

Open Doors Among Thai Migrant Workers in Taiwan

Traditional Buddhist people groups (Hinayana or “small chariot”) are a great challenge to the Christian church. Less than 0.3% of their number are Christians. It is very difficult to reach them with the Gospel. Among the 25 million Thai in Eastern Thailand, less than 0.05% are Christians! In that area the Christian faith is seen as a dangerous Western cult. In the poorest and most conservative part of Thailand, Thais are deeply bound both to Buddhism and to evil spirits.

Some 70,000 Thai migrant workers are in Taiwan today, 40,000 of whom are from Eastern Thailand. Here the Lord has opened a wide door for them. More than 1,200 have come to faith in Christ. Many of them are the very first Christians in their village or district. By faith their lives have been radically changed. Because their working contract in Taiwan is only for two years, most have already returned to Thailand. There they spread the Gospel and help build up churches. About 250 of these saved Thai Christians are still in Taiwan and presently are helping us build up ten Thai churches.

An example of such a Thai believer is Mr. Suriya. He was deeply bound to alcohol and was without hope. By faith in Christ he was set free and became a joyful Christian. In his clan, he has become the first believer. Today he is a fervent coworker in one of the Thai churches. Though he had been computer illiterate, he now has acquired much knowledge and skill in that field, so that he is the expert trouble shooter to solve computer problems in the Thai churches. Like some

twenty other new Thai Christians, he studies

theology at Bangkok Bible Institute by extension. Beside his weekly 80-100 hour work load at the factory and much ministry in the Thai churches, he averages 15 credits each semester.

Please continue to pray for this ministry to Thai workers in Taiwan. We thank each of you for your fervent prayer and support!

Imo and Erika Scharrer, serving in Taipei, Taiwan since 2000, were formerly missionaries to Thailand for almost 20 years. Their ministries now include serving Thai migrant workers in Taipei and teaching at the Lutheran Seminary in Hsinchu. They also minister to foreigners in detention centers.



Imo & Erika Scharrer

NONPROFIT
US Postage
PAID
Millersburg, PA
Permit #95



Bi-monthly newsletter of

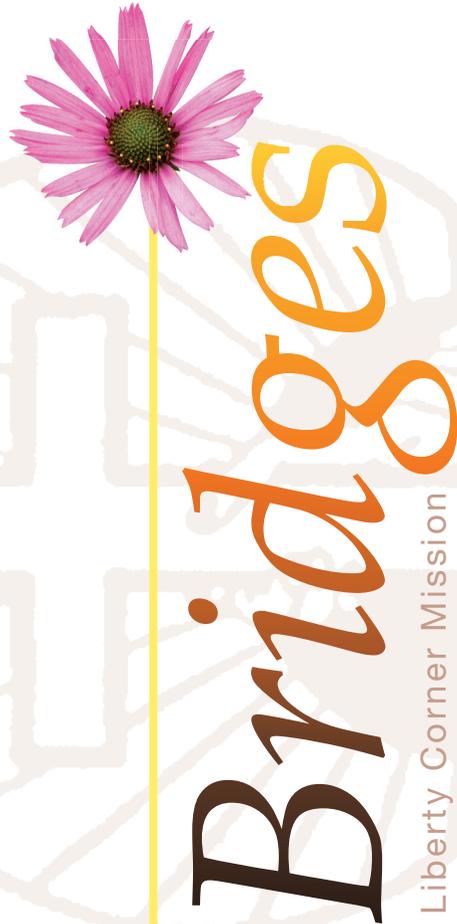
Liberty Corner Mission

P.O. Box 204

Liberty Corner, NJ 07938-0204

Return Service Requested

135-6



Dear loyal mission-partners,

Was your heart stirred as mine was while reading about *two* baptisms in this issue of BRIDGES? Isn't it reassuring to know that God is at work thousands of miles away through our prayer, faith and gifts? Doesn't this motivate us anew to uphold those who have gone to far-off shores in our stead, preaching the Gospel and discipling believers?

Don't miss **CROSSroads 2013!** Fellowship Conference Center is the venue for Liberty Corner Mission's annual mission conference, September 27~29. **His Last Command, Our First Concern** is the theme. Our keynote speaker is **Dr. David Schroeder**, president of Pillar College, whose four messages Friday night through Sunday morning will challenge and stir our hearts. Hear and see first-hand the latest from missionaries serving at home and abroad. Our missionary presenters include:

- Sister Monika Gottschild ~ LCM Taiwan**
- Karl Schulz ~ LCM Taiwan**
- Fran Ueda ~ LCM Japan**
- Andy & Shoko Pfeiffer ~ LCM Japan**
- Paulo & Janis Alencar ~ Tentmakers Bible Mission Brazil**
- Fred Farrokh ~ Jesus for Muslims Metro NYC**

In addition, LCM Summer Missionaries will share how God has allowed them as short-termers to have an impact on a life, a church, a city. If you believe God desires to use *you* in a new and increased capacity to bear fruit in foreign lands, do heed His leading and come!

Because we are *here*, our missionaries can be *there*. What a great blessing you have been to them through your prayer, encouragement and gifts. On their behalf, I sincerely thank each of you!

In Christ and for Christ,

Sister Maria

Sister Maria Baha
Director of Liberty Corner Mission



Liberty Corner Mission is the foreign mission arm of Fellowship Deaconry Ministries, Liberty Corner, New Jersey. Serving in cooperation with Marburger Mission of Germany, we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hold high the Cross, make disciples and plant churches, that God might be glorified among the nations. Presently Liberty Corner Mission serves in Taiwan and Japan.

Japan



Sister Edeltraud Kessler

"I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches."

Psalm 119:14 NIV

These words were found in the Moravian Daily Text on March 24, 2013, greeting us on Palm Sunday. It was an unforgettable day of God's goodness. Two years ago we had planned a baptismal service on Easter Sunday for Hiroko, the sister of our Sister Gudrun Tate. It had to be cancelled because of the objection of another family member. We now thank all you intercessors that helped pray.

Often we were concerned about the condition of Hiroko. Would she still be able to experience baptism, because of her ongoing Parkinson's disease and slowly increasing dementia? At times we were saddened and sometimes doubtful of her ability to confess her faith in Christ through baptism.

At the beginning of this year Hiroko fell in her room and broke her hip, requiring hospitalization and surgery. We often met there with her daughters, and our relationship with them became even closer. With a new concern for Hiroko's future, we fervently prayed and committed her again to God. HE was merciful and Hiroko came through the operation so well that she was able to return home after six weeks.

One day I felt an inner urgency to visit Hiroko together with Sister Gudrun. It was a special day of grace. She expressed again her desire to be baptized, for she wanted to spend eternity in heaven, looking forward to the reunion with her dear parents who had also trusted in Jesus for their salvation. Both of Hiroko's daughters consented to her baptism and were present on that Palm Sunday morning. What a joy it was for all present! Only their unbelieving brother was not present. We keep on praying for him, asking the Lord to meet him and save him, too.

Hiroko's daughters, Mayo and Rumi, also need our prayer. We are waiting on the Lord to see how He will reveal Himself as Savior and Redeemer in their lives, too. Do join us in prayer! How thankful we are for your intercession and support! 🙏

Sister Edeltraud Kessler, veteran missionary of 41 years, ministers at the Japanese Motherhouse "Bethel" in Kobe. Presently there are nine Japanese Sisters serving together with Sister Edeltraud.

Taiwan

Yo Jiahui was raised by her widowed mother. Having lost her father, Yo's greatest fear was to lose her mother as well. About 8 years ago Yo's mother died suddenly of a heart attack. Yo didn't have a chance to say goodbye or to express her gratitude for all the time and energy her mother invested into her. In Chinese culture, doing wrong by your parents often leads to a state of depression and self-blame. It is a devastating burden to bear.

Two years ago Yo's kindergarten-aged son talked about a classmate of his who often mentioned Sunday school. That classmate happened to be the son of one of our deacons. Because Yo's son wanted to attend Sunday school too, she began bringing him to our church.

Slowly Yo came to realize that she needed this God of whom she heard on Sunday mornings. She believed Matthew 1:21, which tells us that Jesus came to save his people from their sins. To Yo this meant He came to save her from the guilt and sadness she was carrying these many years regarding her mother's sudden death. Through God's Spirit working deeply in her heart, Yo realized there was a way out of her depression.

Yo was born again, but she was not yet ready to make a public confession of her faith. Although she completed our baptismal preparation course over a year ago, she feared disapproval of her baptism by her mother-in-law. Yo's husband had been attending church regularly since last fall and supported her decision to be baptized.

On April 21st our church had the great joy of witnessing the baptism of Mrs. Yo Jiahui. Her strong testimony spoke to those present and is a great example of how God himself heals us, gives us reason to live, and especially gives us reason to live for Him. Thanks for praying with us! And thank you for all the gifts you send through Liberty Corner Mission, to make our ministry to people like Yo possible. 🙏

Karl and Kathy Schulz, with Benjamin, David and Aurora serve in Taoyuan, Taiwan, near Taipei. Karl is a church planter, serving in Taiwan since 1993.



Karl & Kathy Schulz with Benjamin, David & Aurora



Japan

The bright cross on the roof of our new church building is a wonderful sight to behold! How we thank all of you for helping us to bring this church into reality. May God bless you for your prayers and love gifts to the Lord Jesus for us. God is using *His* people to build *His* kingdom.

Last year we had only enough money to buy the property and work on the interior so we could at least begin using the building. The outside walls now need to be painted and some cracks have to be sealed before the rainy season starts. We will also need a fence.

A friend of mine remarked that church leaders are builders and happy when they see things moving forward. In Japan you don't see churches going up very quickly. It is hard labor and it is easy to become tired and discouraged.

When we began renovating the interior of our church building, it was not a pretty sight. There was a lot of dirt, debris, nails and tools everywhere, but the hard work paid off. When our own lives are "under construction" it is sometimes hard to see that we are making progress. The question is, what are we building into our lives? The building of character is much more important than building a reputation. It is not so much what is visible to others on the outside, but rather the valuable things are what God builds within us that strengthen us, and cause us to be a blessing to others!



A caterpillar is a butterfly under construction. The greatest transformation starts inside where no one can see. Butterflies, diamonds and pearls have one thing in common; they were all formed and shaped in secret. Let us focus on the change inside, build on it, and wait for the work of transformation that God will complete in us.

Again, thank you for your prayers and financial support for me personally and for our new church. May everything be completed beautifully for His Glory! 🙏

Sister Gisela Paluch, serving in Japan since 1981, is active in planting a church in Sanda, just north of Kobe. The need for a larger facility for worship has now been met. Believe with Sister Gisela for many souls to be saved in Sanda!



Sister Gisela Paluch