

Holiness – God’s and Ours: LM Briefing Document

August 3, 2025

Overview

This briefing document synthesizes the key themes, ideas, and facts presented in the excerpts from "Holiness - God's and Ours" by missionaries Beth and Hal Hansen, delivered on August 3, 2025, at the New Life Family Worship Center. The document highlights the nature of God's holiness, the state of human sinfulness, and God's transformative work in making believers holy, emphasizing the importance of faith, trust, and obedience. It also covers the missionaries' personal ministry report and the church's community activities, including baptisms and the Lord's Supper.

I. The Nature of God's Holiness

- God as Unique and "Otherly": Hal Hansen emphasizes that God is fundamentally different, unique, and "otherly" from humanity and all creation. His attributes are perfectly pure and beyond full human comprehension.
- His attributes are perfectly balanced. He is never overly loving or harsh; His justice and mercy are in perfect harmony.
- God's Separation from Sin: A core aspect of God's holiness is His absolute separation from sin. He is completely unblemished and unstained by sin, incapable of evil, and always does what is right.
- Holiness of God's Word: Just as God is holy, so too is His Word. The Bible is described as unique, pure, separate, and always true.

II. Humanity's State: Sinfulness and God's Provision for Holiness

- Inherent Sinfulness of Mankind: Before knowing Jesus, humanity is inherently sinful, as shown in Romans 3:10–18 (NKJV).
- God's primary essence is holiness; our essence before trusting in Jesus is sinful.
- God's Transformative Work (Sanctification): Through Jesus Christ, believers are made holy and become part of God's family (Hebrews 2:11, NKJV).
- Grace and Mercy: Mercy is not receiving deserved punishment; grace is receiving undeserved goodness. God is both merciful and gracious.
- Living a Holy Life: Though believers still struggle with sin, their position in Christ is holy. They are called to live by faith, walking as children of the King and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform them.

III. Missionary Update and Themes of Trust & Faith

- 28 Years in Thailand and Unexpected Change: The Hansens are transitioning after their school ministry unexpectedly ended.
- Walking by Faith, Not by Sight: They are trusting God's direction, like Abraham and Sarah before knowing their destination (Proverbs 3:5–6, NKJV).
- Beth Hansen shares her personal struggle and how God called her to rest, wait, and trust in His timing.
- Spiritual "Muscle Flexing": Beth affirms God's sovereignty and purpose through scriptures like Jeremiah 29:11 and Ephesians 2:10.
- Stewardship of Support: The Hansens believe continued support is good stewardship as they explore new ministry opportunities during a 50-day return trip to Thailand.

IV. Church Life and Practices

- Lord's Supper (Communion): The bread and cup represent Jesus' body and blood in the new covenant for the forgiveness of sins. Participants must be born-again believers.
- Baptisms: Five individuals (the Crawford family) were baptized as a public demonstration of obedience to Jesus Christ. Each affirmed belief in His death, burial, resurrection, and intercession.
- Community and Fellowship: The church emphasizes fellowship, prayer, missionary support (at least 10% of tithes), and celebration of personal milestones like birthdays and anniversaries.

V. Call to Action and Reflection

- Compassion for the Unsaved: Believers are urged to be broken for those who don't know Jesus and to share the gospel with them (Jeremiah).
- Choosing Faith in Difficult Times: In struggle, choose faith—trust in God's goodness, sovereignty, and His promise to work all things for good.
- Continuous Spiritual Growth: The goal is ongoing sanctification—becoming holier each day.

Greek Words

- *Hagios* (ἅγιος) – Pronounced: HAH-ghee-oss – This word means "holy" or "set apart." It describes God's nature and what believers become through Christ.