

CELEBRATING THE "NEW YEARS"

It was interesting celebrating the "Western" and "Chinese" New Years with people of so many different cultural backgrounds here in Baguio. There are some who want to "Christianize" the New Year by insisting on greeting "**Blessed**



Tham Wan & Moon Tee at the pulpit during the BICC Chinese New Year Service.



"International" members at BICC



Tham Wan addressing the Hong Kong International Christian Assembly Church



Tham Wan is teaching Asian Theology during this school term

New Year" instead of the usual "Happy New Year." Similarly, some Chinese Christians will insist that it is un-Christian to say the traditional "**Gong Xi Fa Cai**."

They will simply say, "**Xin Nian Hao**."

We were more interested in using the New Years as opportunities to share God's blessings

with others. We had a watchnight service on Dec 31, a "reunion" dinner on Jan 25, and an "open house" on the Jan 31. You can view a video of our watchnight service on our website.

A total of over 200

people visited our apartment during the 3 events. We also had visitors who were not related to APTS. Moon Tee prepared the traditional Chinese New Year food stuff. It was a blessed time indeed.

Perhaps the most exciting part is to host non-believers in our home. As the non-believers see the way Christians celebrate the various feasts, they will be attracted to our faith. Two of our Chinese members shared their personal salvation stories. Let's pray that the harvest will come in due time.



Moon Tee introducing the newcomers at the BICC Chinese New Year Evangelistic Celebration Service.

MEETING OUR ALUMNI

We made a trip with the Cagles to Hong Kong and Shenzhen. One of the purposes was to connect with a major APTS supporter in Hong Kong. Along the way, we also met with some key church leaders as well as some APTS alumni. It was most fulfilling for us to meet up with the alumni. One of them is teaching at a top university

in Hong Kong, another is an associate pastor in a large Hong Kong church; yet another two have been doing a great work in Shenzhen.

While in Hong Kong, we also met up with a good friend, Rev. Hilbert Ong, who is doing his post-graduate studies there. It was only a short 3-day trip but we had a total of 5 meetings.

2009: A PERSONAL "NEW" YEAR

This year is also a NEW beginning for us as Tham Wan will be installed as the new President of APTS on April 2. This is a new beginning - both for us and for APTS. Apart from being the first Asians, we will also be the first APTS alumni to take the leadership role at APTS. This will be a huge challenge for us and your prayers and continuing support will be greatly needed for us to

be successful. We are deeply honored that our General Superintendent and some members of the World Missions Dept will be attending our installation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be at the Minsters' Retreat in J.B. from March 16 to 19. We hope to meet you there.