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To: David Darlin
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Hong Kong

The **Darlin Family Journal Notes** is a monthly e-mail update of the Lord's work on China's southern coast. Our latest entries:

Hiding the Lord's Word in Our Hearts

One of the pillars of the ministry here is our memory verse program. We are happy to say that the members have shown great commitment to this. Students in Hong Kong must memorize reams of information during their education career. As a result, church members do not face this as if it was a trip to the dentist. They (mostly) enjoy it! Please pray that each participant truly hides the Word of God in their heart, meditating upon its meaning and will use it effectively in both a gospel witness and discipling opportunities.

Reaching Young Hearts

I have read studies claiming that most Christians (in America, at least) come to Christ for salvation between the ages of 4 and 14. With or without such studies, I think it is safe to say that Christian leaders and workers in any culture understand the need to reach young hearts before life-damaging and heart-hardening decisions are made later in life. We just finished our annual children's summer Bible meeting. Our attendance was about thirty children from the immediate area. Some parents also stayed throughout - which I was very pleased to see. The young adult group in the church did a great job with this and Billy Ting presented a very clear message of salvation. Essential to seeing genuine fruit from this planting process is quality follow-up. This includes the freedom to do so with parents as well as the children. As part of that, a picnic for children and parents is planned for later this month. Please pray for this. Something else - I spoke to the members about getting a larger venue next year (not always easy to do) and setting some higher goals. I am convinced we have the skill and the opportunity to reach more families through this kind of ministry. Please pray!

Facing Eternity

Last Sunday, an elderly man passed out in the morning worship service. In this case, this man was an unsaved member of a family who have been faithful members in the church. His young adult grandchildren saw their grandmother die in just such a situation, though not in church. They were almost frozen in fear and apprehension for their unsaved grandfather as he faced eternity outside of Christ. We have a nurse and a doctor who are church members, and they tended to this man until the paramedics came.

Understandably, during this time, everything ceased in the service. Thankfully everyone was calm. As I leaned over this unconscious man to pray for his salvation, I was deeply burdened. He has seen God do great things in his family and has, on many occasions, heard the gospel. He has remained obstinate. After he was taken away in the ambulance, I led the church in public prayer for this man's salvation. I thought so much about God's warning in **Romans 2:5** given in the context of God's goodness: "***But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and***

revelation of the righteous judgment of God." In yet another example of God's mercy, his condition was not serious. His grandson, who was led to the Lord by Billy Ting just two years ago, talked with him at length the next day. His heart remains hard. Please pray for his salvation and for others who are in the same spiritual condition.

Building meaningful relationships ...

While the overall attendance has stayed in the 90-95 range, our burden is that some of the newer attenders have been difficult to reach. In a crowded city of 7 million that is known for its stressful lifestyle, most people become rather insular regarding new relationships. This is understandable, but each and every one have spiritual needs. God uses quality Christian relationships to build healthy lives and healthy churches. Please pray that our faithful members will have both the confidence and the freedom to build more meaningful relationships with the newer attenders.

We thank you for your prayers and please remember that Lord has been working. Please keep praying!

Serving in Christ,
Dave Darlin
Hong Kong