

## Repent

WHAT DO WE  
DESERVE?



**GPENreformation**



**FELLOWSHIP**



**FAMILY**



*Happy New Year from the Scheiwe Family!*

## Repent

No, I am not starting this newsletter with admonition to my readers to repent for too much partying on New Year's Eve! Instead, a story from December... Teaching English to adult women in the community has given me special, unexpected moments during my week. I have two classes of students. One focuses on English grammar and vocabulary. The second is reading the Bible through the chapters of specific people. We started with Joseph and will be completing his story later in January. As we reached the part of the narrative when Joseph's brothers have returned again to purchase grain for their families and also retrieve their brother, the class of students had an opportunity to reflect on the difference in English between two sentences in meaning and heart. The first sentence I gave the students was "We are facing this difficulty because of what we did before." The second sentence was, "We deserve this difficulty because of what we did before." Reflection on these two sentences provided a meaningful bridge into the concept of repentance. It is hard to repent if a person feels that things happen based on fate. However, if a person recognizes

## 悔改 huīgǎi

悔改 is not a common term in Chinese conversation. The first character, 悔, is more commonly used in the word for regret, 后悔 (hòuhuǐ). The second character, 改, is used frequently in the word for change, 改变(gǎibiàn). In the combination of characters used for repent, we have a call for action. It is not the idea of rueing some past action or experience. Instead, it is combined with the character for change, or transformation. In fact, repentance does transform. The transformation is through the gift of Jesus' love in grace and reconciliation with our Creator.

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their fault in actions, then there is an opening for the Spirit to lead that person's heart towards repentance and grace.

## Holiday Fellowship



It feels like this is the position I was in for much of December. We hosted multiple open houses and other fellowship activities. These each called for baking and cleaning. Our family is thankful for the large numbers of people with whom we were blessed to spend time, celebrate the gift of Jesus, and enjoy delicious food, as we delighted in the way God has formed us in community. I especially enjoyed introducing the concept of

“Open House” to my new adult English students, some of whom could join the fun. They were not familiar with the idea, and they enjoyed the informal gathering style.

## GPENreformation



Thank you for your prayers for my travel and attendance of the Ambassador's Assembly for the Global Pedagogical Network for Reformation in Arusha, Tanzania, at the end of November. Eighty-five participants from Protestant Schools around the world joined the conference. Three of us joined from Asia. The conference included conversations around how to develop quality metrics in Protestant schools, ideas around non-violent communication and peace education as people living in grace, and thinking about needs for advocacy for Protestant education worldwide in the variety of contexts where we all serve in ministry. In addition, I had the opportunity to visit two local Lutheran school campuses and a government-run school. This helped me to learn more

## Prayers

- The gift of Jesus, celebrated during this Christmas season and every day of the year, to be known in the heart of each person around the world. Grant us the boldness to speak God's Word at every opportunity, and to live our lives reflecting the love and grace of Christ to all we meet.
- For opportunities for Christian education worldwide to continue to share the love of Jesus each and every day with learners of all ages.
- Thanksgiving for the opportunities for fellowship that we were given during the Advent and Christmas season in Hong Kong. May new relationships be nurtured and old relationships grow deeper.
- Thanksgiving that our family could spend the Christmas holiday together in Asia. Eliada has now returned to school in Concordia, Missouri, and we look forward to our next reunion.

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about the Christian education opportunities and existing structures in Tanzania. The emcee for the conference unexpectedly asked me to sing a song to close the Assembly as we were nearing the end of the event. Being quite nervous, I referred to lyrics on my phone to make it through. The picture above shows me singing. We continue to pray that Christian education will flourish worldwide and that forces which could potentially constrain these ministries will be vanquished. I include some additional photos from the Assembly.



## Grant Funds available?

We are working on plans for Concordia Mission Institute (CMI) 2019, to be held on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri next July. CMI is the joint mission training initiative of Lutheran Bible Translators and Mission of Christ Network. Last year we hosted missionary families and prospective missionaries for our organizations for a week in God's word and Christian fellowship to train and encourage our teams in service in God's mission. Last year we especially included specific programming for our missionary youth. If your congregation has a grant funds program that I can apply to for support of CMI, please let me know. Any amount is a blessing to our ability to support the care and development of these two mission organization teams.

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