ...

That our diets are working (My Cholesterol is getting better, and my blood pressure is under control) ...

For the new laborers He is sending us ...

Prayer Requests ...

Pray for God's mercy over China, and over the current crackdown on foreigners working inside China.

Pray that God would hold the doors open to China for Bibles, until the last one is in.

Pray that God gives us clear direction this year in regards to our work, and our HK visa situation.

Pray that the new border (Lok Ma Chow) becomes more open to us. That we are able to move material through it.

Pray for the customs and immigrations officials that are confiscating our Bibles, that they would read them, and that God would open their eyes.

Pray for wisdom for us as LCI has asked Deborah and I to take over briefing the Short term missionaries.

Especially, pray for our Chinese brothers and sisters who are suffering for there faith in Jesus Christ. Who are willing to give up there lives in order for our bretheren to have God's Word.