



Dear brothers and sisters,

“It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for death is the end of all men, and the living will take it to heart.” [Ecclesiastes 7:2]

After attending a sister's wedding with some brothers and sisters from the Giessen Fellowship in the first week of February, many people, including adults and children, fell ill in the second week because it was very cold on the wedding day. The next day, Sunday, I went to serve in another city. After the service, while waiting for the train to go home, I received the sad news that the son of a sister in the sisters' fellowship had committed suicide the previous night. Everyone who heard the news was shocked. They didn't expect that a child who had just become an adult could not bear the pressure and committed suicide. Unfortunately, on the day of the incident, the young man's mother injured and fractured her foot, making it difficult for her to move, so her husband had to handle all the funeral arrangements. On the day of the funeral, she was also sitting in a wheelchair, feeling so helpless! Because they didn't want to make it public, not many people attended. Another sister and I mainly went to support the young man's grandmother, whose emotions were difficult to control. To this day she still cannot accept this situation and goes to the cemetery almost every day to ask her grandson why he did this. Since the local city is not large, senior students from several high schools were notified of the news because many of them knew each other. The younger sister of the suicidal young man was in the same school and had counselling to help her. The sister in charge of the fellowship was also very loving. In the first week, she accompanied the sister and her mother almost every day. Unfortunately, she was also very tired. I am grateful that she received comfort and support from God's words during her spiritual devotion.

A mother came from China to visit her daughter. As soon as she arrived in Germany, she asked her daughter to take her to church because she wanted to learn about the Christian faith. The daughter happened to receive a flyer about a church Christmas event from a friend, so she took her mother to church. Later, I learned that they lived in Giessen, so I introduced the seeker to a sister in the fellowship so that she could take care of her. She attended three Bible studies in the fellowship and was deeply moved each time. She even prayed the decision-making prayer on the last occasion before leaving Germany.

The oldest sister in the Chinese church has been unable to take care of herself since she turned 80 and has been in and out of the hospital frequently recently. Although the church has set up a care team to look after her, they are unable to care for her full-time and she now has to wait to be admitted to a nursing home. Another brother just turned 80. He fell several times on the road in the past few months and now also needs a lot of medical examinations. I took him to see the ophthalmologist this morning and he needed cataract surgery. They are all elderly people living alone, and whether they have mobility problems or language barriers, they need someone to help them.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

1. The newly married sister has a son who was born without a father and now has a stepfather who loves him. May the Lord bless this family and their marriage, with Christ as the Lord of their home!
2. The mother of the young man who committed suicide had surgery on her foot, but she is not yet able to walk completely. Pray that the Lord will heal her leg injury and comfort her soul! May the Lord comfort the grandmother who cannot accept the fact, and let her escape from her sad days as soon as possible! May the Lord protect the father and sister of this family, and may they also receive encouragement and comfort! May the Lord also protect the deceased's ex-girlfriend, so that she and her family can receive counseling and comfort!
3. Pray that the Lord will protect the mother who is visiting from China, and strengthen her faith. Even though there is no church near her home, she will persist in reading the Bible to know God!
4. Pray that the Lord will lead the church's caring ministry so that more brothers and sisters can take the time to accompany the elderly to see doctors and perform some loving actions such as delivering meals! May the Lord have mercy on this old sister, so that she can get a nursing home bed as soon as possible and receive better care! May the Lord help this elderly brother. He has many doctor appointments recently and needs someone to translate so that he can feel at ease when seeing the doctor and receive proper treatment!
5. Thank God for giving the Giesen Fellowship a new member, a sister's baby who just turned one-year-old! May the Lord give this sister strength to raise her two kids well! May the Lord protect the two pregnant sisters, allowing their babies to grow healthily in the womb and be born at the appropriate time!

Thank God for His mercy and the prayers of brothers and sisters, which make our grace sufficient!

Thank you Lord for the power of Christ's resurrection!

Serving Him,
Karen Tang