



Germany
Karen Tang's prayer letter
5/2017

Dear brothers and sisters,

"I will set out and go back to my father" Luke 15:18a

Thank God for His leading that 7 brothers and sisters were baptized last week. Two of them were father and son. The daughter was baptized two years ago. The wife was the first one who got baptized. Many years later, she was so happy to see that finally, the whole family was baptized. The father has many siblings himself. His closest brother told us that he knew very well about his brother's unbelief. So, when his brother was told of his baptism, he was very surprised. Their mother was a devoted believer and always brought her children to church. But this youngest son had drifted away from God as he grew older. The sons came to Germany at their teenage years. As years gone by, their restaurant business has been very successful. That made the youngest son very arrogant and there was no God in his heart. But God's grace came upon his family. More than ten years ago, the wife who had worshipped Buddha before became a Christian. She would bring her daughter and son to church. Even though the kids didn't know much about God, they liked very much to go to Children Sunday School. Sometimes their mother was tired and lazy to bring them to church, they would beg her to go. Due to some mistakes made by this husband, his businesses failed in recent years. It was only then he realized that his ability was limited. Last year, he opened another restaurant again. Though he faced some difficulties, they were being solved by God. He was amazed because he knew now that without God, nothing could be accomplished. So, he finally accepted God's power and was willing to go home and follow the Lord. His son on the other hand admitted he never took God seriously even though he went to church since he was little. This year he had to take an important high school exam. If he failed it, that meant he would not be able to continue to study in college. So, he was a bit nervous. But after hearing from her sister who went through the same process two years ago, he tried to pray to God like her sister did. God listened to his prayer and his results turned out better than he thought. His teacher also praised him for the progress. As such, he believed that it was God's leading and he was willing to be baptized and follows God's path seriously. Because the father and son both made the decision to be baptized only recently, our baptismal class was almost ended. So, they had to finish the lessons outside class. In order to make it to this baptism, they would spend long hours at night in order to work on their lessons despite their limitation on the Chinese language. It was touching to see their effort and I was willing to help them to get baptized.

Another young couple being baptized was PhDs who majored in law. They were seekers for many years. Because of a job found in Frankfurt, they moved to here. One day, the wife was being led by the Holy Spirit to urge her to go to church. Even though the husband was not so willing, they did go to church a few times. Just as they decided not to go to church again (I learned this only when she wrote in her testimony), the wife received a message sent by me to say hello and invite them to our baptismal class. She accepted the invitation and came to class with her husband. Slowly they learned more about

our faith and the wife decided to accept Jesus as her personal Savior. They then went back home to visit their families. She missed last year's baptism. After coming back from China, the husband also decided to accept Christ's salvation. So, they both got baptized this year!

Over the years, I've never had only one student attending our baptismal class. But this happened this time. Only one young mother attended the class. Because the father took care of the elder brother, she had to bring the toddler to class. Due to the lack of good sleep in the afternoon, the toddler cried a bit. She then had to breast-feed him to keep him quiet so that we could continue the lesson. Since there was no other student in the class, she could do so up until the last few lessons when the father and son mentioned above joined in. After that, the toddler was less noisy or his father could take care of him. So, the mother didn't have to breast-feed him again. We both were so amazed that God had mercy on this young mother to provide such a condition!

Thanksgiving and prayer items:

- 1. Thank God for calling His children to come home! Pray that God will keep the faith of those who were just being baptized so that they will follow God's path!**
- 2. Thank God for His guidance! Since the older fellowship started serving dinner for both themselves and the student group, the relationship among brothers and sisters is getting closer! Some of the older brothers and sisters also join the student group. They have overcome their worry of not being able to communicate with the young people because of the age gap! Pray that God will use their love to attract students to come to our meeting!**
- 3. Thank God for His protection! I got an acute paronychia and was treated in time. At the beginning, I felt the pain as my thumb got swollen. I went to see a doctor who prescribed me a medicated cream. After two days of application, my thumb got worse and pus developed. Since it happened over the week-end, there was no doctor to see. I thought I would go the following Monday. Unfortunately, it was a holiday. So, I had to go to the emergency room in a near-by hospital. Thank God for His mercy, without waiting, I was treated immediately. I also got the antibiotic prescribed by the doctor in a pharmacy which was opened on that holiday. I later went to my family doctor for follow-up. Right now, it has gotten much better. Pray for a recovery!**

Thank God for His grace that you always remember us in prayers!

Pray that God will bless your work also!

Serving Him,
Karen Tang

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