



“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who endured to the end who will be saved.”
Matthew 10:21-22

September 2008
Mark & Kim's Newsletter

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YES, we have a new look ... because we have a special Newsletter this month and we want to capture your attention, so please read on

A cross to bear ...

September has been an incredible month already but it highlights our need for your prayers in a particular area that we have not described in depth previously. As you can imagine, when a national accepts Christ here, they are faced with a much different situation than many of us had to face. They are often considered outcasts and are an embarrassment to their families. Additionally, many people of influence here are forbidden from having any religious affiliation whatsoever, and to accept Christ by them or even a member of their family would mean that they would lose their jobs. As we continue to invest ourselves in numerous relationships here, we are blessed to see God save new believers and to walk along side them. However, these new believers have had to face various levels of family pressure and persecution.

One young lady who began expressing interest in reading the Bible we gave her and in knowing about God, her family tried to intervene. They forbid her from attending a local church and when that was not enough to squelch her interest, they decided that it was time for her to move out of the house to live with relatives about 30 minutes away. Thankfully, she has already accepted Christ and is even now being disciplined in preparation for baptism. She knows that difficult days lie ahead for her as she begins to tell her family that she has accepted Christ as her Savior.

Another young college student living away from her family and attending college here has experienced her brother and roommate (a life-long friend) calling her parents each time she leaves the house to attend or participate in any Christian function. Her parents fearing for their jobs, then frantically call her and beg her not to go. They see what a great difference Christ has made in her life but want her to be a “closet Christian”. However, praise God that to His glory, she continues to go, to serve and to share the love of Christ which has changed her.

Another college graduate from a single parent home accepted Christ but then faced great pressure from her mother. Unfortunately, this young lady has been “grounded” and has only been able to have limited contact with any known believers while in the presence of her mother. She is only allowed to go to work and to visit friends that are not believers.

These stories and many others are lived out every day here, and the sacrifices many believers here must make for the sake of the Gospel humble us and make us recognize how inexperienced we are when it comes to understanding what a “living sacrifice” really is. Please continue to lift up the believers here as they seek to persevere in living for God.

More pressure ...

Local “house gatherings” have also recently come under another wave of pressure here. Several local gatherings which we know of have been raided and leaders and attendees detained. Leaders are then “invited” back to explain themselves repeatedly and are watched and warned to stop. Speaking with one leader this week he said, that they will continue to meet and will trust God’s provision.

We grow more aware each day of the spiritual battle that we face here and how dependant we are upon your prayers to continue the work that [together we are doing here!](#)

THANK YOU & PLEASE KEEP PRAYING

Prayer Requests

- For another new believer. A small part of her story is in the article. Please pray for “T”, that she would face the challenges that lay before her with complete trust and dependence upon our AWESOME GOD.
- For “V” who continues to boldly grow and to share her faith. That she would see His hand upon her and know His peace.
- For “D” who after making a decision to accept Christ as her Savior, she has not had access to the other believers or to participate in organized fellowship. That God would reveal Himself to her through His Word (which Kim has seen is still in her room).
- For those who hold and attend house gatherings, that they would be strong and persevere under pressure. And that their families would have a peace in spite of the circumstances they face.
- For wisdom and boldness for Kim and I as we are unavoidably connected to these high-pressure family situations, raising security issues for ourselves. And that we would give wise counsel based on God’s Word and give wise support to these new believers.