

Shatin Family Life

A monthly newsletter by and for the Shatin Anglican Church family

March 2019

Get to Know our Mission Partners



CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

CSWHK focuses on those who are persecuted for their Christian faith in Asia. We visit those who are persecuted to let them know that they are not forgotten, stand with them in their trials and raise awareness and prayer for them. Here's a testimony from our recent trip.

“I've been under great pressure and struggling a lot before I came here. I am facing many challenges in life and ministry. I have been serving in the current place for five years, and do not have any more to give. In our ministry, every time we move three steps forward we then take 10 steps back. Some of our own church group left and created many problems. I wanted to quit my ministry and be a housewife. The meeting was a blessing for me and I learnt a lot here. I also met others who have similar struggles in life and ministry. Thank God for the good family here and I feel like your team are our parents. I am now going back to the church as a new person and I'm ready to press on rather than to give up.”

It is challenging to visit those who are persecuted, yet I'm inspired by their faith, and dedication to follow Jesus even when they face death threats. Additionally, I am humbled and challenged when I hear some of these pastors spend at least two hours or more in prayer each day. I can easily get distracted in Hong Kong with my problems, and forget about prayer. Meeting these people and hearing them pray helps me focus and get my priorities right.

More than 35 countries in Asia face severe persecution. They ask us to pray for them that they will be faithful and not waver in their faith when they are targeted. Some of these

countries include North Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Laos, Vietnam, China, Iran (West Asia), Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Brunei, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.



You are a valuable link in this chain. Your prayers have given me the privilege of travelling to these countries to meet some of these courageous believers and serve them. They need to know we care

and stand with them in their suffering. The trips take their toll on us physically, spiritually and mentally. Please pray for protection, wisdom, and strength.



**Happy Anniversary to
Pastor Niels and EJ!**



Niels & EJ van de Kastele celebrate their 17th anniversary on 26th March

Get to Know the Church Family

Lixi, Lee and John Huang

“The Huang family has attended Shatin Church since 2004. Lixi teaches engineering at HKU, and was baptised in our church on Christmas day of the same year. Lee takes care of the family; she had been a Christian for many years before we came to our church. John is 15 in Form 3; he is a beautiful gift to us from the Lord.



Lixi grew up as an atheist in a poor village in China and Lee was born to an ordinary civil servant family in Taiwan. We met in Cambridge, England, during our student years in late 80's. We know it was God's grace that we became the seed of faith in our respective extended families, and we continue to pray for the salvation of all our family members.

Looking back we felt that the seed was sown since our childhood however implicit that might seem. Unlike most of the population in China during the cultural revolution, the village where Lixi grew up had a lot of religious activities. People practiced traditional Buddhism and Taoism, and there were a considerable number of Christians and Catholics around. As a primary school student, Lixi observed all these religions and thought that if he were to choose one religion out of the three, Christianity would be the most plausible choice. To him, the superstitious practices of the other 3 religions were not logical, whereas the Christians there were simple and prayed sincerely, which he could appreciate.

In Lee's village, there were hardly any Christians. Her hometown was dominated by folk religion and ancestral worship for hundreds of years. She had her first exposure to Christianity in high school because of her best friend, and then went to the only Christian university in Taiwan (as a non-believer). Though we've lived in the UK for quite many years, our spiritual salvation was not achieved until much later when we came to Hong Kong.

Lee became Christian when she went through a very difficult time in the hospital due to the lung problem in 1997. After that, as a brand-new young believer, she had difficulties attending church by herself. So, Lixi accompanied her, through which he was formally exposed to the Christian faith. In 2004, our family moved to Shatin from Tsing Yi. We found Shatin Church and have stayed ever since. In that year, Lixi experienced major difficulties at work and was motivated to pray as a desperate seeking non-believer. God graciously responded to his prayer in a few dreams, which led to his baptism on the Christmas Day the same year.

In 2005, Lixi's parents came to visit us. They attended Shatin Church a few times. Though they do not speak any English, they were touched by the warm atmosphere in our church. During their stay, God touched our mother with a healing miracle. Consequently, both our parents came to believe in Jesus. Now we pray for Lee's parents and all our siblings to follow suit.

John was born in 2003. At our age, having John is one of the most precious blessings we have gratefully received from our Heavenly Father. John is interested in reading, and the Bible was one of the earliest books he read. It is our daily prayer that he matures up in the way and character of the Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill God's purpose for him.

Over the past 15 years, Shatin Church has been our spiritual home. We have really appreciated the solid teaching. And we are very grateful for the support we have received from Pastor Heewoo and his associates, especially during our difficult times with health etc. With prayer, as Lee's health improves, we hope to have more fellowship with brothers and sisters in the church. We have also been trying to reach out to unsaved friends in our circle, and we pray that God will use us as a stepping-stone to their salvation.

Praying for the Church

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

- Give thanks for the Owens and pray that they'll settle quickly into their new life in Switzerland.
- We also give thanks for the Church Committee unity. Despite facing some difficult decisions this past year, every decision has been unanimous. We pray for continued unity in the new committee in the coming year.
- Thank God for the Workplace Sunday. Pray that Shatin Church members will be working for Christ no matter who their earthly boss is.
- Pray for the evangelism studies in Links and the coming 'month of evangelism.' Pray that we'll be bold sharing the gospel and inviting them to different events leading up to Easter.
- Pray for people to grow through the 'One Hearing the Word' campaign. Pray also that the churches across Hong Kong will be united in the work of Christ.
- Pray for the AGM as we discuss big topics like venue and time change.
- Pray for Sarah Sofield as she is at the halfway point in her chemotherapy. Praise God for her cheerful spirit in this trying time.
- Pray for the right people to apply for the Youth and Children's Worker positions.

This newsletter is put together by and for the Shatin Church family to share life and bless one another. If you have anything you'd like to share on this newsletter, please email mary@shatinchurch.org.hk.



Growing in Jesus • Sharing our Lives • Reaching the World