

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

12/01/15

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of my family, we are so thankful for the support of the JSB mission fund. It is a true blessing to know that others are praying for us and the ministry. I would like to take some time to reflect and share with you what has been going on this past year.

It was three years ago that our English Ministry became an independent church, Living Faith Presbyterian Church. Since then we had been working towards forming a Session (that is, the governing body of elders). This past May marked a milestone for our church as we ordained two elders, Solomon Jo and Jimin Oh. The ordination service was a time to celebrate God's faithfulness in our church. I have already begun to experience the blessing of having elders. To share the responsibility of shepherding the flock, to receive their care and counsel, and to rejoice and suffer together have provided invaluable relief and encouragement.

Our church is comprised of approximately 70 adults and 30 children. Because of our size we enjoy a great sense of family and community. Since our church is relatively young, this year has been filled with weddings and newborns. On top of my normal routine of ministry, I have been busy with pre-marital counseling sessions and parenting classes. I often joke that we can simply grow the church like the Israelites did in Egypt – start with 70 people and just have more and more babies!

This year I had the privilege of being sent out on three mission trips. In March, I traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico. There, I taught a week-long class on the Sermon on the Mount to seminary students and church leaders. Later in May, I had the opportunity to go to Southeast Asia for the first time. My first stop was in Thailand where I visited my old youth pastor, Rev. Woody Kim, who has been serving as a missionary there for over 20 years. I met many faithful servants and got to see firsthand what God was doing there. I also had a chance to preach at one of the churches planted by Rev. Kim. From there I traveled to Vietnam for a Pastors Conference. I, along with a missionary, taught about 50 pastors/students on the topics of the Great Commission, church officers, and church membership. And finally in October, our church sent six of us to Nepal. We surveyed the devastating effects of the earthquakes, prayed over those we met, and visited/encouraged the various ministries our mission partner was engaged in. I cannot think of another time in which I traveled so much. There were certainly times of fatigue both preparing for the trips and also the traveling, but all in all, it was refreshing and gratifying to participate in God's work around the world.

On a more personal note, in June our family had quite a scare when our youngest child, Nathaniel, nearly drowned. While at a community pool we had suddenly noticed his motionless body in the water. When we pulled him out he was unconscious and discolored. Laura called 911 while I performed CPR. After a couple of minutes of CPR and crying out desperately to God, Nathaniel revived. We were on the edge of a horrible outcome. God had mercy on us that day and pulled off a miracle (I learned later at the hospital that I didn't do the CPR very well!). It took a little time to recover emotionally but we were thankful for our family, friends, and church members who surrounded us with God's comfort. We realize that part of the spiritual richness we have in Christ is the relationships that are formed through Him.

We anticipate our oldest child, Anderson, will be confirmed on Christmas Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. He will be the first child not only in our family, but in our church to profess faith before the church. It is exciting for everyone involved. That Sunday he will also take of communion for the first time. It has

been a joy to see Anderson grow in the gospel. Liberty has been watching big brother go through the process and is considering her own confirmation soon. We are thankful for the Holy Spirit's work upon our children.

As we enter into the Christmas season, may you be filled with wonder and joy as we remember the great love of our Lord, who humbled Himself and became a man so that He could lay down His life for His sheep.

In Christ,

Rev. Andrew Park

Here are some pictures of our Nepal Mission Trip (clockwise beginning with top left picture): 1) Surveying the earthquake with a local pastor. 2) Visiting a Bible School in Nepal. 3) Praying over the children at the local slum church. 4) Preaching on the Lord's Day at the local slum church.

