

Douglas Wu Family Prayer Letter “Flying to South Africa” 01.Mar, 2011

By God’s grace, His Spirit took me to Spain and Portugal for 7 days last month; He inspired me, broadened mission horizon, readjusted my ministry direction from going astray, and set me firmly on the foundation of Truth.

A. Broadening Mission Horizon.

1) Local Church: Most of the Chinese, reside in Spain and Portugal, are QingTianese and WenZhounese from Zhe Jiang Province in China. Their average age for immigration is around 20 years old, 10 years younger than the FuQingnese in South Africa. Currently, most immigrants from both groups engage in business such as clothing department stores and restaurants. South African Chinese live similarly. It is said that there are 22 Chinese churches in Spain, and possibly they all report to the same “headquarter.” Portugal is smaller, I only know three. Decades ago, Christian immigrants worked hand-in-hand and built their churches together. Until this day, the Gospel is still thriving among them. What touched our hearts even deeper is the fact that Elder Wu Yung and the brothers and sisters from Taipei Mandarin Church started to sent their missionaries to support these churches 15 years ago! Chinese population has exceeded 200 thousand in Spain, and reportedly 30 thousand in Portugal.

2) At the graduation commencement of International Chinese Biblical Seminary in Europe (ICBSE), besides students from Spain and Portugal, there were also students from Germany, France, England, Switzerland, China, and Taiwan. Looking from a mission perspective, I came to the awareness that theological seminary training plays an important part in preparing missionaries for mission work. Seminaries plays an even more important role in serving local churches by equipping their laborers, and eventually they will become main partners in mission work. The Elder Yung Wu Education Training Foundation is a continuation of Elder Wu Yung’s vision. The people involved in the Foundation is working very hard in providing new opportunities for the South African Chinese who want to be equipped to do God’s work. [Zechariah 9:1](#) “The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrach and will rest upon Damascus-- for the eyes of men and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD.”

At this time, Douglas remembers CIM’s Founder, late Pastor Clarence Pi, who found a theological seminary in Brazil in South America and sent missionaries to Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Uruquay, etc.



ICBSE premise

A picture with pastors after graduation

ICBSE President Peter Wang

B. Adjusting Ministry Direction

1) Physical Adjustment: Douglas pulls an average of 260Km per week on the road to

Rustenburg for FuQing fellowship on top of regular local church and FuQing ministries in Pretoria. Excessive driving wears me down physically, especially when I need to stay overnight at Rustenburg every first and third Monday of the month. The fatigue affects my Sunday sermon preparation. However, when I realized my fellow student, Brother Norman Lo who boards the airplane from Spain to Lisbon, Portugal every Friday noon (a 2 hour trip, one-way), serves and stays there for 3 nights, then fly back to Spain for seminary studies on Monday morning, I immediately asked God for forgiveness. God instantly healed me from my self-complaints, self-sorrow, and self-pity! I saw him visit by foot, board the underground railway (happened to be on a raining day), eat breakfast at 10 a.m., lunch at 3 p.m., and dinner after 8 p.m. I was even more surprised to find out their service starts at 9:30 p.m. till 11:30, everyone leaves around 12 (I heard that they met at 1:30 a.m. for service when they had a restaurant.)! After knowing this, I felt very blessed to serve in South Africa.

2) Spiritual Adjustment: When I see the need of South African harvest field, I ask the Lord of the harvest to send His workers to harvest. We've been serving in South Africa for more than 7 years, I begin to ask the Lord, when will I be able to harvest? Is it because of my sin, that's why the Lord is not listening to my prayers? When I see no one picks up the FuQing ministry in Johannesburg, no one goes to Limpopo Province in the north and Mpumalanga Province in the south, when I see our Chinese kinsmen going on their own way, going astray as sheep, I, with an innate anxious personality, became downcast. However, during this trip, I witnessed 4 students from Christ's Disciple Training Seminary serve in Spain and Portugal, and another fellow student serves in Europe, our spirits were lifted up. God allowed us to realize that He will be faithful to His promise. The power of His gracious hand is immense, not only in Africa, in South Africa, in Pretoria, His name is proclaimed throughout the earth. [Hebrews 12:1-2](#) "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."



Minister Lo took us for visitations

At Portugal underground railway

Chinese church in Lisbon

C) Building on the Foundation of the Truth.

We have been serving in South Africa for 7 years, as I mentioned. During these years, besides people come and go often like in a school, there were no major theological disagreement! Through our trip to Spain and Portugal, we found out that many ministers are well-versed in the Bible and know how to pray but lack training in systematic theology, such as apologetics on controversial issues. In result of this deficiency, congregation become contentious and eventually results to church-splits. I am even more convinced why ICBSE existence is so crucial.

I also come to understand why splits and chasm did not occur where we are. It's not only God's own protection, but also the solid foundation of the Truth we built from Pastor Clarence Pi's teaching, the training received from Elder Wu Yung's Christ's Disciple Training Seminary, and church internship experience, etc. All along, God has planted us solidly on the foundation of Truth, so that we may stand firm.

II Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank brothers and sisters of Pretoria Chinese Christian Church who shared the church ministries with us, my elder sister who provides rides to our children to and from schools, and our CIM mission board who gave permission for us to visit Spain and Portugal. We are even more thankful for International Chinese Biblical Seminary in Europe's invitation. May God be the praise and glory.

The Gospel work in South Africa continues to thrive after we celebrated the Chinese New Year. God had protected everyone during this time! We are even more thankful for Jenny Chan, George Chen, Sharon Wu and Star Yu, four members of our youth fellowship, who are mobilizing the entire fellowship to pray fervently. They hope that Chinese Christian Student Society may be officially registered as a student organization at PTA University. They have already recruited 50 members. They need 60 members in total, an attendance of 40 members in their first meeting, plus fulfilling other requirements. May they experience God and submit under His sovereignty.



Celebrating Chinese New Year at PECCC

Pretoria FuQing Fellowship BBQ

PECCC youth fellowship

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

Thanksgiving

1. We thank the Lord for a smooth and peaceful Chinese New Year celebration such that all the brothers and sisters experienced God's grace together.
2. Praise the Lord for Sister Zhuang Zhu who is pregnant. Two years ago, her first pregnancy was a molar pregnancy. She is now experiencing God's grace.
3. Praise the Lord for the invitation to attend ICBSE's first graduation commencement in Spain and to co-work with the Chinese Churches in Lisbon, Portugal in propagating the Gospel of Christ.
4. A sister gave an offering for Whitney's round-trip air-ticket to Spain. Thank God for His grace!
5. Thanking the Lord for Brothers Alex Ko, Alan Huang, Charles Hsuan and their willingness to receive weekly discipleship training!

6. We thank God for good public order due to strengthening of South African's police force in crime control. Please continue to pray in this matter.

Prayer

1. Rev. Gong, an intern missionary from Chicago, has postponed his short term mission trip to South Africa due to various reasons. Please pray that he'll be able to receive his visa from South African embassy as soon as possible, and all his preparation will fall in place.
2. Due to rescheduling of university first term break, PECCC youth fellowship needs to cancel their short term work in Keelung, Taiwan. Please pray for the Lord to show His will if they should go in the middle of July.
3. Please pray for commuting safety of Whitney, oldest daughter Sharon to her university, second daughter Helen to her high school, and Clarence to his elementary school. Due to time conflict, Douglas needs to cancel his trip to Rustenburg Bible studies on Mondays.
4. Please pray for registration of Chinese Christian Student Society at University of Pretoria. May the Lord make His will known.
5. Pray for PECCC's Gospel camp at the end of June. Youth fellowship of Taipei Christian Yung He Church will come and lead the camp.
6. Pray continuously for South Africa's public safety, so that this will be a land of peace.
7. South Africa is in need of missionaries. May the Lord of harvest send His own labors.

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