

Giving Thanks, and Thanksgiving ...

November 2009



A turn of the century stained glass from a Anglican Church in Hong Kong ...

You know that there is a lot of difference between Giving Thanks, and Thanksgiving. Don't get me wrong, I love turkey, stuffing, and the rest. (In fact we are having 2 Thanksgiving Holidays this year). But Giving Thanks is something that we need to be doing every single day of our lives. I mean, down on our knees, face to the ground, praising God for His goodness. Which by the way, that Goodness, I do not deserve, in the least.

We live in the miraculous Grace of God every day of our lives, and have been doing so since God has called us to the Mission Fields of Asia, to work with the persecuted church. I am going to endeavor to lay out the pieces of God's Grace, and Giving Thanks for it in the outline of our summer trip (June, July, August 2009).

James 1:17

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

As I look back at this time of travel for us, it is an opportunity to give the Thanks to God, for we never could have made this trip without Him at the Helm. It all starts for us last January when Deborah and I started to pray for the finances to come back to the USA and Visit all of you. (Our Supporting Churches, and our Families). You know our story, we literally live month to month, dependent completely on God's Grace through you, and our expenses have been going up practically since we got here, but our support was not. God makes it possible every month for us to have just exactly what we need. Not a penny less, nor not a second too late. You could say we live in a perpetual state of giving thanks, having bills show up at the door, and then having an extra check show up to pay it, just causes me to exude praise for my King, the King of kings. Well it wasn't long after we started asking God to provide a way home for the summer, that a check showed up in the mail for just enough to cover the air tickets. GIVE THANKS! We were overwhelmed with joy. As time approached for us to leave, we were wondering how we were going to pay for storage for our stuff while we were home. After praying about it. God gave us another reason to praise Him. Our new landlord offered to rent us our new house for the price of a storage unit (Instead of rent). This is Hong Kong folks, and I can tell

you that people just don't do that here. GIVE THANKS!

Well, needless to say, Deborah and I were a little crisp around the edges. From moving our residence in Hong Kong, and all the hustle and bussle of getting ready to fly half way around this big world of ours. We just prayed and asked God to take care of us. We were tired and beat. When we landed in SL City, the very next morning we flew out to Oakland CA. We were about to speak at Santa Rosa Bible Church. God again answered our prayer by giving us wonderful fellowship time with our friends Scott and Lorelee Wellington. God just blessed our sox off through these guys. Every little detail was taken care of by all of our friends there. We even got to have Sunday lunch with our "bestest" friends, The Hutcheson family of Palo Alto

CA. GIVE THANKS! And unbeknownst to our friends in Santa Rosa, (Deborah and I love to camp), our friends there gave us a camper to sleep in. Coming from Hong Kong, it was like sleeping in the clouds!! GIVE THANKS!

We also knew that when we got to the USA, the VW would need some work. We were prepared for a new carburetor, but we were not prepared for the engine to be seized



and rusted solid because I forgot to duct tape the back door shut! Well we prayed and God Acted... The only place we could get parts within 1000 miles of where we were, was Boise Idaho, and guess what? That's where we were speaking next. At Cloverdale United Reformed Church BOISE, Idaho. We were so blessed by the folks in Boise, they got us there, and through Gods Grace, got us the parts we needed for the VW. When the news got out that the VW needed work, all of our family in Christ came to the rescue and gave exactly what we needed to stay somewhere warm and dry while we worked on the bus. GIVE THANKS! Well after many bloody knuckles, and lots of prayers (lots), the

CRAIG AND DEBORAH GRABER
4A, 2/F WA SHAN TSUEN, MIDDLE SECTION
SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES,
HONG KONG SAR

Beautiful Feet Ministries

Giving Thanks, and Thanksgiving ...

VW was up and running better than it ever has. The VW now has a new carb, and 4 new pistons and cylinders. It now goes from 0 to 70 mph in 11 minutes flat ;)

So we started out on our journey from Idaho Falls to Alpine Wyoming, and stopped to see our brothers and sisters at Morningstar Baptist in Alpine. We were blessed to see everyone there, and even more blessed when our brother Kerry cooked us the finest piece of trout I have ever had. We were also



Best Trout Ever ... Thanks Kerry !

blessed to meet some new brothers and sisters there at a home Bible study. GIVE THANKS!

We then arrived at our home for the next month or so, at Rocky Mountain Camp, in Wilson Wyoming. This for us, is just like coming home, as Community Bible Church (Rocky Mountain Camp) is our home Church. It really was like coming home. This is where Deborah and I met, and were married. There are VERY MANY special brothers and sisters here, and there is nothing finer than the reunion of dearest brothers and sisters in Christ. I can imagine that someday this is what heaven will be like, being reunited with our loved ones. Ahh, Someday ...

GIVE THANKS!

Next we got an opportunity to speak to our brethren at 1st "B" in Jackson. What a pleasure to see so many faces that have prayed for us over the years. We know they are praying for us, because God is answering them.

GIVE THANKS!

That very Sunday, right after church, Deborah and I started off on what was supposed to be our relaxing week of back-packing in the Gros Ventres Wilderness, WY. We chose a short 20 mile hike in a mere 6 days. Only two 10000 foot passes to climb over, and one 11000 foot. Looked pretty straightforward from Google Earth! I won't go into all of the details of the trip, as I could write a book on all that happened to us that week. I will say that there came an occasion for Deborah and I to experience near death every day. We had Grizzly experiences, Black Bear experiences. Raging rivers that were supposed to be creeks. Complete absence of trails. Huge landslides. Our 20 miles turned into 40. Mosquitoes so thick you could wipe a layer of them off of your leg (we did). Trail sickness (from bad water), and on top of all

that I miscalculated how much medicine I would need for my knee. (Most of you know, my knee is terminal, I am going to get a new one soon). We even had a GPS, but we didn't bother to pay attention to it until we were completely in the wrong place. Well, what can I say, God is FAITHFUL. He saved us from the hungry Mom Grizzly, and her cub. AND from the black bear that slept next to us the first night. AND from the raging Gros Ventre River that we had to cross because there was no other way out of the



Deborah in the Gros Ventre Wilderness, July 2009

canyon. AND from the Dad Grizzly's that left there claw marks in the trees. AND from dehydration. AND from the mountain lion we could smell but never did see. AND from sliding down a steep slippery trail to our deaths, in a icy river. (Because the real trail was completely submerged by the raging river) AND from crashing through the snow caps to the unseen rivers underneath them. Even after all that, I had been out of medicine for two days, and was near giving up trying to walk. Who did I "happen" to meet in the middle of the Gros Ventre Wilderness, after I had not seen another human being for 6 days? I met my doctor... After falling down, and crying (literally) out to Jesus to make my leg work. 5 minutes later, there in the middle of nowhere,

was MY Doctor. He happened to have some medicine in his little black bag, and he gave it to me. I am not sure if my doctor realizes how God used him that day to make a miracle in my life. I hope so. We walked out of the Gros Ventre Wilderness that evening, and reached the VW at midnight, after a 16 mile day, starting at 8:00 AM. I asked Deborah if she enjoyed the hike, she looked at me and smiled, rather slowly. Not giving her time to respond I asked her if she would go again...

She smiled again, and said ... Maybe ...

GIVE THANKS!

Of course our trip did not end there, we went on to visit all of our church families, and our families in Michigan, and Arkansas. We got to meet new brothers and sisters who have become dear to us. We ARE looking forward to doing it all again, in 2 years.

GIVE THANKS!

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

God is Working ...

I think the last time I wrote about how much material was moving across the border by our group, it was concerning the time during the Olympics, and we were having difficulty getting much of anything in. We asked you to pray (Please continue to do so), but I wanted to let you know what God is doing in response to your prayers. We have seen a general increase in the material going in toward the end of this year. We even broke a long standing record for how many Bibles in one week. Recently we had a team of Norwegians come to serve along side of us, but it was more like we had to get out of their way. We now know why they are called "VIKINGS". And I for one am glad they are on our side! In one 6 day week, 22 Norwegians, and 12 of us long term folks gathered for an all out attack on the border. No holds barred. Everyone who could, took the "Beast" size suitcase (at least 200 lbs), and the girls took "mini beast" suitcases at about 120 lbs. Everyone went at least 3 times a day, and I am not sure what the max was. The record for how many Bibles in 1 week finally fell, thanks to God, and our hearty Norwegian friends. In 6 days we managed to carry across the border 13.6 tons of Bibles, about 30,000 individual books. Praise GOD, it looks like we will be over 100 tons for this year. Keep praying as this year is not over yet.

I Cannot tell you exactly how, but God has opened an effectual door for us to carry more in than we ever have. I ask that you all continue to pray for more long term workers to come and join us here, and more short term volunteers to come and fill the ranks. Please also pray that God would grow our parent ministry's infrastructure, with more holding facilities in China. Also, if you are thinking about coming to help, this would be a good time. Please email me and I will put you in touch with the team coordinator.

11/2/2009, and 11/13/2009). The local PSB had summoned two church deacons, Piao Longyi and Shi Weidong, and interrogated them from 10:00 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21 through 12 noon on Sunday, holding them overnight in the police station.

Senior Pastor Cui Quan and the three other pastors were detained for over 8 hours to prevent their attendance. They were released at 2:30 PM on Sunday, Nov. 22. Pastor Liu Quanqin is still in discussion with the PSB station about the injury to his fingers and damage to his personal property, inflicted by the officers.

Ephesians 4:4

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 4:5

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Ephesians 4:6

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Despite the detention of their leaders, over 500 dedicated church members assembled outdoors to hold the two scheduled morning worship services. Local authorities reportedly tried to intimidate members and prevent them from attending with threats, but were unsuccessful. Church members refused to stop singing and worshipping. This Sunday's thwarted attempt to prevent worship was preceded by last week's video-taped surveillance of the church's meeting in the park.

Just to let you know, as the Bibles are flowing into China, so the persecution of our brothers and sisters is growing. Please pray for our brethren in Shanghai, and for the rest of our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings in Christ <>

Craig and Deborah Graber.

Around China ...

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www.ChinaAid.org

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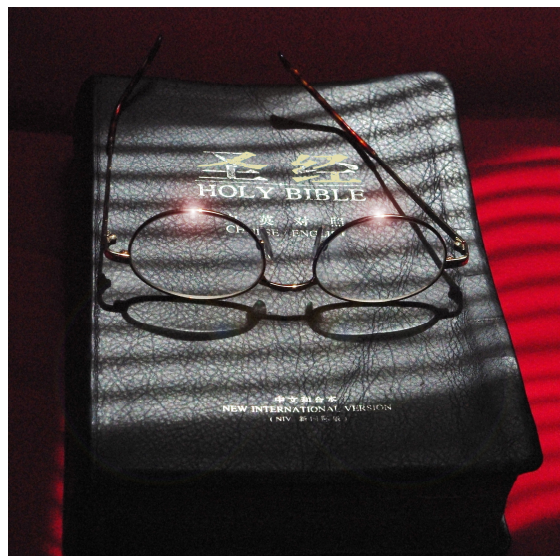
www.MonitorChina.org)

500 Wanbang Church Members Meet Despite Leaders' Detentions

Secret police filmed the prayer service on 11/15. Shanghai PSB interrogated and detained members to prevent this week's meeting.

November 23, 2009

SHANGHAI--At 6:00 AM, Sunday, November 22 (Beijing time), house church pastors Cui Longguo, Liu Quanqin, and Huang Yun were summoned to the police station in Minhang District, Shanghai, for interrogation on allegedly "engaging in illegal organization and activities." The three pastors were detained throughout the morning and into the afternoon to prevent them from leading the worship services at Wanbang Missionary Church, which has been forced to meet outdoors since the eviction from their church home two weeks ago. (Read the press releases from



Important New Business ...

Just to let you know. We have a new address in America, and China now. →→→→→→

Our mail is graciously being handled by Pinedale Properties, by a special lady named Dena. You can mail letters to her, and she will get them to us. You can also send her donations, made out to Beautiful Feet Ministries, and she will deposit them for us in our Wells Fargo Account. You may also mail a check to any Wells Fargo Bank in America, that is made out to Beautiful Feet Ministries, and we will get it. Remember we are a 501c3 organization, and we will mail your summary donation letters out about 01/15/2010, or as soon as our books close for the year.

Thanks for being our partners!

Craig and Deborah Graber.



Contact Info.

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Praise Him ...

God is continuing to provide all that we need on a day to day basis!

WE HAVE A NEW HOUSE! WITH A ROOFTOP, AND CAN HAVE A GARDEN!

Our new house comes with its own exercise package, as it is 1.50 miles from work.

Prayer Requests ...

For our Chinese brothers and sisters who are suffering for the name of Jesus ...

Health things for both Deborah and I ...

That we would grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

For continued growth at LCI with new long term co-workers.

For new short term teams coming from all

over the world to help with the burden of feeding the Chinese Church, God's Word.

For new "storage facilities" in China as LCI grows.

That my knee surgery date would get bumped up. (Closer)

That the Lord would continue to increase the numbers of Bibles going into China.

For the Peace of Jerusalem!