

“He is risen!” Matthew 28:6

3-21 New Church Launches

March 21, 2010 was a significant date for our national partner. It was the date of the first public service of a new multi-cultural church plant. Our team is partnering with them to further develop their network. The launch follows on the heels of a Chinese language church plant. The church plant celebrated its “SIMPLE” DNA:

- Seek and celebrate God
- Integrate faith and work
- Make disciples of all people
- Plant Churches
- Love the city and families
- Embrace reformed theology

The inaugural service was interactive with many people from the congregation participating. Even the children got into the children’s message. The theme for both messages was God’s people are the church. Representatives from our US partnership celebrated with us. Delegations from the lead pastor’s previous churches were also in attendance. So many people came, some had to sit on the floor!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Throughout the Easter service on April 4th we affirmed the historical fact of Jesus’ resurrection with the joyous proclamation that the church through the ages has affirmed: He is risen! With the reply: He is risen indeed! The sermon by the church planter was from John 21 and emphasized that because of the resurrection, by God’s grace we can have a new start and a new direction.

Already we are seeing new visitors coming to the church plant including those from non-Chinese backgrounds. The worship has included prayers in different languages to help promote an atmosphere of welcoming people from all ethnic backgrounds. We are praying that this helps to encourage people to bring friends from other ethnicities (including the majority group).

The service is family friendly with couches along the wall and tables with crayons and paper for the younger kids. After the main service, the adults gather for fellowship and discussion while the children and teens have Sunday school classes. Kristy is co-teaching the 4-6 year old class which is quite a challenge.

Roy Travels for Training

One benefit of working with a regional team is that we have partners from all over the world including Redeemer City to City which partners with churches in world class cities. Because of this connection, Roy had the opportunity for a quick trip to Manila with Gary,

a trainer from City to City who was here for the inaugural service of the church plant. The goal was to learn about City to City's approach to partnership in an on-the-ground situation.

Roy was able to meet three Filipino pastors who are part of a grace-centered church planting network. They have five churches under way and are starting a sixth. He also observed Gary and the pastors working through the issues of forming a partnership. A bonus was getting to know Gary and learning from his years of missionary service around the globe. The experience will help Roy as he forms new partnerships with churches working in the local language in the eastern part of the country.

Asian Crescent First Summer Project

Our team has been working with our national partners to develop a summer project (June 9-20, 2010) that will train the church in teaching peacemaking for children. The team from several of our US partner churches will work alongside our national partner church to assist them as they reach out to Afghan Muslim refugees through a kid's camp at a school. The camp is during the local school holiday and the broader congregation will be able to be involved along with the US team.

Please pray for the members of the US team as they raise support and learn the material they will be teaching. Pray also for their safe travel from the US, here, and back again. Pray for our national partner that they learn the material, put it into practice, and are able to teach it to others. Pray also for wisdom in how to share the gospel as opportunities come up and not jeopardize the school's reputation in the community.

Prayer Requests:

Please join us in giving praise and praying for the following items:

1. Praise: Kristy's recovery from the flu.
2. Praise: the start of the new church.
3. Pray: for the upcoming summer project – June 9–20, 2010.
4. Pray: for an additional \$950/month needed in financial support.
5. Pray: for our longer-term visa.
6. Pray: for continued development of relationships with those serving churches who worship in the national language.

Around the Throne

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"
Revelation 9:9-10

The Saturday before Easter approximately 150 people from seven churches gathered together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in the national language. Some of those present were from Muslim backgrounds There was a time of praise by one church, a tambourine troupe from another, and a drama by another. Each had something to share before the speaker spoke from 1 Corinthians 15:4. What a joy to sing together with them in their heart language without worrying about the current religious language controversy. While we did not understand much of the language used, we certainly understood the heart of worship and it brought us closer to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Financial Update Account # 10650

When we arrived in Asia, we were blessed by being fully supported and a small surplus in our account. Thankfully, this meant that the economic downturn that happened almost immediately after our arrival didn't initially affect us. Now, however, three of our churches and several individuals have had to stop their support because of the economy. This means that we now lack \$950 a month in pledges! We are in need of new financial partners. If your church isn't currently supporting us financially, could you connect us with your mission committee so that we might apply for support? Or, would you be able to add us as a financial partner yourself? Some may be in a position to increase existing support - even a small increase can help us. Thanks!