

The Hoffman Family

Your Missionaries in *South Korea*



November 2008
Prayer Letter #5

Dear Praying Friends,

Fall Revival

The month of November has been dedicated unto revival. The focus this month is not on attendance; but unintentionally, the attendance has increased, and 51 visitors have come in the past 2 weeks! Just today, a man whom I had never met called and requested directions and times of the services. He is unsaved but decided it is time for him, his wife, and their son to begin attending church. His brother recommended our church as the church he needs to attend. Obviously, salvation is what he needs most of all, and we will do our part to give him a clear explanation and the opportunity to receive Christ. What alerted me to his salvation condition during his phone call was that he said he would arrive 20 minutes BEFORE the church service. That was a dead giveaway he was unsaved!

Visa Matters

Another unexpected surprise occurred last month. One of our church members invited his friend, who happens to be an immigration officer. Not only is he an immigration officer, he is part of the INVESTIGATION department. He is the man they also send to make physical detentions for immigration law offenders. I did not know that for the first two weeks. On the third week, he mentioned to my assistant that he had pulled my file and gone through it thoroughly! He stated that my missionary visa would not allow me to receive permanent residence status and would hinder certain legal matters. Therefore, he took my file to another department to see if they could grant me a special visa status which, in five years, would provide a permanent status. The two agreed that I had enough time in country and had done enough to benefit the Korean people that Korea should grant me a special status. What a surprise!

All is in the works at this moment, and it seems possible; but because of the nature, it must be reviewed and approved personally by the chief of the nation's immigration department. Please be in prayer about this issue because, if approved, it will not only save time and money, but it will also give me all the privileges of a Korean citizen, except for voting. This will make legal business matters with our school and church much easier and effective, as well. Lord willing, it will be approved, but if not, I am still able to stay and continue the work.

Another note on the visa matters—last year our church started a mission agency in Korea, which gives us the authority to sponsor missionary visas. This year we helped two other missionaries obtain visas. Visa issues have long been a problem for independent Baptist missionaries in Korea, but no longer is that the case. I am thankful that we can do a small part to help other missionaries with an area that often brings great stress, fear, and frustration.

Thank you for enabling us to serve in Korea. I truly believe that your investments will not be in vain.

Sincerely,

The Hoffman Family

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