

Tübingen Tidings November 2011 - January 2012



“The Lord . . . is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:9)

Chinese and Taiwanese Students We are very sorry for our relative silence the past few months and around



nice fellowship with fried noodles...and African students try chopsticks!

Christmas. So much as happened, but we have continued well with the Lord's help! Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support for us! Our regular church activities and international Bible study group have been very blessed. We have prayed that more Chinese or Taiwanese students would come, and the Lord is still answering our prayers. Three students from China (**G.**, **Y.**, and **V.**) are coming fairly regularly to our Bible Study group, and a Taiwanese student, **Ann**, is also a regular in our Sunday worship service. Our prayer is that they will learn more about Jesus and that our

Lord will give them faith soon. A retired German missionary couple is now coming regularly to our Bible study group. They worked for many years in Taiwan and we trust they will be a big help in telling the students deeper about the Lord as they speak Chinese fluently.

Jim's Visit To Missions Fair and Missionary Convention

Jim was very blessed in attending the Mission's Fair at the Valley View Christian Church in Dallas TX, mid-November and the National Missionary Convention in Atlanta, GA the following week. We are pleased that he could introduce our work to many people and enjoy good fellowship with Christian brothers and sister from all over. Thanks to all, especially those came by our booths!



Mission's Fair at VVCC



Missionary Convention in Atlanta

Thanksgiving Party On Thanksgiving Day about 70 attended our annual Thanksgiving Party in our church. Many international students came to the party who had never seen and experienced Thanksgiving, and, besides enjoying two big turkeys, they were able to hear the Gospel message presented in our annual Thanksgiving skit, which encouraged all to give thanks to God! We thank God for the great chance to invite new international students and to explain to them God's love and care for us in a new way.



Thanksgiving group picture

A young Brazilian student, who'd attended the first time just the time before and **A.**, a young Indian doctoral student, read to us parts of the Christmas story in English, which was totally new to him. Thank God for the privilege of sharing the Christmas story with him and his Indian girlfriend, **S.** A few days later, they came again to our annual Christmas Eve service at the church and brought along another Indian doctoral student, **M.**, to join the service and the Christmas party following. Jim shared with this couple the story of Jesus' resurrection last week at the International Bible Study at our last regular meeting for the semester, which ends this week. We praise the Lord for these wonderful opportunities to share God's Word with those who have never really heard and pray that our Lord will open their hearts to know Him. After Christmas, Jim and Naomi attended the annual International Students' Winter Retreat in the Black Forest. Despite Naomi's terrible cold, we still made some contacts to international students from Vietnam, Palestine, Morocco in other cities and to some Chinese students from Stuttgart. A couple of the

Christmas Events and January Follow Up Not long after Thanksgiving, it was already time for our annual Christmas party and carol sing events in the International Bible Study group and we were pleased to have good turnouts for both. At the Christmas carol sing, we included Scripture readings in different languages. A young Indian couple was invited by a



New Indian students on Christmas Eve

Chinese students came to our last Sunday Night Worship service two weeks ago to find out what this service was like. One student, **H.**, told us that how very interesting and fun it was, the first service he'd ever attended! He even asked us to bring it to Stuttgart! We praise the Lord for his enthusiasm and pray that our Lord will continue to open his heart and the hearts of others to know Jesus. **Mina**, a young political science student from Egypt and a Coptic Orthodox believer, shared a moving testimony in this service about how God had helped him through his loneliness this semester as an international student, far from home. He has just returned safely to Egypt. Please pray for our Lord to use him in a special way in his country, which is experiencing many changes in politics, society and public life. Mina desires to start a young ministry for the youth of his Coptic church in Egypt. Pray for the Lord to inspire and use him in a mighty way to reach out to the youth of Egypt!

Free Christian Book Table Outreach Jim and Daniel have been recently joined by **George** (German) and **Ryan** (from Oklahoma), two businessmen newly active in our church. With their heart for outreach among students they have helped much the past two months with the free Christian book table in the students' cafeteria. Recently, Jim met again **S.**, an Iranian man at the table who had attended our International Students' Bible Study back in 1996. Later, he returned to Iran, married, and has recently returned to Tuebingen to live with his family. Two days later he invited Jim over for tea and conversation about God. Jim shared the Gospel with him briefly and encouraged him to keep seeking the Lord. Jim also had met several times recently with **M.**, a doctoral student from Jordan to help him with a personal financial need. Please pray for the Lord to open the hearts of these two Muslim men to know the Lord Jesus.

Brief Visit to the U.S. in January At the International Students' retreat right before New Year's, Jim received word that his grandmother, Una Mae, had passed away in her sleep at his mother's home in Dallas. So, Jim traveled to the U.S. for a week to assist in her funeral. We give thanks to the Lord for her full life of 96 years, 7 months, and for her faith shared with many in word and deed for decades in her hometown of Weiner, AR. She was a great Christian influence on many and it was encouraging to hear how she had blessed many through the years. After her stroke last September, she had been in a semi-coma state for several months and Jim's relatives in Texas had cared for her at the home of Jim's mother. **Please pray for Jim's mother** in Texas who lost her husband (Jim's father) in October 2010 and her mother (Jim's grandmother) at the end of 2011.

Pray For Our Financial Needs! As Naomi's part-time work will end April 1st, we will need more financial support in the new year. Naomi will receive some unemployment benefits for a certain time, but Jim's English classes at the language school have also been reduced. To cover Naomi's German social security payments as well as government health insurance, we will have to restructure our budget and add more support. In the past few years, we have only needed between \$1,000 to \$1,500 of monthly support, **but in the coming year we will need about \$1,500 of consistent monthly support to cover our obligations.** We are also beginning to pay into a **retirement fund** for ministers and missionaries. We are very grateful to all of you for your consistent financial support and for your continued prayers for our financial situation. We trust the Lord to give us wisdom and will provide us what we need!

Prayer Requests

- Thanks and praise to God for His provision for our financial needs thus far! Please pray for His provision for Naomi's insurance needs and for our retirement needs in the new year.
- Pray for **faith** for **J., D.**, and their young son, **S.**, for departed Chinese exchange students: **Sophie, Lisa, Vivienne, Johanna, and F. M.**, and for new Chinese (**G., Y., N. and V.**) and Taiwanese students (**Ann, Linchi**) this semester.
- We thank God for **Mina's faith!** May God use him to touch other young people for faith in Jesus **in Egypt!**
- Pray continually for **Akhtar (Bangladesh), Reddy (returned to India)**, new doctoral students **A., S., and M. (India)** for faith in Jesus!
- Pray for the continued outreach through the **bookstand** distribution of free Christian books and for more helpers in this new opportunity.
- Pray for contacts with **new international students in the upcoming semester break period** with our **Thursday night** activities (ping pong, Christian movies, games, etc.). Pray for **our extended outreach and deeper fellowship with the many new students** the Lord has sent us **this semester** and for more **international students in the dorm on our street (M.from Jordan, S.-Iran, others).**
- Pray for more new students for the **English Bible Class!** Pray that God may give us all the wisdom and grace we need to serve Him!

Our many thanks....

We are very thankful for the faithful monthly support and recent generous offerings of the **Hillcrest Christian Church** and **Northwest Christian Church in McKinney, TX, Valley View Christian Church, Dallas, TX, Southwood Christian Church Greenville, TX, Cornerstone Christian Church, Dallas, TX, Haltom City Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX, Denton Christian Church, Denton, TX, Central Christian Church, Richardson, TX, Weiner Christian Church, Weiner, AR, Peachcrest Christian Church (Loganville, GA), and many of our friends in different parts of the U.S. and around the world** who have included us in their personal monthly tithing! **May God richly bless you all and multiply your gifts!** (II Corinthians 9:12).

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