

Douglas Wu Family Prayer Letter from South Africa

01.Jun, 2015

Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Thank God for His righteousness. He makes our days exciting and fulfilling. He also allows us to serve in grace and experience His faithfulness, mercies, and loving kindness. As Mother’s Day approaching, Whitney reminded us to prepare a special celebration for the mothers. On Mother’s Day, the whole congregation gathered at church and remembered God’s love from maternal care. It as a sweet aroma pleasing to the LORD. Rev. Jakey, the Caucasian pastor who loans his church for our use in Rustenburg, told us after the serve: “This is the most beautiful sacrifice offered to the Lord!” His words of affirmation encouraged us, we couldn’t help but gave glory to God. Our sincere prayer is that all mothers will come to believe in Jesus, so that they will lead their children to God. Wishing all mothers happy!!



Mother’s Day worship at RECCC / at PEFCCC at PECCC

Yu Xuan Chen, a nine-year-old girl, suffered acute appendicitis during after-school sports activities. She was sent to a private hospital for surgery. However, the thought of staying in an unfamiliar place threatened her because she’s been in South Africa for less than a year. Her fear was so great, to a point, she said that she wasn’t in pain any more, she just wanted to go home! Thank God that her father took advice from church families and bought medical insurance, so the entire cost was about Rand 1,200. The treatment was done well, too. Brother Chen later testified, just as he was thinking about stopping Yu Xuan’s insurance, appendicitis surfaced. He is very thankful that he did not act foolishly. The insurance did not only save him financially, more importantly, her daughter recuperated. He kept giving thanks to the Lord.



Many came to visit little girl, Yu Xuan / Rev. Xu Zhen-yi of GETS Theological Seminary came for a visit

The Lin family resolved to keep their bi-weekly Bible studies no matter what. To resolve the problem of power shortage, Brother Lin bought several LCD lights, so that the Bible studies would not be deterred. As a result, the Lord blessed his family and added to him the third grandson. With thankfulness, he celebrated baby’s one-month dedication by inviting friends and relatives to the banquet.



Bi-weekly Bible studies at the Lin's on Tuesday night / Baby Lin En-ze's one-month-old dedication / Lin En-ze's one-month-old banquet

Similarly, right before our fourth Sunday evening worship at Rustenburg, Pastor Jakey called and notified us that there was a sudden power-shortage at church. They didn't know how long it would last. "Are you still coming for the church service?" "We are almost there," I told him. It was a 90-minute drive from Pretoria. Whitney immediately comforted me, "we brought the LCD's." When we arrived at the church, our hearts were touched. Four brothers and sisters brought their batteries and LCD's. We sang acapella and asked the Lord to resume electrical power. At the moment I was about to start preaching, the power went on. Elation filled the sanctuary. Both Pastor Jakey and I had to give thanks to the Lord for our brothers and sisters' fervor in worshiping God.



Energy-saving lamps prepared by brothers and sisters, so that we may shine in darkness. Sunday school students smiling after the power resumed.

Once awhile, people, who are concerned, would ask if I am tired from multiple ministries. Their question prompted me to recall the scenes I observed at Fuqing shops. When I visited them, sometimes there were no customers, my presence usually startled the dosing shop owners. They would greet me with embarrassment and told me that doing business is "very tiresome!" On other occasions, fantastic businesses kept the shop owners from greeting me, I would ask them, "You're working so hard. You must be very tired, aren't you?" They usually grinned from ear to ear and responded "Not at all, not at all. I'm not tired at all..." In the twinkling of an eye, we've been serving these brothers and sisters in South Africa for over thirteen years. On one hand, we see them still do business from seven in the morning till seven at night, seven days a week. There's very little time left to read God's Word. The chances for bringing up next generation church leaders are slim. This thought makes me feeling "very tired." They came to the country for better life and leave when the country's economy is down. On other hand, we see them growing in every aspects. They are willing to draw near to God after long hours of work which encouraged our hearts. "Not tired, not tired, we are not tired at all!" Even that's the case, what then? Praise be to Him, no matter what the circumstances are, Whitney and I resolve to carry on the Great Commission through Messiah's grace.

South African Anecdote

1994 marks the beginning of South African democracy. Ruling whites transferred the nation to the blacks peacefully which included electrical power, water resources, etc. Twenty years have past, aging power plants began to malfunction due to lack of proper maintenance which led to constant power shortage and inconvenience. Since last major blackouts two power plants were built, none were completed due to low labor efficiency. The government has not taken measures to improve the situation. Most foreigners remain pessimistic about the situation. South Africans are polarized on this issue: Whites are disappointed and are convinced that it'll get worse. Most blacks prefer rolling blackouts over complete outages. They remain optimistic about the future and are proud of their country because till today many African countries still live without electrical power. (Note: South African Power Company announced that no blackouts will happen this winter between June to August. We shall see. Nevertheless, we still give thanks.) Psalm 127:1-2 "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. 2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves."

South Africa's roads agency began to enforce electronic toll collection in province at the end of 2013. Last month, Deputy President announced measures to reduce e-toll fees by half. Overdue bills will receive 40% reduction if paid within three months, otherwise vehicle license renewals will be suspended. A young man sneered at me because I paid the fines earlier this year. He suggested that we should learn from the South Africans -- refused to pay and received 40% discount. If they insist on not paying, all their bills might be exonerated in two years with a zero balance in their accounts. Even if that's the case, many South Africans would still not pay their bills. The young man's words and determination startled Whitney and I. Our main concern is not able to receive the first late renewal notice, instead we might get the bill for additional penalties due to extended over dues.

Our neighbors are older Christian women. They insist on relying on God through prayers and emphasized that our knees are without callous. Their words remind me of Habakkuk 3:17-18 "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." However, the more we pray, the more trouble came. Blackouts increase from once to twice a day, two hours each. All of a sudden, we had water shortage for two nights. Habakkuk 3:19 "The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments."

We have temporarily stopped the Friday night English class. Since Middleburg Fu Qings no longer meet for fellowship, we spent more time serving our young adults fellowship. Recently, even though the Interior Department joined force with the police seizing many illegal expatriates, the Chinese are rarely repatriated. Perhaps this is due to President Zuma who hailed China as "good friend" and asserted that China will not interfere with South African domestic matters; the Chinese has come to help South Africa! However, at the meantime, South African government continues to enforce stringent rules on taxes, fire, business licenses, and health certificates against immigrants including collecting fines and confiscating merchandizes. Most obscure of all is that revenues seized by the government were often claimed lost. Strange phenomenon occurred one after

another. One of our sisters, Ling Qing, was detained for three days. Her loss was immeasurable!



Sister MinFang Chen opened a new shop during recession

Brother He bought a new car for his business



Student Fellowship prayer meeting

Little boy, Lin Weihao, turned five

Helen's 18th birthday



We don't know if our girls will be home at this time next year / BiJin Chen and son came to say 'good-bye' before taking off for Mozambique

..... Douglas and Whitney's BLOG <http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/>
My E-mail adds : douglas1218@telkomsa.net or douglas@cdts.org.tw

THANKSGIVING

- 1、 Please pray that blackouts will not happen between June to August. Thank you Lord for listening to our prayers.
- 2、 Three brother(s) and sister(s) have applied for baptism. We are very thankful that they are taking a catechism class prepared for baptism.
- 3、 We are so encouraged that our brothers and sisters are eager to attend worship service and Bible studies despite of power outage.
- 4、 CCIC-NV and CCIC-TV will send a combined short-term mission team to South Africa at the end of 2015 to conduct our family camp. Please give thanks for the meeting place we've reserved, but continue to pray for a more suitable place.
- 5、 We are very grateful that Helen has been accepted by the Biology Department at University of Pretoria and Accounting Department at University of Cape Town. She also plans to apply for the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.
- 6、 Thank God that Clarence is willing to stop playing video games during weekdays and



focusing on academic studies. Since then his grades have improved.

- 7、 Douglas is very thankful for physical recovery. His digestive system has also improved much last month. Thank you, Father!...^_^

SUPPLICATIONS

1. From 1 June 2015, the Department of Home Affairs in South Africa will require all passengers under 18 to travel with an Unabridged Birth Certificate to prevent underage child abduction. If one or both parents are not traveling with the minor, power of attorney is also required. This rule creates distress to parents who enter and exit South Africa with their children. Please pray for them.
2. Ten brothers and sister in Rustenburg have started to attend the “Character Traits of God’s Servant” course. They are also learning a practical Bible study method on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We pray that every one of them will complete the courses with success and be equipped to love the Lord more.
3. Our eldest daughter, Sharon, is applying for master’s programs in psychology in Taiwan or the U.S. May God anoint her abundantly.
4. Our second daughter, Helen, will be in college next year. May the Lord guide her in making a wise decision.
5. Helen will be traveling with school’s chamber orchestra in Italy for ten days. She is grateful that a Christian patron had paid for her airfare. This is her first foreign trip with the school. Please pray for her safety.
6. High school junior (11th) grades are crucial for college admission applications. Please pray for Clarence that he will be motivated to study hard.
7. Gasoline price has raised about R50-C in June in South Africa while rest of the world’s have dropped. Electrical bills increased 16% (with such lousy services), property tax 12%, prices of commodities on the rise as well. Please pray for South Africa.
8. Please continue to intercede for more workers to be raised up to serve the Chinese on this land.
9. South African public security is despicable. Vandalism and robbery occur frequently among the Chinese. Ten of or kinsmen were assaulted or murdered. Please pray earnestly for us, so that the new immigrants may adapt to South African way of life including new way banking. 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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