

Mission News

Pastor Michael Parris

September 2015



Street offering of incense and food to appease the ghost that might try to snatch someone

Ghosts?

Candles? Bananas? Rice? Can these get you to heaven? There are some people who think so.

In the late of summer many Chinese will put displays of food, incense and candles on the sidewalk.

There is the belief that ancestors who have died will emerge from the grave as a ghost. They want

to go to heaven. So they are looking for the exchange.

The exchange? The ancestor will want to find someone he can exchange with. The thought is he will jump from the grave as a ghost and grab someone. Whoever he grabs will become the ghost and then he will be free to go to heaven.

Where does the rice, banana and candles come in? Those who are living don't want to be a ghost so they will set on the sidewalk food, incense and lit candles as an offering to the ghost ancestor. The hope is that the ghost will be appeased with the offering and by-pass the giver to look for someone else to exchange with.

Sound reasonable? To those who believe in ancestor worship it probably does. But to those who know the truth of Jesus Christ and the blood He shed on the cross we know there is a truth that does not include ghosts.

The real exchange is Jesus taking our sin upon Himself while He gives to us His righteousness. This is a message Chinese (indeed, all of us) need to hear. This is the reason you made it possible for me to work in Macau. Thank you!

CONTACT INFO

Pastor Michael Parris

Macau

To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Michael Parris, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include “Parris – Macau” in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely through the LCMS website at www.org/parris.

OR

Mission Central
47018 Highway E16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034
712-882-1029

Family, friends and contributors will be on the newsletter list. If you would like to be on the mailing list contact Michael.

My email

michael.parris84@yahoo.com

Thank you for prayers and donations. You are certainly welcome to share this newsletter with others.

Hong Kong Conference

In May the missionaries and GEO teachers of the Asia-Pacific District gathered for conference in Hong Kong. The key speaker was Dr. Al Cullver of the International Center in St. Louis. He shared with us various texts from the Gospel of Mark. Dr. Cullver also offered a question and answer session that focused on issues relating to missionaries.

In addition, Mark Hoffman from the International Center spoke about fundraising.



Participants were from Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan and other parts of Asia. Events included fellowship opportunity, a boat cruise and, of course, worship.



I Am

Friday evening we offer Bible study at the English Center for both children and adults. We refer to the evening as "Learning English Through the Bible."

Sometimes people will come to the Center to polish up their English ability. We then use this opportunity to teach the Bible.

Recent study series have included the Ten Commandments and lessons on resolving conflict in the family according to biblical principles. Presently we are studying the "I Am" titles of Jesus – Light of the world, Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the True Vine, the Truth and the Gate of the Sheep-pen.

Prayers

- A few of the Chinese who come to the English Center have been thinking about baptism. Pray That God would bless these young people with a desire for baptism.
- We continue to have visa/work permit problems among the missionaries. Pray that God will bless us with the permits that we need to work in Macau.



