

Douglas Wu Family Prayer Letter

01 Dec, 2015

PECCC has borrowed Lynnwood Dutch Reformed Church (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk*, NGK) for meetings over 18 years. Since the day our late Executive Director, Rev. Clarence Pi, negotiated with the church leadership, they gave permission for us to use their facilities without charge. Early November, their senior pastor invited me to their special year-end family gathering and asked me to lead the congregation in reading The Apostles' Creed on November 15 at 8:30a.m.! On the day, I followed my regular Sunday routine -- devotion followed by editing my sermon notes during morning walk. At about 8:50 a.m., I suddenly recalled the engagement! Startled by my own fault, I struggled with the next move. Even if I leave for church at the very moment, I would still be late. Not only that, the entire congregation (about 300 people) would notice my entry. How odd and embarrassing it would be. I wanted not to go and apologize to the pastor later! While these thoughts went over my head, Satan seemed to sneer at me and say, "See! You blew it. They probably would never let you use their facilities again." While I was caught on the dilemma, the Holy Spirit urged me to go, "Going is better than not going. Apology now is better than late." The Holy Spirit also encouraged me, "I will go with you." So I quickly changed and drove to church in peace. When I arrived there, as expected, I had to walk from the back of the sanctuary all the way to the front and sat down on the first row while the Pastor was preaching. I quietly asked the Lord to give me the words and the courage to apologize later. Ten minutes later, when the Pastor finished his sermon, to my surprise, he still asked me to go up to the podium and lead the congregation in reading the Apostles' Creed. I gathered all my courage, went up, and asked the Holy Spirit to help me finish the Creed. After the service, the senior pastor kindly thank me for coming and participating in the service. I candidly apologized that I completely forgot the engagement and had no excuse to ask for forgiveness.


 Clouds above our house
South Africa

An Internet photo of Cape Town clouds

most useful windshield in


 Blessing sister Lee's new home
fellowship

Reception banquet at Brother Chu's wedding Star inviting brothers and sisters for

On the same day, on November 15, after the PECCC students fellowship, I supposed to drive to a wedding in Johannesburg by 17:30. By the time we arrived, the ceremony was over. I made two errors in a day -- I missed an appointment and remembered the wrong time for the wedding. II Corinthians 12:9 "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." These two incidents reminded me

that I need to ask God to remove my weakness again. At the same time, our neighbor urged me to rest more. “Don’t get burnout,” he said. The fact is, since March, we had stopped the monthly fellowship at Middelburg. After August, We also stopped the Friday Bible study group. Within a year about forty brothers and sisters emigrated elsewhere or returned to China. Apparently, our ministry loads have decreased. But I confess before the Lord that I am weak. On several occasions, I had trouble recalling events and names quickly. Once, I could not even remember the name, “Mordecai.” I had to look up the Bible for the answer. [Isaiah 40:29-31](#) “He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”



RECCC praying for Gary’s head injury / Shirley and Jeff leading children’s ministry on Sunday

After Sunday service on Nov. 29, when Gary, one of our young brothers-in-Christ, left the church for his motor vehicle, a thief was in action stealing his car. As he chased after him, an unknown car knocked him down on the ground and drove away. He passed out for about 10 minutes without remembering what happened afterwards. But from the tire track on his trousers and his cracked skull, we suspect that the car ran over him. However, we only discovered this after he regained his consciousness and walked back to the church for help. We immediately called for ambulance and sent him to the hospital. Diagnosis by the emergency doctors showed that his brain was bleeding, so they moved him to ICU right away. After a day of intense intercessory prayers, his head stopped bleeding and was transferred to a general ward! The police also found his stolen car on the next day. His parents gave thanks to God in his ward.



Chrisna, a missionary nurse, put on bandaged for Gary / the whole church was mobilized to the rescue mission: either informed the police or called for ambulance / interceding earnestly for Gary

I am so thankful that I was able to get a copy of Paul David Tripp’s *Dangerous Calling* at the end of November. With Excitement and eagerness, I had already finished reading the third chapter. In chapter three, the author mentions, if there is no “love for the people” in one’s vision, you can almost certain that he/she has no love for Christ (such as in Matthew 25:34-46). Tripp created a term, *theologeeks*, to depict those who have big theological brains but heart disease. In chapter two, he mentions a scarier element in the remnant of sins which

is deceit. We must admit and agree to this fact. He emphasizes that sin blocks one's spiritual vision, so that he looks at the speck in someone else's eye, but he does not consider the plank in his own eye. In chapter one, the author reminds us that maturity is related to how one lives. Biblical literacy and theological knowledge do not define one's maturity. I wish that I could finish reading the entire book instantly. I also pray for Whitney and I that we would never lose our first love for God, and we would never neglect God's redeeming love and His discipline. Apostle Paul said in **II Corinthians 11:29**, "**Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?**" We hope to inherit Paul's gifts--boasting our weaknesses, maintaining a fervent love for the Gentiles as well as for our kinsmen, proclaiming God's great love, and finishing the work God has given us.



Zhuang and Weng came to apply for Chile visa, attending Bible study at night

Clarence turning 17

Please pray earnestly for the Year-end Retreat (it will be held in January, 2016). So far only eight people registered, including five from our family. We visited shop after shop and hope to recruit more to the retreat. In the afternoon of November 30, a thief opened our car trunk and stole my book-bag when we were in Rustenburg. The NIV Bible, which had accompanied me for 23 years, was taken. I wanted to sprinkle my head with ashes!

..... **Douglas and Whitney's BLOG** <http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/>
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THANKSGIVINGt

- 1、 Thank God for Shirley and Jeff who went to Rustenburg and supported RECCC's children's Sunday school for one day.
- 2、 South Africa has not enforced rolling blackouts for four months. Praise the Lord!!
- 3、 We are so grateful for brothers and sisters' love. They cooked exquisite meals for us, so that we may save time for ministries.
- 4、 Thank God for keeping brothers and sisters safe as they travel in and out of South Africa.
- 5、 We are so thankful that our eldest daughter, Sharon, is attending Christian gatherings regularly. May the Lord grant her wisdom in making the best of her time for studies.
- 6、 Thank God that Helen had finished taking the Matric exam and graduated from high school. She is confident of passing the exam.
- 7、 We are also thankful that Clarence has finished his finals. For the fact that he often studied till three or four in the morning, we know that God is helping him.

SUPPLICATIONS

1. Combined mission team from CCIC-NV and CCIC-TV will arrive in South Africa on December 24th. They will be in charge of our family retreat from January 1st to 3rd. Please continue to pray for reception of the short-term missionaries and retreat logistics including accommodation assignments, retreat recruitment, etc. May the Lord keep us and grant us success.



2. We are so thankful that brothers and sisters from RECCC is willing to accommodate short-term team members from California. Please pray for reception in Pretoria.
3. Please remember in your prayer that CIM-SA is in need of a new second-hand vehicle. The 2002 van already has 275,000 km on it. Currently it runs 7.5km/liter. May the Lord keep us safe when driving.
4. Our oldest daughter, Sharon, plans to apply for a Business Psychology program in graduate level. May the Lord direct her path.
5. Please pray for Helen's decision concerning college. Her choices include studying Physical Therapy at U. of Pretoria medical school and music at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. May the Lord direct her path. Please also pray for her road test in December, so that she may receive her driver's license soon.
6. It has been five months since Clarence requested for his birth certificate. The document is nowhere in sight. We also found that the ID application resubmitted three months ago was never sent to the main office. We need to inquire at the branch office in person and push for speedier process. These two documents are required for university enrollment and going in and out of South Africa before he turns 18. Please pray earnestly for him to receive them.
7. Dear God, please help Douglas to get used to his new Bible quickly.
8. We beseech the Lord to raise up workers from our local churches to serve the Chinese on this land.
9. Our greater hope is to send out CIM missionaries to harvest the field together someday.
10. South African public security system is very corrupt. Theft and robbery incidents continue to occur. Please pray earnestly for immigrants to improve their way of living including money usage and circulation. They also need to enhance their home security. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon them and keep them safe.

North American Donations, please mail to: **C I M Headquarters,**
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