

**CHINA MISSION
NEWSLETTER****MISSIONARY**

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KAOHSIUNG – 1 November 2021

Dear brethren:

For quite some time now, I have been intending to give an update on attendance and other matters, but always seem to run out of space in every letter. This month I will begin the letter with these neglected items to ensure room for them.

The recent attendance in the Sunday morning assembly has been averaging about eight souls, half of what it was before the imposition of these heavy-handed crisis mandates. Attendance will vary from seven to nine. The varying attendance figure does not necessarily indicate a lack of steadfastness. When a member does not attend, there are usually compelling reasons with which one can only sympathize. For instance, a sister who is a teacher is occasionally required by her school to proctor a test held for students on Sunday morning. Or, she must attend a teachers' meeting. Also, I have seen a member's company require their coming to work on Sundays when an unexpected problem would arise requiring intense effort on the part of its employees. A typhoon or other bad weather, also, can make the roads impassable or treacherous (some travel an hour or more to attend). I am encouraged by the faithfulness some have manifested through the years despite many obstacles and inconveniences.

As mentioned above, our attendance has dropped to about half of the pre-pandemic levels. Prior to the global crises, our attendance ran in the mid to high teens. Now, some are worshipping with their family at home, others online. One sister in Christ expressed concern for her children and so does not want to bring them to church. I can understand her concern even though it would seem to be misplaced, and likely the result of the massive amount of false information that is being disseminated. (Apart from the presence of a comorbidity, it is very rare for children to die or have any serious encounter with covid). I can only imagine the burden she must feel as her children leave for school each day to spend all day, every day, in a crowded classroom. If so, why not homeschool? They will be safer physically and spiritually. In the US, homeschooling has more than doubled as parents seek to regain control over the minds and souls of their children. To this family's credit, they are worshipping in their home and partaking of the Lord's Supper each Sunday. I also hear that she is teaching her children the Bible. They will not be without training in righteousness. Their grandmother, whom we baptized many years ago, is also teaching them. This is very commendable. We all should be teaching our children the Bible in the home, as well as taking them to church. One does not substitute for the other.

The elderly, on the other hand, should be concerned and must make difficult

decisions. As we age, . every part of the body is decaying, including the thymus gland. With age the thymus shrinks and T cell maturation declines. This is why prior to the advent of COVID-19, roughly the same number of the elderly died each year from influenza A and B, etc., as they did last year with the hyped COVID-19. Same class of persons, same mortality rate. When you have reached the end of your normal life span, just about anything will promote you to the next realm. Yes, in any flu season, the elderly must make difficult decisions whether to attend or not. The decision is theirs and theirs alone. It is between them and their God. " ... work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12b). The risk is to them personally. If they attend, they are no risk to others.

There is a bright side to getting older though. "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). With age comes wisdom and a closer walk with God. We who are in Christ have the hope of the resurrection, and in the end, an eternity with God.

Your servant in Christ,

Eugene F. Brzozowski

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