

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist Church,

Lately in here we have been studying through the book of Daniel. In chapter 10 an angel appears to Daniel. He mentions to Daniel the continuing battle between the Godly angels and the demons who are manipulating things here on earth. It is one of the rare instances where we are given a glimpse of a battle we can't see, and often don't think about. There is a battle going on. We can see what is going on in our lives, but we often forget that there is a battle raging that we can't see. God's enemies have an agenda. In our prayers, Bella and I are praying for you who are living in the U.S. We are praying that God's children will have the strength to do what they believe is right.

The last time we wrote, we mentioned that our old partners were considering coming in here for a few months to help prepare the elder candidates for ordination. Well, that plan fell through. We were disappointed, but God has it all covered. A few weeks after we heard that news, we had a visit from some of the men from sister churches. They have come from time to time to help us with this process. Over a year ago, when we asked them if they would help with the ordination, they told us someone would have to come in here and live for several months. That way they could see for themselves if these folks were ready to be ordained. Based on that, we have been trying to get someone to come in and help. But this last time a slightly different group of men came in. One of them is the man actually in charge of the churches in our area. He asked me why we were insisting that someone had to come in here for several months. I told him that it wasn't our idea. I said we would be thrilled if someone came in to help, but that we were not demanding that. He said there was no need for that. The rest of their time in here these men visited with the elder and deacon candidates. They decided that one of the elder candidates should not be ordained. I agree, but it was nice that someone else told him. He seemed to take it well and still is active and helping. At the end of the visit, the man in charge set a date to ordain the elders and appoint the deacons. That will hopefully be in early January.

There is much to prepare for the ordination. It is a big deal here. Local government officials are invited as well as people from all of our sister churches and the other churches in our area. That means feeding everyone and putting up those who have to overnight here. The actual ordination will only be one day. There will be a huge rice and pork meal for everyone. It was suggested that the candidates provide the pigs for the meal. It isn't a requirement, so we talked about it after then left. A pig can easily cost over \$100 here. Most of our candidates will find it a real hardship to provide the pigs for this meal. When we told our daughter Cori about this, she said it was like penalizing these folks because they want to serve the Lord. So, our plan is that Bella and I will provide the pigs. If any of you would like to help, we would welcome that. We would prefer this day to be a day of joy and not a day of worry about how much it is all cost them.

I mentioned that there is an invisible battle going on around us. One of the areas we can see this is in our visa renewals. There are factions here who will do almost anything to keep us from getting visas. That includes spreading rumors about ridiculous things that our missionaries are doing. Bella and I have had to deal with this continually during our time here. We have been accused of doing a number of illegal things. Without going into details, I will say that right now we are being accused of doing something utterly ridiculous. This has led to us getting numerous visits from men from different government agencies. They pepper us with questions. From the questions we try to guess what it is they really want to know. Apparently, someone thinks we are using the airstrip here to bring in things we shouldn't. That is the rumor anyway. We have not had a plane here for over 4 years. During that four years I have (with great joy) allowed our airstrip to be overgrown and rutted to the point where it is not usable anymore. And to top it off, Bella and I built a playground on the top of the airstrip. But still we are fielding questions about our airstrip. Please be in prayer for us. Our visa renewal is coming up in December. It should be automatic, but it may not be. Please be praying as this mostly unseen struggle goes on. We are very close to being finished with the translation here. We would like to finish it.

Thanks for your prayers for us. Bella and I deal with pain most days. Some days are better than others. We are grateful to be able to do what we are doing. Bella is right now in the other room working with a translation helper on the book of James. Before the helper came, Bella told me she felt so bad she didn't care if her helper came or not. But she is there doing what she needs to do. Thank you for your prayers too for the folks in here. Being a candidate for church leadership means these folks are targets for criticism. That is a huge deal for folks living in a small Asian village. Please pray that they will remain strong and do what they know the Lord wants them to do. Last night in a meeting one of the men took a lesson to teach on Sunday. After that another man accused him of doing several things he didn't really do. (We are working through that). As a result, the accused handed the lesson back to me and said he can't teach this week. So, as I said, we appreciate your prayers for us. Thank you very much for the \$100 that you sent to us in August and September.

Yours in Christ,

Paul and Bella

Prayer requests;

1. That we would have the health we need to do what we are doing.
2. For our visa renewal, and the stupid rumors.
3. For the ordination to go well and be a blessing
4. For the folks serving the Lord in here that they would stand strong in the face of criticism.
5. For the continual work on the translation. We are only able to do that by the grace of God.

The pictures are of some of the men who came to help us prepare for the ordination and the second one is of the playground before it was finished. When the slide was finished EVERYONE here went down it from children to adults. Most of them had never gone down a slide before.

