

## Douglas Wu Family Prayer Letter

01.May , 2015

You shed your precious blood and washed away my filth to redeem my life. You sacrifice Yourself for my sins without regret, what grace revealed! Deeply I realize how priceless is your love. Thus, I offer myself to follow, whether in sorrow or dismay, in life or death, courageously moving forward without recoil. Oh...Your love will never change, from age to age the same. It deeply drenches every inch of my heart. Neither spinning of heavens or earth, nor oceans turning into mulberry fields, nothing shall be able to separate me from Your love. This is the song Whitney and I learned one Sunday morning in March at Chinese Church in Christ in San Jose. Even though it wasn't sung officially, the lyrics and its tune resonated in our hearts. We learned it quickly. To this day, I am still singing... "Your Love Will Never Change"! God's love accompanied me through the weakest time of my life. After the liver treatment, the overall feel of myself is vastly different. I don't know whether it's due to cystectomy or spiritual fatigue; nevertheless, I had lived each day without fumbling, and I hope that I did not trip anyone else, either. May the Lord have mercy on me.

Many brothers and sisters have left South Africa. Chuang Chun, Weng Changli, Chen Youguang, Mr. and Mrs. Zhuang Qiugui, Wang Yuyun, Chen Fang, and Bijin Chen either returned to China or immigrated to other countries. They did not leave due to recent riots nor social disorders. (Actually, most of the violence took place far away from us and in much smaller scale than the past. They weren't directed toward the Chinese, either. I believe, the turmoils were over publicized by the Chinese newspaper.) Furthermore, decline of Rand currency value wasn't the reason for their departure, either. (Ten years ago 1 Rand=1.1RMB, now 1 Rand=0.5RMB. Ten years ago \$1/1kg chicken, now \$4.5/1kg chicken.) People are earning less and less. Value of their money diminished quickly. Moreover, they did not leave because they weren't able to extend their visas. (Officials are strict in granting visas but are loose in obeying the law. Discrimination against foreigners is hardly their intent, but soliciting bribery is.) On the contrary, going home was the results of their obedience to Jesus Christ. They don't want to stay as illegal immigrants any more (even though they knew that there's a slim chance to find a new job). Some of them have lived in South Africa illicitly over seven years. (Investments were made in purchasing forged documents). They, now, testify boldly for the Lord and refuse to stay as undocumented. Some of them want to share the Gospel with students and neighbors in their homeland. For the very reason, we plan to close the monthly Bible study in Middelburg, for seven people had left, plus no suitable place to meet. In Pretoria, we were also forced to discontinue the Beginner English, for no one came to class.



Rev. Stevd came for visit

Love feast at PECCC

student fellowship short-term mission team



Chen Fang and sons (Left 2) homebound

Middleburg Bible study has stopped, commodities being auctioned or liquidated

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.”

Last month, frequent power outages caused numerous problems. For example, there was a sudden blackout in the middle of our evening service in Rustenburg. Thank God, the Holy Spirit prompted Brother He Xiaoping to bring batteries and flashlights which allowed us to experience Jehovah-jireh! Where we live, shot-downs are scheduled to take place every morning from eight to ten. Sometimes it’s longer but never less. Worse yet are the dysfunctional traffic lights. Where the Lin family lives, their blackout is schedule between eight to ten in the evening. We happen to meet every Tuesday during that time for Bible studies. Therefore, we won’t be able to meet regularly till the problem is solved. Sudden outage also effects our work. For example, I lost a three-week status report, before I save it on the computer. I also lost few prayer items as I tried to edit the prayer letter. No wonder South African is facing economic retrogression and foreign divestment. Recently, I heard a joke, “Before 1994 the whites shouted ‘white Power!’ After 1994, the ANC and the blacks shouted ‘black Power.’ At last we can now shout together – ‘no Power’ !!” Nonetheless, we still walk in light, for Jesus is the light of our path. Thank you, Lord.



Power outage during evening service in Rustenburg on second Sunday



Children’s Sunday School on forth Sunday at Rustenburg and there was light

Jin Shao’s daughter (middle)



Chen Yi chun's new home dedication service

Liangdi Chen (middle) decided to follow Christ

Deuteronomy 8:7 “For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills.” Deuteronomy 8:10-11 “When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today.” Deuteronomy 8:19-20 “ Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the Lord destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.”

God’s will and love compelled us to go in obedience to the Great Commission. As a result, grace received! Through Pastor Eugene’s assistance, Shirley Ka, Jenny Chen, Robert Mai, and Dave Ka, four members of our youth fellowship, went to Durban again for cross-cultural mission work. They left their footprints in African churches, orphanage, and local community. I did not go with them this time due to health issues and prolonged absence during treatment. But the Lord was their marshal who allowed them to experienced God. Through Pastor Eugene’s leading, these young people sowed seeds of the Gospel in African children’s hearts, so they may know the Truth. After all, God’s original intent was for people of all race, nations, and land to be parts of His created family. We are long-lost brothers to each other. During this xenophobic time, our children’s mission work shines like Jesus’ true light, brings God’s love to the African children and joy, peace, and hope to us.



Start the mission work with prayer

with Pastor Eugene’s family

Durban African church coworkers



Mother of Peace orphanage

Children of Illovo church

children in Kwamakhutha community



pray, pray without ceasing

In the following are thoughts shared by two young short-term missionaries whom blessed us by participating in our South African Chinese ministries.

### **Durban short-term mission trip 2015**

An opportunity was presented to the youth of PECCC to serve at three locations at Amanzimtoti, Durban. A team consisting of Shirley, Dave, Robert and I (Jenny) attended from 6 April to 10 April. We designed a day program for the children ranged from 3 to 13 years old which attended. The three locations were Mother of Peace, Illovo Church and an elder's house in the township of Kwamakhutha respectively. A total of 108 children attended over the three days (7, 8 and 9 April).

When serving the Lord, I felt we can only do our best and the Lord will do the rest. The theme for our program was My Family in Christ. We felt it was important that the children to know about their loving Heavenly Father and to build good relationship with others. The program consisted of worship, games, drama, bible story, scripture learning and snack time. Lots of preparation had to be put into each day and the Lord blessed us with the hand to prepare everything in time. The scripture presented was John 3:16 which speak about God's love for the world-people that He gave Jesus to us that we may have eternal life and through complete trust and faith in Him, we may have eternal life. It is important that we told the children about God's love because most of the children come from broken families where there is only a single parent and some were raised by their grandmother. Mother of Peace was an orphanage and we hope the message through God's word will have a fruitful impact in their lives.

It was difficult and it took a lot of hard work from the team but the experience was worth it. I am grateful for the team I had because they gave their time and they were willing to serve even though there were tough circumstances. I felt worried as I did not have confidence in myself as a leader but through it all, I believe the Lord was leading me all along. Even though there are so many thing in life that I have to do, serving the Lord is something I am passionate at and we can never do enough for the One who gave His life for us. I am glad that I had this opportunity and I am happy to see the children enjoy and learn about the joy, love and care that God wants us to live out.

### **Durban Trip Testimony of Shirley Ka**

Before I start telling you how the mission trip was for me, I want to tell you an ironic fact about myself. I'm actually afraid of children. The thought of being with children is scary for me, so when I decided to go on this trip, I thought, "I'm just going to be the

background person. I'll do the packing, the décor, be the camera woman and do other odd jobs to assist the team”.

Little did I know, God had other plans in mind. When I got there, everyone did everything. There was no “that’s his job” or “that’s my job”. Everything was everyone’s job, and I was forced to face my fear of children. I ended up teaching the children how to pray, being the narrator for our Bible stories and skits, doing the Q and A session, and showing the children how to do the craft that we had prepared. I felt like I was holding my breath underwater.

Towards the end of the second day, we took a group photo with the children. For many people, being surrounded by children is no big deal, but it was a challenge for me. As I was standing and waiting for everyone to find their position, some children came to me and wanted to stand with me. Others wanted me to pick them up and some wanted to just be close to me. At that moment, a warm feeling came into my heart, and it opened my heart to the children.

The same happened on the third day. By the time we made our way back to Pretoria, I felt that I could possibly do this again. The hearts of the children touched me. The simplicity of their minds, the pureness of their joy, I took home with me.

..... **Douglas and Whitney’s New BLOG** <http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/>  
My E-mail adds : [douglas1218@telkomsa.net](mailto:douglas1218@telkomsa.net) or [douglas@cdts.org.tw](mailto:douglas@cdts.org.tw) .

## THANKSGIVING

- 1、 Thank God that the recent wave of xenophobic riots in South Africa, involving beating, smashing, burning, and killing, did not continue to expand but subsided. Though small-scale riots, the incidents were publicized on international headlines
- 2、 We are grateful that our district had no power shortage in the last week of April. We deeply pray that this will happen often.
- 3、 We can’t be more thankful that our four young missionaries went to Durban for cross-cultural mission work in fulfilling of the Great Commission. They had not only experienced God, but also returned safely.
- 4、 Thank God for few brothers and sisters who resolved to trust the Lord by giving up their illegal residency in South Africa and returned home.
- 5、 We are grateful to find a venue for year-end family retreat. However, we hope to find even a more suitable place.
- 6、 We bow in homage and thanksgiving that Xie Xinghua’s son and Huang Zelei’s daughter received their South African passports.

## SUPPLICATIONS

- 1、 Please continue to supplicate for South African government’s policy on load-shedding rotation in response to the electricity crisis. Power shortage is effecting country’s economy. We hope the problem will be resolved soon
- 2、 Since Brother Chan closed down his shop and emigrated elsewhere, Middleburg Fuqing Fellowship has stopped meeting and praying together. May the Lord reveal His will.

- 3、 We will offer a catechism class for those who plan to get baptized in Rustenburg. So far two have registered. We hope more will come to accept the Lord as their Savior through the class.
- 4、 Our oldest daughter, Sharon, plans to apply for psychology graduate program in Taiwan or in the U.S. Please remember her in your prayer.
- 5、 Please pray for Helen, our second daughter, who's applying for fall admissions in universities. May the Lord direct her path.
- 6、 Eleventh grade GPA is a crucial to Clarence's college application. Please pray that he will study diligently.
- 7、 Continue to intercede for God to raise up local workers to serve the Chinese on this land.
- 8、 South African public security is despicable. Vandalism and robbery occur frequently. Three of our kinsmen were assaulted and killed in the last month. Please pray earnestly that new immigrants may adapt to South African way of life including new banking habits. They also need to keep alert at all time for personal and home safety. May the Lord watch over us wherever we go.

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