

News from Singapore

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Dear Friends,



Deb, Breda and I had a full day with the Moulmein church today: first in worship and then Bible Class (I taught the auditorium combined adult class while Deb and Breda co-taught the 5 and 6 year olds - their charges for this next quarter). After lunch and brief time at home we joined with two other families to celebrate Tan Bah Bee's birthday (60th?) and then went to a wake for the mother of our sister Tan Bee Tin. At the end of worship today we bade farewell to Wong Xiang Xiang and Zoe Hu Rong (a sister from Shanghai, People's Republic of China) who we are sending and sponsoring for a mission/ministry internship in Chiangmai, Thailand with Robert Reagan. This is the second batch we've sent this year and hopefully wont be the last. Xiang Xiang is waiting to go to Polytechnic.

During this interim period she has worked with us at Moulmein to help with some administrative and secretarial tasks.

So much has happened in the first quarter of this year. I will give a brief overview with a few pictures. For the past

month or so we have been having some renovations done to our auditorium to increase our seating space since we do not have much room to move on Sunday mornings especially when there are a lot of visitors and guests. We removed walls at the back of our auditorium which eliminated two classrooms. Edwin moved out of his office and it is now our new cry room with a closed circuit TV so that mothers can watch and listen to what is happening in the auditorium. We installed moveable walls we can open and close those spaces as we need it to re-create the two lost classrooms. Here in this



photo (above) was our first Sunday to enjoy the full space. We had invited the Citivision church to come and share the day with us so we had a full house. In the photo above the white (rented) chairs mark the beginning of the new open space! At this point the kids had already left the hall for their special event.

It's been almost a quarter since you have received one of these more formal reports with photos and attachments. There will be quite a few with this one: a summary of attendance at Moulmein last in 2008, a list of some of the special events in 2008 and a list of our current staff and ministry leaders in the Moulmein church. (worship on 5th April with Citivision church which was also my parent's last Sunday with us before heading back to Searcy, Arkansas).

The other big event of the first quarter was “Angkor of Faith 3” our third missions training camp in Siem Reap, Cambodia: 15th – 21st March. Last year we had about 73 from five countries converge for the week. This time there were 105 from six countries: Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Cambodia and Philippines. Here is the link to the superlative website Robert Reagan created to help us all prepare for that week together: <http://web.me.com/rnreagan/AoF/AoF3.html>

Here is this year’s group shot (which we took on the second day so not as many street kids were with us at that point):



Below are links to some of the great songs we learned and sang together under the gifted direction of Joel Osborne, missionary from Sendai, Japan who has been a vital part of all three of the “AoF’s”

[AoF3-For-the-beauty-of-the-earth.mp3](#)

[AoF3-Thats-why-we-praise-him.mp3](#)

[AoF3-Savior-\(You-deserve\).mp3](#)

[AoF3-The-Prayer-Medley.mp3](#)

I took several thousand photographs as did Tommy Chia, professional photographer from Singapore and faithful member of the Moulmein church who was part of our 12 member team from Moulmein (along with me and Edwin one of three adult leaders). If you’d like to see some of them I have been uploading them to my “facebook” account. Become my “friend” on facebook and you’ll see these amazing young people in action as they served and learned together in Siem Reap, Cambodia!



We enjoyed having my parents, Gordon and Jane Hogan with us (Feb 6th to April 6th). Dad and I went on a fantastic 81 kilometer hike on the South Island of New Zealand. I can send you a link to some the photos I took of that adventure if you’d like – just email me! Those of you who have been connected with me on facebook also know about the accident my Dad suffered on his 81st birthday when his left thumb was severed and he had to be rushed to the ER and underwent 10 hours of micro-surgery. All went well. Today the Moulmein church took up a collection to help with some of those expenses. Not everyone who wanted to contribute was here but S \$10,000 was collected today. We are grateful!(left: celebrating my parent’s march birthdays after the trauma at a restaurant where two waiters we first met in 1968 still serve!)

I forgot to mention that our young adults ministry group is “soaring”. Led by Joel Chiang and Sue Ann Mak they are one of the most growing and evangelistic groups among us. I was asked to be a part of their leadership retreat on the island of Sentosa (part of Singapore) on February 28th. It was a time of prayer and study and exploration and planning. How can we reach out? They already have been reaching out – and numerous studies are now continuing with young adults from China. They call themselves “SOAR” – Serving our Awesome Redeemer.

This week I will be shopping for a new computer. Mine just died on Friday morning, which has made this e-letter something of a challenge since I did not have access to all my old files. They are still ok on the hard drive but the main computer gasped and blinked for the last time. Mark McCurley helped me buy and build that one after our return from Edmond to Singapore in July 2003. Today after worship, know the events of the past few days, he told me he wants to help me buy and build it’s successor.

Breda began her university course on February 2nd. She has a full schedule and loves being back in school with a full load of classes. She is doing very well. Deb will fly to the Philippines this week to train a group of professional counselors in Solution Focused Brief Therapy.

We are making plans for our two year visit to the US for July and part of August this year. We are looking forward to seeing you all during our 6-week sojourn.

Grateful and eager,

Dave

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