



Dear Friends,

### **Only five months remaining!**

When we began deputation full time in January this year, we prayed that God would allow us to complete support raising in ten months, getting us to HK in November. We knew this was a lofty goal but it wasn't an arbitrary one. Ben's parents (as you might know) agreed and committed to lead LHBC in Yuen Long, HK for one year- serving as interim pastor. They've been hard at work leading Lighthouse since October 2023 and we couldn't be more grateful for their sacrifice and example!

Fast forward to present...As we type this letter, we're calculating support level at 80%! We're trusting God to continue providing partners for His work as He has provided for every need so far. With every doubt or question, God has been so gracious and merciful to answer our doubts (sometimes instantaneously) with reassurance of His leading and provision. He not only knows our needs but is already working even before we could ask.

### **Our Summer So Far**

April and May took us from Georgia to North Carolina, back to Texas and Louisiana. We were so blessed to participate in the Missions Conference at Pinecrest Baptist in McDonough, GA in mid-April – where we sensed such a heart for God and the work of missions around the world. We made many of what I know will be lifelong friends and were so blessed and encouraged by what we were able to experience.

North Carolina gave us the opportunity to reconnect with old friends from Florida who are living on mission through a unique ministry opportunity in an apartment community while also assisting a church plant. It's awesome to see families trust God, step out in faith, and use their lives and giftings to advance His kingdom.

May brought us back to Florida temporarily where Ashli was able to speak at a ladies gathering on the Gulf Coast. After spending a week "off" in Tennessee, we were able to participate in a conference hosted by Louisiana Baptist University where Ashli is currently working to finish a counseling degree. The conference emphasized missions and afforded us the opportunity to connect with several potential missions partners and ministries.

June brought us back to the Florida panhandle in the middle of our "slower" summer season. This slower season gifted us with some time off the road and Ben was able to assist our sending church West Florida Baptist with some special projects over the last few weeks while the kids got to reconnect with their life-long friends at the church's day camp.

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## Looking Ahead

Moving into July... the summer gap in our schedule has afforded Ben the opportunity to take a short trip to Hong Kong at the beginning of July. Our goals during this short trip will be: to make housing arrangements for our arrival in the fall and begin our visa application process. In addition Ben will be able to reconnect with and update the church family at Lighthouse Baptist and spend some time with the elder Baucums as they continue to minister in Hong Kong.

We can't express just how over-blessed we are to have the elder Baucums to walk alongside and mentor us during this season. We're literally standing on their shoulders going into the work God is doing in Hong Kong..

Speaking of the elder Baucums, Dad (Richard) just celebrated his 73rd birthday with the church family in Hong Kong. Continue to pray for him and mom as they serve there – particularly the health challenges with Dad's neuropathy. The church has several special meetings scheduled over the next several months and a busy summer schedule. This past Sunday, a young lady in one of the church families came forward to publicly share her decision to trust Christ and desire to be baptized. We pray for a continued harvest.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership for and with our family. We're regularly in awe of the goodness of God and the generosity and faithfulness of His people. Continue to pray that God continues to connect us with partners, for Ben's trip to Hong Kong in July, and for the harvest in Hong Kong.

If we can ever be of service in any way, or you'd just like to chat – please reach out anytime!

Yours for Hong Kong,  
Ben & Ashli Baucum  
(Levi, Titus, Jude, Selah)



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