

Living Springs International Christian Church

“**Living**” is because through Jesus Christ we have new life. We are new creations, the old has gone, and we need to share the way of life with others. (Acts 5:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

“**Springs**” is based on Jesus being the Living Water. If anyone thirsts, let him ask, and he will receive springs of living water. (Jeremiah 2:13, John 4:10, John 7:38, Revelation 7:17)

“**International**” – Because so many countries and cultures are represented in our congregation we classify ourselves as an international church.

“**Christian**” - We are a group of Christians and a place where others can learn about Christianity. Especially in a world where people mix beliefs together and call themselves by many names including Christian, we stand as a light in this dark world and salt to the earth. We are not just Christian in name but in action and commitment. We are living sacrifices committed in all things to Christ as we know Him through the Bible. We understand that all have sinned, all need a Savior, and that Christ is the only Savior for us, He is our Redeemer who has brought us into relationship with God the Father. There is only One God demonstrated to us in three Persons: Father/Creator, Son/Savior, Spirit/Comforter.

“**Church**” – A church is not the building but the people who meet together in fellowship and worship. We are a fellowship of believers. We welcome any who want to hear the Good news of Christ. Fellowship gives us strength in our Christian walk. It brings encouragement to each other. Church is not just a set of traditions and activities, even though that is a part of church, but church fellowship is also alive and vital to each Christian.

L – Love – We love God because He first loved us. We love each other and seek to do all things with love.

I – Involved in the Community and Missions – We care about Taiwan and the world. We are involved in carrying out the Great Commission to go into all the world and share Christ. In our case, the world has come to us in many ways as people from all over the world live and work in Taiwan and want to come to a church where English is spoken. We seek to be visible in the community and minister where God opens doors for us. We also plan to do mission work in areas around Taiwan and the world. One of our dreams is to go in missions to each country represented in our congregation.

V – Vision - The vision and direction of this church is from God, not based on our own agendas. We are Spirit-led and Purpose-driven. We seek to know what God is doing around us and in our midst and to join Him in His work. This purpose drives us to wait upon the Lord, to mount up with wings like eagles, to run and not grow weary, to walk and not faint. (Is. 40:31)

I – Invitation to join - This is a place for fellowship, for joining together for encouragement and accountability. It is also a place of family for those whose families are far away. Each person should feel welcomed and encouraged to find friends here. When a person becomes a Christian and is baptized, they become a member of the family. Visitors are always welcome, but joining this family of believers is encouraged for every believer who feels God’s call to this church. In addition, whenever possible, we hope to offer Bible studies in the languages represented in our congregation. Our worship services are in English, but our Bible studies may be offered in many languages so that everyone can also develop a sense of family in their own culture and language even though they may be far from home.

N – Non-Threatening Atmosphere – The church should be a safe place for people to share their concerns and hurts. It is a place of healing and restoration. It is a place of acceptance and love. It is also a place where you can learn about the Bible and Christ without being pushed into making a decision. The Holy Spirit must draw you to belief in Christ, and this is a place where you can learn and seek the truth. Jesus died for our sin because He loved us and wanted a relationship with us. We all have value because Christ shows that we have value. Respecting one another and valuing each other is an important part of who we are.

G – Gospel – Gospel means “Good News” and that is what we’re here to share. We have to share the wonderful gift God has given us. Sharing the Gospel, ideally, is an automatic outpouring of our gratitude for what God has done. Our joy in our salvation compels us to tell others about Christ. Evangelism is simply sharing what Christ has done in your life.

S – Scripture – Everything we do must be according to the Bible. The Bible is God’s inspired Word to us. There are no other Scriptures inspired by God. It is His revelation. Each person is encouraged to read the Bible daily and to memorize the Word of God.

P – Prayer – Prayer is our most important occupation as Christians. It is the process of talking to God and allowing Him to speak to us. Jesus said, “My house will be a house of prayer.

R – Relevant Lessons – The teachings are meant to be relevant for living the Christian life and for answering questions others have about Christianity. Sermons are not just about the Bible but about how to apply the Bible to our lives on a daily basis.

I – Inspired Worship – Worship is one of the main purposes of the church. Worship is honoring God in all we do. Worship should draw us closer to God. Worship services include music, the arts, and the teaching of God’s Word, as well as times of Communion (or the Lord’s Supper) and Baptism.

N – Need-based Ministry – Ministry is another main purpose of the church. Ministry is when we meet the needs of others. We seek to minister to the hurts of others. We provide needed ministries within the church and outside the church walls.

G – Growing disciples – Jesus commanded us to “make disciples”. A disciple is someone who follows the teachings of Christ. We offer classes for those who want to learn about Christianity, but each Christian is encouraged to become a disciple, following Christ in all their lives. We have a five-stage, life development process where we seek to engage the believer in the process of spiritual maturity.

S – Spirit of Freedom - We promote, encourage, and preserve a spirit of freedom in worship and in the Christian walk. 2 Cor. 3:17 says, “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” Legalism quenches the Spirit.

The need: Taipei has many missionaries, but their ministry is reaching the indigenous people of Taiwan. We feel a specific calling to the international community. There are many business people who live in Taiwan for many years and really consider it home, and there are some who only come through for a short time and need a place to worship in English. We also will reach out to the English-speaking community. This is a wonderful evangelistic tool, because most Taiwanese want to learn English. Foreign business people also want to learn English, and they often come to services while they are in town. We’ve also seen some of these short term visitors come to know the Lord, go home to their home countries, and start churches as a result of what God did in their lives while they visited Taiwan. In addition to this part of our calling, we also feel called to start satellite churches around the island where English teachers from the US, Canada, South Africa, and Europe have no Christian fellowship. These small groups would meet in homes and use the sermons from our congregation while conducting their own worship and Bible study together. God has given us a vision for a million for Christ in Taiwan.

The need is tremendous in Taiwan. In Taipei, less than 2% of the 6,000,000 people are Christian. On the entire island, the numbers of Christians are between 2-3%. We could go and start ten churches in Taipei and still overflow with people as God draws them to Himself.

Our need: We need to have the funds to start up the work there, provide for our needs, and educate our children. We are confident that after two years we will be independent with the exception of our children’s schooling needs. We may still need help with their schooling for three years.

Will you pray about being a part of this mission, this vision, and calling the Lord has given us? Please pray for us as we prepare to return to Taipei in the summer of 2008. Please pray about what you can give to help us financially during the first two years, and with the kids' schooling the first three years.

Ways you can be involved:

1. Prayer – this is honestly the most important way you can be involved in this ministry. We need your prayers. We are developing a prayer team that will begin now to pray daily for this ministry, for God's provision and guidance in every step of this process. In addition, we are developing a special "MK" (Missionary Kid) prayer team to pray daily, specifically for our kids' schooling needs.
2. Finances – if the Lord leads you to help financially with this exciting opportunity, please respond by letting us know of your commitment, and then begin to give as the Lord has directed you at any time even beginning now.
3. Go – is the Lord calling you to be a part of the team to get things going? We invite you to come join us in August or later next year. You can help us begin the work, or you can come at a later time and help meet the many needs a new church has and the many needs Taiwan has.
4. Share – tell others about this ministry and invite them to be a part of it. Get your church involved. We will be happy to share with your church in person.

All gifts are tax-deductible if made out to Glenwood Baptist Church, 5400 Charles Page Blvd., Tulsa, OK 74127. Note that it is for the Brown's Mission Work. Or you can give through PayPal on the Web site.

God bless you and guide you as you pray!

In His hand,
The Browns: Pastor Dave, Terrie, Rachelle, Nathaniel, Annalyssa, and Ryan

For more information, please see our brochure.

Prayer Points for our family:

Dave and Terrie – jobs for the summer once our contracts are up at Moriah Christian Academy where we've been teaching this school year.

Terrie has finished one book and is seeking to get it published. This is new ground for us, and we need wisdom to know how to proceed.

Rachelle – She's a freshman this year in high school. She is starting to really come out of her shell, and we know God has great things planned for her. We are searching for an online high school for next year for her. Please pray for God's guidance in this decision.

Nathaniel – He's in 7th grade this year. He's learning to be disciplined and to finish projects on time. Please pray for him as he continues to grow in this area. He rededicated his life to the Lord at camp last summer. He is really beginning to grow in his faith.

Annalyssa – She's finishing 4th grade and has done so well this year. Please pray for her as she continues to grow in her faith.

Ryan – Ryan is in Kindergarten. He has done really well and is working above grade level in most subjects. Please pray for his growth and understanding as a Christian. He accepted Christ on June 27th last year.

Prayer point for the ministry:

Our main ministry prayer point is that God will build our prayer teams, financial team, and church start team. Pray that exactly who God wants to be involved answers His call.

Please pray for us as we work in Terrie's home church (Glenwood Baptist Church) in Tulsa. Dave is leading worship and Terrie is directing the choir.

Please pray for our appointment with a mission board. We are seeking the Lord's will in this matter and are talking to a mission board at this time. Once we are past the preliminary stage, we will share more information, but for now, please pray for wisdom and guidance for us and the mission board leaders.

We appreciate your prayers for our family and each person's specific needs. We will include more ministry details and prayer points as they arise.