

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:1-4

“我们借着洗礼和祂一同死了，埋葬了，这样我们的一举一动可以有新生命的样式，正如基督借着父的荣耀从死里复活一样。”

罗马书 6:1-4

Hi friends,

We're very happy to share some good news: you have six new sisters in JC!

Yesterday, we had the joy of celebrating their adoption into His Family through the "washing of rebirth and renewal by the Spirit" (Titus 3:5). Each of the sisters shared testimonies of how He has been pursuing them through struggles, miracles, answered prayers, and the power of Christian community. I wish you could have been there to hear their stories and to join us in the celebration.

For those of us who are not "new to the Family", it was a powerful opportunity to be reminded of the many ways that He is working, which also renews our own faith and our hope for the future.



One of our new sisters shares her testimony with the group

For many of us living in this country, it feels like the time is ripe for renewal. 2022 was a very tough year for many people in our city and across the country, and it sure ended with a bang.

After so many months of enduring strict "zero COVID" policies, "whiplash" is the best way we've been able to describe our experience since we last shared an email update with you at the end of November. Other phrases that have often been used to describe these past two months are: "COVID tsunami" and "let 'er rip"!

You may have heard about some unrest that broke out around the country after a tragic fire at the end of November. In the weeks that followed, government departments around the country began to relax (and then suddenly dropped) the strict COVID controls that had been in place for nearly three years. Naturally, the wave of infections started to spread very quickly. Some reports have estimated that 250 million people were infected in the first 20 days of December alone, with many more after that.



John delivers his line about JC at the school's Christmas concert

Just before the wave hit our family, we were very thankful to be able to attend two events where we could celebrate Christmas, and also share the love of JC with more people: our congregation's annual Christmas event (Dec. 11), and the annual Christmas concert at our kids' school (Dec. 13).

At the former event, I (Josh) was able to meet and pray with J*, a young man who recently returned from attending university overseas to begin his career in our city. This was only the second time he had attended a worship service, with almost no prior exposure to followers of JC. Many young people like J* are feeling disillusioned and searching for answers. Please

You can join His mission in Asia with us! We would love to partner with you.

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pray for J* as he continues to learn and explore questions of faith through his new friendships with people in our community.

Another special person we want to ask you to continue to pray for is Coco's mom. She experienced a particularly rough bout of symptoms from COVID, and she had to be hospitalized for several days in early January. We are very grateful that she recovered and is doing better now, and also that we were able to spend quality time with her and the rest of Coco's family during the recent Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) holiday.

For Coco's mom's side of the family, there was some grief mixed in with the joy of gathering for the holiday, as one of her grandpa's cousins suddenly passed away at the end of the year due to complications from COVID. Please ask the Father to give comfort & peace to Coco's mom and the whole family, and pray that they would accept the gift of faith, so that they too "might walk in newness of life."

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CLICK image above to watch the CWEF Year in Review video

From the [CWEF](#) side, we want to say a special thank you for your continued partnership and for standing with the people CWEF serves in rural Asia!

Because of your faithful prayers and generous giving in 2022, our CWEF team and local partners were able to impact over 1,500 people in rural China and Cambodia through improved access to education, clean water, health training, and mental health support.

Please [watch this video](#) to learn more about the impact you made last year. I hope you enjoy seeing the faces of a few of the people whose lives you have touched, along with the places where they live and learn.

Working together, we are strengthening communities like these as they emerge from poverty to serve and inspire hope in others.

We look forward to doing more good work with you in 2023.
Thank you and God bless you in the year ahead!

In His Love – Josh & Coco, John & Sophie

Would you join us by committing to support the work God is doing here in Asia through your regular prayers and gifts? We currently have 35 monthly and annual partners; we are aiming for 50. [Click here](#) – or see the bottom of this page for more information – to join us as we join JC in his mission.

PRAYER POINTS

1. For our new sisters in JC, and their families. Ask Him to strengthen their faith and trust.
2. Coco's good friend M* -- whom we shared about in a previous newsletter -- has also decided to be 'washed' later this week! Please also ask Him to give faith and courage to M* as she continue her walk with JC.
3. Coco and our friend A* have also wrapped up the first 5-week session of the Alpha Parenting course at our congregation. The course resulted in good learning, discussion, and community-building for the parents that participated. They are now praying about the next cohort. Ask Him to grant wisdom and direction for this important ministry in our community.
4. Recently, we have been seeing that our own kids are growing in their relationship with JC and asking great questions of their parents! Pray for John and Sophie – that their trust and love for Him would continue to grow.
5. For faith and courage for all of our MCN and CWEF team members as we go about the work God has called us to.
6. Please join us in praying for Coco's parents and family members – for the gift of faith and for good health.
7. Finally, for Coco and Josh – ask for His Spirit to give us deeper faith, hope, and love for each other and for our kids.

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