

Dear partners for the Gospel,

We're so happy to communicate with you a little taste of what God has been doing in our lives on the mission field of Taiwan. And we hope as you read the following reports, it will excite you with a vision for the work, and a heart for prayer.

Easter Evangelism in Hsin Chu City

The Easter Sunday 2004 evangelistic outreach had several thousand people. It was an event organized across denominations by churches in Hsin-Chu City, the technology center of Taiwan. Judy was invited to perform and give her testimony and Joel came to help and also spoke at a youth outreach program at the event.

We don't have space to tell you about it in this letter, so please click on the link at www.taiwanchurch.org/~linton to read more.

Update on the 3 Church Plants

1. *New Hope Christian Fellowship - Taipei* www.taiwanchurch.org/nhcf

It's been over a year since the first worship service in January of 2003, and the church plant near National Taiwan University has grown into a full-fledged church. We started this church with just three families banding together: two missionary families, the Lintons and the Conklings, and a recent Taiwanese seminary graduate, Harry Chang, and his family.

New Hope has also trained 6 interns in the last year, three Taiwanese men (also from the Reformed Seminary in Taipei) in the Mandarin section and three men in the English section. This summer, New Hope had attendance ranging from forty to seventy people. This fall, the Lord-willing, officers will be trained and the church will formally join the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Taiwan.

At New Hope, Judy helped with music, hosting a home fellowship group, and discipling women. Joel helped with outreach, evangelism, planning the service, leading music, preaching, leading Bible studies as well as training Bible-study teachers and discipling younger men. Joel even had to set up and learn how to run the sound equipment, and then teach others how to do it.



The LINTONS - above picture taken during a TV news interview

2. *Chi-Du Hope Church*

The second church-plant was started August of 2003 in a small, depressed community on the outskirts of Chi-Du (near Keelung). This community is a mixture of Taiwanese and different aboriginal tribal groups who had come to the city to get jobs. Although several different Buddhist temples can be seen within a very small proximity, no church had ever existed in the community. We came along-side a Christian drug-rehabilitation program in the area to aid them in starting a church.

Members of New Hope Taipei came out to help with outreach events and a neighborhood English program. Though a community on the outskirts of the city, it has typical inner-city problems: drug addiction, youth in gangs, family breakdown, etc. A strong tradition of idol worship still exists and it is hard and slow-going for the church to gain the trust and ear of the people. Progress is being made, however, especially in an outreach to children and mothers in the community.

Please pray for the drug-rehab program as it seeks to expand its ministry, but always faces tight budgets and few resources. Currently, four men are going through the program, two trying to get free of alcoholism, two trying to kick heroin addictions. These men are under twenty-four hour care by an evangelist who himself was a former drug addict, and who trains them thoroughly in studying the Bible, and faith, as well as life-skills.

3. *A new church plant in the suburbs of Hsi Chi -- Lotus Hill Community Church*

Four-thousand people live in a relatively new high-rise housing estate (like many of the

developments in Singapore) on the outskirts of Hsi-chi City east of Taipei called the Lotus Hill Community. Quite a few foreigners live there, as well as many Taiwanese. South-Africans who teach English had formed a Bible study fellowship group there, but asked our church-planting team this summer to help them form a church in the community with Mandarin and English sections. So a team from New Hope - Taipei have been going every Sunday night to this community to begin to help with the church-plant.

Please pray that God will raise up a missionary church-planter to come as a full-time worker in this community as well as Taiwanese coworkers to help with the Mandarin section. We also need another coworker to help us start a church in Tien-Mu, a district in northern Taipei.



Joel preaches evangelistic message at a concert

Indeed, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, so ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.

If your church or a particular fellowship, Bible study or prayer group in your church wants to adopt a particular church-plant, or if you would like to get in on the ground up and adopt a specific target region in Taiwan for ongoing outreach, please contact Joel at linton@taiwanchurch.org. We hope to write particular feature articles on each of these projects so you can get to know them. Starting next year, check out www.taiwanchurch.org for links with information on each of these projects.

Reaching People through the Mass Media

As we looked at the gifts and special providences and opportunities God has given Judy and me, we developed a vision to use the mass media to do evangelism, specifically because of Judy's unique testimony and her gifts in music. To that end she recorded an evangelistic outreach album, "You Are My Most Beloved" in Nashville in 2002 and we released it in Taiwan in September 2003. This album won the 2004 Golden Melody Award (equivalent to Grammy) for best album with religious content. In May of 2004, Judy released an autobiography in Taiwan to bring her testimony to

the secular book market. Every Christmas, a respected Christian organization called Cosmic Light prints 150,000 copies of an evangelistic Christmas package. This Christmas 2004, the main component of their Christmas package will be a DVD of Judy's testimony + her music video.

Dealing with mass media venues has been really stressful but has also led to some wonderful opportunities.

You can keep up with this aspect of our vision and ministry at Judy's website:
www.judylinton.com

Radio Interviews

Judy has been on many secular radio programs. In one of the most remarkable, Judy was interviewed by a very popular talk-show host, Tao-dze, who might be considered the Joan Rivers/Oprah Winfrey of Taiwan. She had read Judy's whole book and was ready that day with many deep serious questions for Judy about her life and faith. On a different program for Father's Day, Joel was able to give the Christian perspective of being a father and raising children.

Television

In addition to being on evening news segments for events like winning awards, or book and CD releases, Judy and Joel have also been interviewed on some secular TV programs. The most recent was on a program called: Taiwan Heart-Voice, the most watched Taiwanese talk show. It has anywhere from 250,000 to a million viewers each segment. When asked at the end of the program if we had any words for the people of Taiwan, Joel answered, "I hope the people of Taiwan will come to a relationship with their Creator..."



Judy getting her Taiwan 'Grammy'

Please pray that all of these interviews will lead to people coming to faith,

CD and Book release

The vision with Judy's book and CD was to enable Taiwanese Christians to use them (along with concerts, appearances, etc.) as tools to share



the Gospel with others. One college professor gave Judy's book out to all of her students for their graduation presents in June. Churches have hosted Judy's concerts as community outreach events where Joel preaches a gospel message. Many people have told us that attending our concerts were the first time they entered a church.

We hope you will have a chance to come out to Taiwan and see first hand and help us with the work. One supporting church from Alabama did just that. They had a vision to not only send money and pray for their missionaries, but become involved themselves in the work and come alongside of their missionaries. And we were the first of their missionaries to be visited. It was also the first short-term team I have ever hosted and so we and they were guinea pigs. But God richly blessed their visit.

Hosting a Short-term Mission team from the United States in June 2004 (a week of short-term outreaches...)



Team at Chi-Du Park

Less than 12 hours after the team arrived, although they were jet-lagged and tired, we put them immediately to work on a Saturday all-day outreach event to aid our church plant in Chi-Du. In the morning the team taught songs, and presented the "gospel worm" to children and mothers from the neighborhood (who in turn taught them how to make Ma-Dzang - a Taiwanese sticky rice dish wrapped in bamboo leaves.) After the event some of the women on the team were able to sit and share the gospel with the mothers who knew some English. Then for the afternoon, we divided into teams to go out into the neighborhood to pass out church invitations as well as invites to the afternoon outreach event in the neighborhood park. Members of the Chi-Du church as well as some from New Hope - Taipei served as translators.

TamKang High School Outreach in Tamsui

The following week, the team went up to Tamsui north of Taipei to do an evangelistic performance (skits, songs, Bible reading and testimony) at a private high-school. Though run by Christians, almost ninety percent of the students are not believers. (Incidentally, for those of you who follow the Taiwanese pop-music scene... as I understand it, Jay Cho, Mandarin pop's currently most famous singer, graduated from this school.)

Handing out tracts on the subway

On the way to Tamsui, the team had to take a one-hour subway ride and so they made use of the time by passing out tracts and church-invites to subway riders. (Captive audience.)

Center-city Taipei Park Outreach

The final event was a lunch time outreach in a center-city Taipei park where there is a large number of restaurants catering to thousands of office workers who go there for their lunch breaks. We performed songs to gather listeners and then had a succession of four people preach gospel messages and give testimonies while people listened.

Does this sound like fun to you? It is a lot of work both for the missionaries and for the mission-team members. But as we saw this June, God was well pleased to bless this intense and full week of work. Another team from the Huntsville Chinese Christian Church is planning to come this December. Please pray for them and for us to put them to the best use of their time here. Also, pray for us because November and December will be extremely busy with evangelistic concerts as well as hosting the missions team. Please keep praying for open ears and hearts in Taiwan.



Our Needs and Prayer Requests

We need rest and wisdom as we plan our schedule. The first two years in Taiwan were wonderfully productive but very stressful. And there are stacks of invitations from churches in Taiwan for us to go speak, but we need wisdom on how to most effectively use our time. Upon re-evaluation, Judy has decided to step back from other projects as much as possible. She has decided to concentrate on being home-centered and asks for prayer as she trains our three daughters.

From Judy: "It has been very difficult these last two years. We live in a society where everyday we face strong opposition to the way we discipline our kids. Taiwan is a career-centered country and most ladies my age encourage each other not to have kids. Radio hosts tell me frankly that they don't want to have to use their income on kids. They'd rather buy a pretty skirt with it. Many moms see their kids only on weekends because the kids live in the countryside with the grandparents. Some church leaders frown when I turn down their invites because they believe that being spiritual means sacrificing your family for the sake of ministry. Many seem puzzled when I tell them that I'm very busy and exhausted. Not many understand that taking care of three kids is a full-time job itself. I believe that my family is my primary calling. So please pray that I will be in the Word and focused on God and not bend to the many demands others may place on me."

Other needs:

We have not been at full support our first two years out in Taiwan, though God provides our needs. We hope that more churches and individuals will commit to a regular support for our work.

We need more missionaries. Currently, the limiting factor in planting more churches is not a lack of need or interest among the Taiwanese, but a lack of workers and time.

We are always very happy to hear how you are doing and answer any questions you may have. Please contact us:

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www.judyinton.com

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May God bless you all richly!

To God be the Glory.

In Christ,

The Linton family

Joel, Judy, Faith, Charis & Ashlyn