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OUR MISSIONARY VOICE

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Hope Community Church, Olympia, Washington
Affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America

Opposition To Church Building In China

Reported by Evergreen Family Friendship Services

Evergreen Family Friendship Services (EFFS), headed by Finn Torjesen, has worked in China for 18 years with the blessings of the regional government in Shanxi developing public benefit services for the common people through medical work, agricultural development, consulting, teaching English and rural economic development.

During that time EFFS has been encouraging and working with the pastors and leaders of the churches in Taiyuan. There are several properties around town that the church leaders have access to and which they want to use to build churches on. Not much had been done though because it is very expensive to develop and there are squatters living on the land. Last year, the senior leadership team of the churches contracted with a development company to begin work on two of these properties. First the squatters had to be paid off and moved, then they had to get permits for the building, and then some of the building space had to be sold to investors to raise money for the project.

Because the "church" was putting up the building, the permits from different bureaus were all delayed. When most of the permits were in, the development company decided there were enough to begin building. However, the leaders of the squatters started a movement to discredit the church and wrote to the police chief and the mayor making the pastors look bad. The city then put a stop to the building and re-zoned the location for a much smaller building.

The church was then notified by the city to return all the money they were paid for the building they were putting up, but much of that money had gone into constructing the foundation for the original 30 story building as planned and erecting the first four floors. The church is working with all those investors but it is going to take a lot of time to work this all out. In this midst of this, some people within the church are spreading rumors that the pastors took all the money. So there are now three groups of people that are very unhappy with the church – the squatters, the investors, and those in the church worried about the rumors. These are pastors and Christians that the EFFS staff have known for many years and to see them struggling and doubting each other is very hard. It seems this is a spiritual attack on the local church.

EFFS is trying hard to help the church through this difficult time by counseling openness and honesty and not taking sides nor passing on rumors. They have also helped the church leadership meet with some very good Chinese Christian lawyers in Beijing who are willing to help deal with some of the legal issues.

On Sunday, October 23rd, the Taiyuan Church was protested by a group of 50 or so who locked arms and refused admission to church attendees. Some say the protestors were the squatters and others say they were the investors. It is not clear who

they were, but the situation is very difficult and the staff at EFFS asks for our prayers for peace and a good resolution. Please also pray for the church leaders that they would model Godly principles during this stressful time. Many in the church and some on the EFFS staff are fasting on Fridays and they would appreciate any who would join them in this. This is a critical time for EFFS to help the church keep focused on Jesus Christ and His work.

Christmas Cards To Support EFFS Work In China

Evergreen Family Friendship Services has a rural economic development project employing more than 30 local card-cutters at the very low end of the income spectrum in Shanxi province. By purchasing these cards, you can help touch these people in a tangible way with the love of God. Profits from this project are used to provide assistance to other low-income families through EFFS's scholarship and Regional Educational Development programs. For more information about these cards and how to purchase them, go to http://www.evergreenchina.net/cardsite/.

You Can Bless Our Missionaries

We all tend to think that the only things we can do for our missionaries are sending money, sending them helpers, or praying for them. These are all important of course, and missionaries can't stay on the field without them. But there are other things we can do to bless our missionaries.

The feedback we get each year from the missionaries supported by Hope Community Church is that they LOVE getting the packet of Christmas cards, letters, and pictures that we send. Especially for the missionaries in foreign countries, where Christmas may not be celebrated or it is celebrated differently. These cards provide welcome bits of encouragement and color from home.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to participate in this project. It is not hard work and we welcome those who have never done it before to try it. If it is your first time doing this, you can just pick one missionary in a country or ministry that interests you and sign a Christmas card for them. You may pick as many or as few missionaries as you would like to do this for; the only limit to your creativity is size and weight for mailing. You may use your own cards or use some blanks ones we have provided in the church lobby by the Missionary Christmas Card Mailbox. You can have your children draw pictures and just put them in an envelope for the missionaries. You don't need to put a stamp on the envelope as HCC will pay the postage. You just need the name of the missionary on the envelope and you can put your return address on it if you want. You can either just sign the card, or write more and tell about your family and your interests, or ask questions and start a dialog. Some families include their annual Christmas letter. What you do is all up to you. Even if you sign a group card, you can still send individual cards to the missionaries. Many of these missionaries in foreign countries don't receive any other Christmas cards other than what we send them, so they love the colors and pictures and often use them to decorate their homes for Christmas.

So please consider participating in this simple way to bless the missionaries that Hope Community Church supports. See the monthly church newsletter or the weekly church bulletin for more information on how to participate.

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF MASON/THURSTON COUNTIES, WA

Holly Moir has resigned as Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Mason/Thurston Counties (CEF) as of October 31, 2011. Please pray for the Board as they look for a new Director to take her place and for the ongoing work of CEF by volunteers until one is found.

FRED & AUDREY OTTO BRAZIL

Fred & Audrey work at the Bible Institute in Manaus, Brazil, and they have been asked to visit two different tribal locations to help out the missionaries there. They left Manaus on October 28th and will return on November 12th. They will visit the Gavião tribe in the state of Rondõnia. Fred & Audrey lived and worked for 3 years with the Gavião from 1978 to 1980. Two of the Brazilian missionary families working to plant a church there now need some help and so Fred & Audrey are going there to assist this team. All three of those families working there were students that Fred & Audrey had at the missionary training institute in the past. Fred & Audrey will also have the chance to visit some of the tribal people they knew years ago. One of these was a man bitten badly by a snake and he stayed with Fred & Audrey overnight while Audrey gave him what anti-venom they had. The Lord preserved his life and he is now one of the church leaders. Fred & Audrey will then visit the Pacaas Novus tribe, where two single missionary women will be having language evaluations. Please pray for these visits and for safe travels.

GREG SMITH EVERGREEN STUDENTS FOR CHRIST

Greg Smith heard from another campus minister that holding a "Root Beer Keg Party" during the first week of school can be an effective outreach tool. So Greg decided to try that with Evergreen Students For Christ (EFSC). They got a room on campus, invited lots of folks, and had a great two hours of building relationships with a couple dozen people. When it was over, there was still 14 gallons of ice cold root beer remaining. So Greg found a big party at a housing center and took the keg there, where he instantly connected and stayed for another two hours talking about where the new students were from, why they came to Evergreen, and Christ. The event was considered a big success and will almost certainly be repeated in future years.

Greg is thrilled by the growing interest in hearing about Jesus from a number of self-proclaimed atheists, agnostics, and pagans this year at various events where ESFC has outreach opportunities. He says that he has not experienced this much spiritual hunger at the casual level in a long time. His class on "Sci-Fi & Spirituality", which is studying C. S. Lewis's space trilogy, is made up of about half Christians and half non-believers. Lewis's books provide the perfect opportunity to talk about how thinking people can have an experience with God. Several of the students are there because they remember reading the Chronicles of Narnia as children but have never read Lewis's other books. One atheist said "I am an atheist, but I am here to give it another chance to see if God is really there". Please pray for Greg and for the students in this class as they meet on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm.

Greg has a new staff person, Jeff, working with him who is a former student. He is in his 20's which makes it easier for him to participate in campus activities and events, as well as just hang out with students. Pray that they would continue to be able to work well together as a team.

MARK & JAN HALSTROM
CREATIVE ACCESS COUNTRIES

In October, Mark's father, Dale Halstrom, who used to attend Hope Community Church and was a missionary to Japan, was diagnosed with Dementia and had to be moved from his retirement community to a care facility that could more readily deal with his condition. The signs had been evident for some years, but the symptoms had become more pronounced in recent weeks. The Lord opened up a space in a memory care facility only 3 miles away from where he had been living and still close to his daughter, Becky, and her husband. Some of the staff at the new place are known to Dale since some work at both facilities. However, the family is not sure this is the best place for him and is considering moving him to another place that is a better fit for him. They are also concerned because this facility will not be accepting Medicare next year. They want to find a place where he will not have to move again in the future. Pray also for his children (Mark, Becky, & Paul) as they continue to make decisions and oversee his care. Pray for Dale to adjust to these changes and to be content as this has been upsetting and confusing for him.

Mark is working with ReachGlobal developing relationships with national church partners in certain creative access countries. God is opening the door for going deeper into these relationships in years to come in order to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ impact this concentrated population of unreached people groups. A partnership with a like-minded evangelical mission agency appears to be the best consideration for following this calling and passion. Discussions have been taking place with mission leadership in recent days. Pray for them as they work through this process with both agencies. This region requires security and platform arrangements to effectively move about and do ministry among the unreached people groups. The high density of people, mix of groups, ignorance, and poverty leads to periodic social clashes and unrest. Pray for wisdom as they discern God's leading.

UN-NAMED FRIENDS
IN A RESTRICTED ACCESS COUNTRY

Our un-named friends are short of support and need $42,000 by the end of the year. If you are interested in providing one-time or ongoing support for them, you can contact Chris Brunner for more information at 360-867-0598 or cb-brunner@comcast.net or you can make a donation by putting "Un-Named Friends" on the memo section of your check and putting it in the offering.

One of the other American teachers in their city is under investigation by the government again. In an effort to not draw attention to themselves during this time, our un-named friends have had to shut down most of their activities for the present, including discussion and discipling groups. The danger is not so much to the Americans, but to the nationals who might be seen with them. The nationals have been told that even if they see our un-named friends out in public, they should not acknowledge them. Even so, God is at work and there have been members of these groups coming to Christ based on the work God had already been doing in their hearts through these groups. Please pray for both the Americans and the nationals as they go through this difficult time and the possibility of being taken in for questioning.

MIKE & RINA VANDERPOEL
JAPAN

The Kiyose Evangelical Free Church in Tokyo, Japan, (where the Vanderpoel's attend and serve) had an overnight retreat in the mountains in September and it was a good time of connecting to others within the church. There were good times of reflection and sharing that sometimes seem only to happen when away from the everyday routine and out

enjoying God's creation. In early October Mike got the opportunity to preach at the Kiyose church while Pastor Iwai and his wife were on a trip to Seattle and the Los Angeles area. It was Mike's first opportunity to preach in the Sunday morning service and he was very nervous, but he was also very glad to be able to serve in this way. Mike works with church sports activities and children/youth/young adult groups within the church as well as meeting one-on-one with individuals and participating in other outreach activities.

Mike is also coaching middle school soccer again this year and the team has had a successful season with 4 wins and 1 loss. Mike has the opportunity to share with the team what is really important in life. Pray that these students will come to know the Lord and live their lives for Him. Mike has been able to meet with several other high school guys and disciple them as well. Please pray for these young men, some of whom are Christians, and others who are seeking.

Mike & Rina and their family have settled into their new home and are thankful for God to have provided a wonderful house to live in. Shani & Joy are in school during the day, while Rina stays home with Ty, Jenna, and Kayla. Rina takes the younger three out to the parks, church meetings, and more. Mike & Rina are now affiliate missionaries with SEND International which means they have less financial support to work with. Mike has found a part time job as an assistant English Teacher in a Japanese Junior High School which will help them stay in Japan but it is temporary. They are currently 50% supported. Please pray for a long term solution so that they can stay in Japan.

CARE NET PREGNANCY CENTER OF THUSTON COUNTY

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Thurston County will be holding its annual fundraising banquet on Tuesday, November 8th from 6:30 to 9 pm at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. The guest speaker will be Carrie Abbott and there will also be a dessert auction. If you are interested in attending and do not yet have a seat at a table, individual tickets can be purchased for $50 each by calling 360-753-8023.

Care Net will be holding its fourth annual Christmas Store for its clients on Friday, December 9th. It is very popular with the clients because they can purchase Christmas presents for their children (with the vouchers they earned through educational classes and programs), have the gifts wrapped by staff and volunteers, and then enjoy Christmas cookies and goodies. If you would like to help, there are several opportunities to do so. You can donate new toys, clothes, or books; donate cookies and goodies; donate wrapping paper and bows; or work in the store that day and assist clients or help wrap gifts. Call 360-753-8023 for more information on how you can help.

MARK & NAOMI HALE POLAND

The Hale family experienced a wonderful answer to prayer recently as Agnieszka, the best friend of their daughter, Julia, publicly shared during the church service that she had made a decision to follow Christ. Julia has been faithfully witnessing to her friend for years and the Hales have spent many evenings praying for her as a family. Agnieszka invited her mother, Zenia, and another friend from school to church to hear Agnieszka's testimony. This was the first time her mother had ever come to the church. Please pray for Zenia as her daughter's decision has resulted in Agnieszka pulling away from the Catholic Church and this is hard for the whole family as most Poles are not tolerant of changes like this. But Zenia has seen positive changes in her daughter's life so Zenia is happy about the decision in that way. Zenia has had a rough year including a divorce from Agnieszka's father and her closest friend dying in a tragic accident.

Naomi is starting to meet again with a group of women in an English Bible study. The group will consist of 2 other believers and 3 pre-believers. Of the pre-believers, two are continuing from last year and one is a new addition – the

mother of a student that Naomi is teaching English. The mother is recently divorced and looking for answers. Pray for this study and for the women in it that they would all see Jesus.

STEVE & CAROL LYONS
TANZANIA

In August Carol's mother, who was 94 years old, went to be with the Lord. Carol was only one year old when her parents left the US for the Belgian Congo. Pith helmets were still worn at that time and the first people her father baptized were lepers. When she asked her mother recently what it was that compelled them to go, her mother said, "Your Uncle Ed came back from his first term in the Congo and told us that they needed more people to go tell the Congolese about Jesus. So we went." Carol describes her mother having lived a remarkably focused life – focused primarily on the One she loved and worshipped. Everything she did (loving her husband and family and making a good life for them) was done within the rubric of her relationship to her Creator and Savior.

In October, they invited the first year students from the local teachers college who are interested "going deeper" in their spiritual life to meet with them after school. Pray for those who turnout that there would be a group that would really be interested and diligent in being a part of the discipling group. Pray for the 2nd year students who will help disciple the 1st year students. These 2nd year students, a group of young men, have recently been invigorated with new enthusiasm for God's Word as they have glimpsed for the first time the riches of the grace of God. Carol & Steve's prayer is that the 2nd year Tanzanian students they are training would respond in the same way that Carol's parents did to the same vision and call – "more workers are needed to tell people about Jesus".

Map of Missionary Locations

Missionaries Supported by Hope Community Church

Dates to Remember

Nov 8 – Care Net Pregnancy Center of Thurston County Fall Banquet at Red Lion Hotel
Nov 12 – Fred & Audrey Otto return to Manaus, Brazil, after visiting 2 tribal locations
Dec 9 – Care Net Pregnancy Center of Thurston County Christmas Store for clients

Our Missionaries Around the World

Missionaries	Sending Organization	Country or Function
Megan Bodeutsch	Hope Community Church	South Korea
Mark & Naomi Hale	International Messengers	Poland
Nathan Jacobs	Missionary Construction Team	USA & Around the World
Mark & Jan Halstrom	TouchGlobal (EFCA)	Creative Access Countries
Kyle & Nancy Herr	AWANA	SW Washington/ NW Oregon
Vance & Carol Johnson	ReachGlobal (EFCA)	Philippines
Steve & Carol Lyons	ReachGlobal (EFCA)	Tanzania
Lois McMartin	ReachGlobal (EFCA)	ENHANCE - Missionary Care
Fred & Audrey Otto	New Tribes Mission	Brazil
Linda Sauke	ReachGlobal (EFCA)	Outreach English & Resource Dev
Greg Smith	Evergreen Students for Christ	Olympia, WA
Michael & Rina Vanderpoel	SEND International	Japan
Our Un-named Friends	BEE World	Restricted Access Country

Mission Organizations Also Supported

Child Evangelism Fellowship, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Thurston County,
Evergreen Family Friendship Services, Olympia Union Gospel Mission, Salvation Army.

Editor: Christine B. Brunner