

Douglas Family Prayer Letter "Flying to South Africa"

1.Feb, 2011

Ecclesiastes 9: 10-11 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might ; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going. I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all."

A Fuqing sister said to me: "*Pastor*" Wu, *how come you haven't visited us for so long?* Another sister echoed, *That's right! When you were a "minister," you came whenever we called you. How come after you were ordained as a "pastor," you seldom come to visit us....!* These words prompted me to review my work records in the past 7 years. God's gracious hands were evident. He definitely helped and guided our ministries here. A sister told me one day that she saw a vision through me: "I used all my strength to climb a palm tree, and I did get one coconut. However, I wanted to pick a better coconut?!".....

In 2004, my wife and I were commissioned to minister to the Chinese in South Africa and co-work with the Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian Church. Back then, there were eight Chinese churches disbursed throughout South Africa. But we did not notice any Chinese Christian fellowships on South African university campuses. However, we knew, there were about 300 Chinese students in the University of Pretoria alone. God brought them all the way from China. Therefore we asked God for mercy and hoped to start a campus Bible study group for the Chinese students (PECCC's youth fellowship has already named it Chinese Christian Student Society C2S2). According to University of Pretoria policies, 50 student signatures are required to register a student organization on campus. Therefore, we've tried every year to recruit as many as we can to reach the requirement. It has been 7 years since then! Within these years, we have conducted four collegiate Gospel camps (twice with Taipei Shih Pai Presbyterian Friendship Church and twice with Taipei Christian Yung He Church). We have also carried out a Bible study group outside the University wall. But God has not opened the door for us! Jenny Chan, chairperson of our youth fellowship (including high school & college students), tried to encourage us, "*Don't give up! Our youth fellowship is still one of the best youth fellowships and has the most members in South African Chinese churches.*" This year, all three of them, Jenny, my daughter Sharon, and Dan-Lei Chai, are enrolling in University of Pretoria. We pray that this will be an opportunity.....

Even though we weren't able to register on campus, God redirected us to work among the Fuqing people..... [Isaiah 9:2-4](#) *The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.*

Most of these Fuqingese are stowaways from Mainland China to seek new opportunities in life. A small group of them received the courage from the Holy Spirit to repent. (Currently there are 120-150 thousand Fuqingese in South Africa.) These people legalized their status, opened bank accounts, learned to drive and obtained driver license, bought car insurance, medical insurance.... More important facts are: they did come before God, and they want Jesus!! Now, they are free to travel in and out between China and South Africa. They no longer need to hide themselves from the police or the immigration officers. They are free to

attend church services with ease and to worship Jesus (they have not developed the habit of reading the Bible regularly yet)! God allowed us to form the Pretoria Fuqing Fellowship. He then guided us in starting another Fuqing Fellowship in Rustenburg ... : *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might ; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going....* What would happen is up to us to seize the moment. Oh! Lord! Apostle Paul also had two “coconuts” to pick: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” And he did pick one of them: “But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.” Philippians 1: 21~24



Dedication of Prof. ZhonJie Huan's new home Timmy Sam at Johannesburg Malinda Gian's German husband

The happiest event of this month is: my hives are completely healed during “day time!” They only act up at night (starting before bedtime till dawn) with few small hives. Two weeks ago I finished taking the medicine developed by Poisonous Snakes Research Center in Thailand given by Sister Peng of Home of Christ Church. Two days after that many large hives erupted. But within three days, 99% of the hives were gone. Thank God for using such an unusual way to heal me after a year of sufferings.

Besides that, Douglas' kidney stone has grown to 1.4 x 1.1 cm. The doctor has not recommend me for operation. I feel ‘so far so good.’ I am thanking God for urge to pray earnestly, so that I may experience His healing.

Three days of revival camp for the young people has come to an end. The students who were there are greatly encouraged and praying that they may participate in a short-term mission in Keelung, Taiwan in early April. However, 2011 Easter falls at the end of April, they need to check with the university schedules before deciding the dates and plans for their trip. Nevertheless, we thank God for their vision in missions. In addition, our children's Sunday School attendance has exploded from ten to about twenty which brought pleasant trouble to Whitney. She is aggressively planning to divide the class and recruit more teachers.



Three days of youth revival camp

Big and small in a Sunday School room

Our oldest daughter, Sharon, got in the Psychology Department of University of Pretoria by one point (short of one point). “*God is so good!*” she shared. Helen contracted “measles” as soon as her high school started. So she rested at home for a week. After Clarence (7th grade)

received his Prefect Badge from school, he wore it on his shirt right away (there are 20 Prefects in the whole school). He often complained: “Man, this is so tiring! Fortunately the third graders listened to me.”



Clarence's Badge, Helen's measles

Rev. Eugene Chuang of SIM came to share missionary work

Sister XiaoXia Wang, a Fuqingnese, became pregnant in her advanced age without notice. She thought it was an irregular bleeding during period and did not tend the problem for two weeks. This caused a major hemorrhage of losing 4 liters of blood. Her life was saved after taken to hospital for emergency. She came to realize then that she was 6 weeks into her pregnancy. Thank God for His provision that the couple bought medical insurance in advance, so that her husband could take her to the nearest private medical facility for urgent care. She said in her testimony: *God Himself kept me and healed me.*

Right after the Gospel friends finished their class on baptism, two teenage young men, Yang-Yang Chen and Jin-Ming Zheng, immediately indicated their desire to receive baptism (rest of the adults are still considering). Please pray for the rest of the Gospel friends, and also pray for us to arrange a time for the baptism as soon as possible (the earliest should be in July).

Douglas and Whitney's Blog: <http://tw.myblog.yahoo.com/douglas1218@kimo.com>

Thanksgiving

1. Thank God for His work in three days of youth revival camp, with Rev. Stephen Kwan from California Home of Christ Church as our keynote speaker
2. Thank the Lord for healing Douglas' hives, Alleluia!
3. Thank the Lord for bringing SIM missionaries, Rev. Eugene Chuang and family, to share and encourage us with cross-cultural missions.
4. Pray and thank God for tougher crime control and better public safety exerted by the South African police department, so that we may live in peace.
5. Rev. Gong, a missionary to the Chinese university students in Chicago, will come to South Africa in early March for a short-term mission. Please pray for his visa and preparations.
6. Pray for Douglas and Whitney's safe trip to Barcelona, Spain to attend their commencement at the International Chinese Biblical Seminary in Europe [Translator note: This will be the first graduation commencement of the first Mandarin-speaking Seminary in Europe] and also two days of ministries in nearby Chinese churches.
7. Ask God to show and accomplish His will for the PECCC youth fellowship to engage in short term missionary work in Keelung, Taiwan.
8. Pray for our first daughter, Sharon, whom will adapt to university life and second daughter, Helen, high school life, so that they may understand: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

9. Please pray for Whitney choosing the right classes for her third year of seminary studies. Please also pray that the Lord will provide her and Douglas strength and grace as she tries to balance her life between seminary, church and home.
10. Pray continuously for South Africa's public safety, so that this will be a land of peace.
11. South Africa is in need of missionaries. May the Lord of harvest send His own labors.

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