



주님의 사랑의 숨결이 머무는 곳 Sabah, 말레이시아

Prayer letter of Sumin Lee, Minhye Lee, and Halin Vol.5

Hallelujah~!

Dear beloved partners in faith, Happy New Year. As we approached the end of the year, we've had a busy time with many services such as the Christmas Thanksgiving Service and the Year-end Thanksgiving Service. It feels just like yesterday when I entered the country, but it's already the start of my third year. Looking back over the years, I realize that I've been involved in many ministries, and I confess once again that none of them were achievable without God's grace. Thank you once again for always praying for us and sending us your care and love. Here's the latest news for the 2023.

1. Chuseok Family Worship

Experiencing holidays in this immigrant society, it often feels different to that celebrated in Korea. Unless visiting Korea, it's impossible to meet relatives or family members here, except for those who are married to locals. Naturally all our church members become our family and relatives especially during the holiday season. We gather together at the church, share food, fellowship, and spend a blessed time as we become even more intimate with each other.



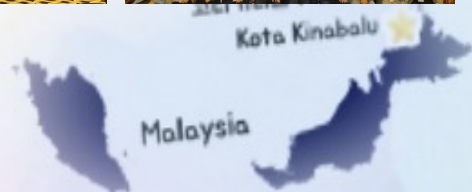
2. Church Picnic

We held our first all-church picnic since my appointment to the church. Kota kinabalu boasts not only the sunsets and fire-flies but valleys that are as splendid as those in Korea, allowing us to share a joyful and blessed fellowship within the Lord. We shared food, played games, and even enjoyed a lottery, which made for a delightful time. Above all, it was a precious time where everyone could mingle without regard to age or gender, fostering unity among us all.



3. Korean language school teacher training session

Inevitably, running a Korean church always goes hand-in-hand with operating a Korean language school. Managing this task every Saturday while conducting church ministry is not an easy feat. Nevertheless, we participated in a teacher's training seminar to provide better quality education and experiences for the children. In addition, we were able to foster growth in the children by participating in the Baekbeom Kim Gu Post-Reading Impression Competition and the My Dream Presentation Competition. The seminar proved to be a valuable time for the teachers to learn how to better educate the children.





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4. Volunteer Work at Jaira Home

So far, for most of the out reaches we have conducted here has involved working alongside Korean missionaries who minister to the locals. However, this time we collaborated with some large local corporations to assist an orphanage located a bit away from Kota Kinabalu. Since it is a place where Christian children gather, they cannot receive any support from the government. It was very encouraging to help them out. We are currently praying about how to provide ongoing assistance for the future.



5. Founding Thanksgiving Service

We held our church's 28th Anniversary Thanksgiving service. It's hard enough to persist in one area for 10 years, let alone nearly 30 years. There's no way to explain this other than grace. During this founding Thanksgiving service, we had a blessed time remembering the grace of salvation bestowed upon us by the Lord through the communion. Also, we had a bountiful time by sharing food prepared by all members of the congregation.



6. Christmas Thanksgiving Service

We held our Christmas Thanksgiving service on the 25th of December. What's truly grateful is that despite the holiday season, many people came to the church to worshiped together. Above all, a father, who always dropped off his children and left, through grace, come into the church for the first time to worship together. Additionally, it was a very precious and blessed time when a local Chinese-Malay family, who is a member of our congregation, attended to introduce Jesus to his wife and children and show them the culture of the church, despite the differences in their cultural background.



7. End-of-Year Worship Service

Finally, we held our second end-of-year worship service here. Last year, we had other pastors with us, so we didn't realize how tough it was to deal with it ourselves. However, this time, the New Year's eve happened to be Sunday. Hence, we had to held two services. One in the morning and one in the evening. It was not an easy feat. Despite this, I was extremely grateful to those who came out to the place of worship and prayer. It was a time of grace where we could pray for each and every family.





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7. The story of Lee Sumin, Lee Minhye, and Halin's missionary family

1) Story about the (Church) Ministry

The final ministry of the 2023 was focused on strengthening the church community during the Familyship week. We started with the Chuseok family worship and strived to create more time to reflect on and build the community. In October, we solidified unity by spending time outdoors for the first time through the whole congregation's retreat. In November, we celebrated the Thanksgiving Sunday, by making the time to express gratitude to God, family, neighbors, and fellow congregation members through the Thanksgiving Challenge. Above all, the most precious thing was that it felt like a dream to have a student who was taught in spring, to get baptized, and to believe in God through the whole process. Additionally, the student's father, who had never been to our church, came on Christmas, worshiped, and even took pictures together. This I was very thankful for. It's gratifying to see the scope of the ministry and the influence of the Gospel slowly extending from the congregation members to their families and their workplaces.

2) The story about our health

My injured leg has now recovered significantly. I can do exercises like walking and a bit of running. As I am at the rehabilitation phase, I am paying closer attention to the rehabilitation. (Of course, I still need continuous care and effort as I'm not yet able to exercise comfortably like before.) And since it's always summer all year long, I often catch a sore throat from constantly being in an air conditioned room. So, my family and I are always trying to take good care of our throats. Furthermore, there was very happy news in late November of this year that we were expecting our second child. Unfortunately, the fetus may not have been healthy and we had a miscarriage. Fortunately, we found out about it in Korea and were able to get all the treatments and recover there. This was also a grace and thanksgiving. We trust in the Lord, who governs life, to send us the precious new life at the best of time and ask for you to pray with us together.

3) Story about our car

One of the most essential things in Kota Kinabalu is owning your own vehicle. If you live here, you can take a Grab to travel, but it's a tough city to get around without a car. Not only is public transportation not well developed, but it's also a culture here for the parents to pick up their children from school, making a car a necessity. Thankfully, until now, we have been using the car that a member of our congregation gave us. However, it being an old car, we had to repair various breakdowns until it reached a state where we can no longer drive it. We need to either buy or rent a car, but renting is not cheap, and even for buying the local branded cars is not cheap as well. We're currently looking for a solution to this matter. Please remember us in your prayers when you think of us.

<Prayer Requests>

That we may rely solely on God, not on people or circumstances, for all the ministries that we are starting afresh this year.

That through this year's first settlement of accounts meeting and joint meeting, the church can well handle the mission of being a good steward.

That by mastering English and Malay, we can expand the boundaries of our ministry and serve the those unsettled congregation members well.

That all the necessary parts in the church to be replenished and replaced at the right time (video facilities, main hall chairs, church van).

That all our family members (Sumin, Minhye, Harin) to remain strong and wisely handle the entrusted ministries and even our daily lives.

That Harin get along with her friends for the remainder of kindergarten and quickly master the language.

Church ministry : Kota Kinabalu Korean Church

Dispatch Organization : IGC

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