

# Happy Chinese New Year!

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!

HAPPY Chinese New Year! It has been a good one for us. We are moving into our new office this month (THANK YOU LORD), and thanks to you all for your prayers. We have been fairly busy already this year. We have moved so far this year 4461 Study Bibles, 19788 Complete Bibles, 3246 Kids Bibles, 1548 Pieces of Sunday School material for Kids. A total of about 12 Tons. And we would love to have more of you here helping us, we could have moved more! Many Thanks to those of you who were here.



*Bible couriers preparing for a trip.*

conquerors. They are charming, passionate, charismatic, practical and hardworking.



*Dragon Dance & Lantern Festival....*

The lantern festival is held on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. Some of the lanterns may be works of art, painted with birds, animals, flowers, zodiac signs, and scenes from legend and history. People hang glowing lanterns in temples, and carry lanterns to an evening parade under the light of the full moon. In many areas the highlight of the lantern festival is the dragon dance. The dragon—which might stretch a hundred feet long—is typically made of silk, paper, and bamboo. Traditionally the dragon is held aloft by young men who dance as they guide the colorful beast through the streets.

### The Lion Dance ...



*The Lion Dance ...*

The lion dance originated in China close to a thousand years ago. The lion is traditionally regarded as a guardian creature. It is featured in

### Now, for a little history ...

Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. The Chinese year 4706 began on Feb. 7, 2008. Chinese months are reckoned by the lunar calendar, with each month beginning on the darkest day. New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the month and continue until the fifteenth, when the moon is brightest. In China, people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year.

A Ratty Year (This is the year of the Rat according to Chinese Mythology)

Legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in rat years tend to be leaders, pioneers, and

**1 Peter 3:14-15** But even if ye should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed [are ye:] and fear not their fear, neither be troubled; but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: [being] ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear:

Buddhist lore, being the mount of Manjusri. There are different variations of the lion dance in other Asian cultures including mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singa-

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pore, with each region possessing their own styles. Chinese lion dances can be broadly categorised into two styles, Northern (北獅) and Southern (南獅). Northern dance was used as entertainment for the imperial court. The northern lion is usually red, orange, and yellow (sometimes with green fur for the female lion), shaggy in appearance, with a golden head. The northern dance is acrobatic and is mainly performed as entertainment.

### An Interesting Tale.

One day last week, we met a team coming back from China, we learned that some of them had gotten through with their precious cargo, which is wonderful because it has been very difficult lately. One of the women said she had gotten stopped at the customs area and her Bibles were confiscated. The customs official was screaming (in Chinese) at the top of her lungs at her. She was so flustered she did not know how to react, so when she saw us, she asked us what I would have done.

So I told her, I would have just simply said;

YAH SU AI NEE 耶穌愛你

She looked at me with the most puzzled look, and said "KISS MY HINEY?" We all howled with laughter and said NO NO. JAH SU AI NEE, it means in Mandarin, JESUS LOVES YOU!

### Praise Him ...

**New Office YEAH, THANKS Papa!**

**That Deborah and I were able to travel to New Life League Japan, and meet our brothers and sisters who are printing all the Bibles.**

**For every SINGLE copy of His Word that He gets in to China.**

**That we got an order from ONE Chinese pastor for 500,000 copies of the Bible.**

**WOWEEEEEE!**

One day I was making a crossing at the border and was stopped at the by customs. While I was waiting to be processed three others from our group were stopped. One young man and two older ladies. As they were standing and waiting one of the ladies leaned over and told the young man, that if he had the chance to take her bag, that he should try to switch bags and get more Bible through. Well he tried but with no success, and he just ended up getting caught multiple times. While this was going on I was being processed. When I was done, the last thing I heard was the customs official saying "You say you are honest but you are not." This stuck me in the heart. When I got to the hotel I told Craig the story and the next day we had a talk with the people involved.

We told them that switching bags at the border was not worth losing our witness over. And that even though I had switched bags before, I would not do it again because it is a bad witness. They took the talk well.

And you know what, they tried it. Instead of switching bag they loved on the guards. The guards started treating them better and even letting them keep extra books when they were stopped.

Praise the Lord !!

Our Address in Hong Kong:  
You may send us packages to ;  
**Craig & Deborah Graber**  
**Flat A, 12/F, Block 1**  
**Sheung Shui Centre**  
**Sheung Shui, New Territories**  
**Hong Kong**

You may send us letters to ;  
**Craig & Deborah Graber**  
**PO Box 2022**

**Jackson WY 83001**

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;

**Craig;**

**TheGrabers@boxtracker.net**

**Deborah;**

**arethereblackhole@yahoo.com**

### Prayer Requests ...

Deborah and I are at the pinnacle of all cross-roads that we have ever faced. We asked God last year to show us if He means us to stay here long term. The only way we can stay truly legally long term is to get Hong Kong work visas. 2 days AFTER we asked God this in prayer. We got a call (last year) from our brother Vidar from Norway saying they could possibly apply for our work visa's through New Life based on the fact that I have had past software experience, and I would be able to help them put together a web driven database for New Life Japan. YE HAW God answers prayer! We thought God answered with a BIG YES. But it seems He was saying wait. As we filled out all the appropriate paperwork last year before our furlough (05/19/2007), and the paperwork was not submitted until 02/01/2008. The process is supposed to take 6 weeks, and it is no easy road for certain. To

add to the dilemma, our lease on our apartment, is up in August, and we will be expected to make a decision to renew it, or not. We really cannot make a decision about renewing our lease, or even when to come home for furlough, until we know whether our work visas are approved. So we humbly ask all of you to join us on our knees, and ask the Lord to show us the way. If He grants us our HK work visa's we accept that He has called us here full time, long term, *period*. If we are not approved for HK work visa's, well then what's next? We Know Not ....

But we will be looking for His directions elsewhere. Please help us by asking Him to show us the way He wants us to go ...

On Our Knees,

Craig and Deborah ☺