



Barb's Bulletin March 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

I am writing to you again from yet another place, not my home. I write to you from Hsinchu in northern Taiwan, where Pastor Ferry asked me to audit a two-week continuing education class on Baptism, being presented by Dr. Gifford Grobien from the seminary in Fort Wayne, and being translated by Dr. Michael Paul from Hsinchu, Taiwan. The first week of the class was excellent and I learned both some Chinese and some new biblical insights. I returned to Chiayi on the weekend to have Chinese class and interpret Sunday morning church. But I started feeling really exhausted and got a sore throat on Saturday night. After church, I tried to sleep on the train, slept most of the day and all night again. Monday, I tested positive for Covid, and waited for two video conference calls with doctors and a text message from the government, so I got some medicine that afternoon. I slept again all night and most of the next day. The third day I was awake for about four hours, and my condition got better from there with the energy. I've gone through three boxes of Kleenex, and five days of medicine. Over ten liters of water. I'm sorry to have missed the second week of the class, but I am grateful that the church will post the video on YouTube, so I can hear the second week lectures from there. <https://www.youtube.com/@user-xq8es6ip8j> is the CELC (partner church) channel.



Pictured above: Center is Dr. Grobien, to his left is Huanglan, my sweet-spirited caregiver.

I realized this week, that between December 11th and March 11th, I have been home in my Chiayi apartment for only four weeks. I am very much looking forward to returning home and not needing to leave again, God-willing, until July.

I have been able to do a lot of reading and schoolwork online during my awake hours here. It was very generous of God to provide for me a "suite" style room, with a private bathroom, in the Vietnamese ministry outreach center of the church.

So, our wonderful Vietnamese ministry Lutheran co-worker, Huanglan, has been taking great care of me. She shops for me, and cooks for me, and always asks if I need anything. I gave her a small bottle of Germ-X. I told her to clean her hands with it every time she comes into my room or takes anything from me. I don't want her to get sick.

Since my last newsletter, I was only able to lead one week of Monday night Bible study. Gratefully, Becky Bartelt took over last week, (and will continue this next Monday, because I will only be free from Covid isolation on that day). I was able to attend Tuesday night Bible study, as well as visit Mrs. Lee each one time while I was in Chiayi. I also visited Steve Lin and have continued to send him messages and photos via cellphone. He told me he is returning to visit his parents in Yilan for the rest of March.



Deaf-ministry colleague **David Bush** and I went to meet with **Dr. Rongxin Chang**, who is the leader of deaf education and advocacy in Taiwan. Dr. Chang is a professor at the national university about half an hour north of our home.

I was able to get Dr. Chang's elementary school series of sign language books downloaded and printed, so that I can write English word definitions to make the series more useful for David and Barbara Bush, and other missionaries who wish to learn Taiwanese sign language.

Kass came for Chinese class twice and we read several chapters of Mark's gospel and watched the end of Season 3 of the Chosen. We helped Becky make some Chinese flashcards (Kass is a computer-formatting whiz-kid). Then we began watching the Chosen again from the beginning. Kass says it is more interesting the second time around, because she understands more of what is happening.

I walked in the park with Haley a few mornings, and she asked me to pray that her daughter can find a better place to live in London. She has begun to ask a few questions about Christianity as well.

Dear, dear brothers and sisters, I thank and praise God for you, and for your prayers and financial support for this work. Your prayers are changing situations in people's lives and are softening people's hearts and opening their ears to the Good News (the Gospel that I am too often inclined to take for granted). So, I say again, wholeheartedly, thank you for your partnership in this work! I could not do it without you!

God's peace,
Barb

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