

Douglas Wu Family Prayer Letter

01 July, 2016

South Africa is tightening her immigration rules. No temporary work visa will be granted unless appropriate documents from the Labor Department are submitted. Even that's the case, Department of Home Affairs is still reluctant to issue visa extensions. Relatives Permits / visas used to be for kin relatives of Permanent Residence holders, now it's only for kin relatives of SA citizens. In the past, one may apply for Permanent Residency after five years of legal employment. Now an official certification from the Labor Department is required. These new immigration laws definitely hinder foreigners from seeking employments and business opportunities in South Africa which impacted the South African Chinese communities greatly.

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” Though the term “night” in this verse does not refer to South African close-door policies, nevertheless, in the work of propagating the Gospel, we can still encourage ourselves that we “must” be diligent and obedient to what the Lord has commanded us to do. We have noticed that in the past two years, new immigrants were reluctant to stay in South Africa due to plunging Rand exchange rate, shrinking business profits, and poor public security. South Africa is no longer immigrants' dreamland. President of the Northwestern Division of Fujian Association estimated, about 50-70 thousand Chinese left South Africa in the past year. About another thirty-thousand of them are thinking about leaving. It seems like that no one is exempt from such predicament. Within our circle of friends, about 40 to 50 people had already left the country. That's why Whitney and I feel urgent to follow Jesus' command stated in John 9:4.

Thank God that He sent Pastor and Mrs. Jimmy Kung to SA for three weeks. The couple came to search for a confirmation whether they “must do the works of him” in South Africa as career missionaries. In order to discern God's will, they served wholeheartedly, putting themselves out into deep water. Their commitment allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of John 9:5-7 “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.” Recollecting my own past, wasn't that how I met Jesus through His servant? The concept of “Must do the works of him” reached out to me, so that I may gain sight from my blindness. May the Lord direct their path.



Papa Lin's birthday dinner at Rustenburg Br. Shi's son's 1st birthday dinner in Pretoria Dragon Boat Festival dinner at Br. Chen's home



Pastor Kung leading Wednesday Bible study in Pretoria / in Rustenburg visiting brothers and sisters

John 6:28 “ Then they asked him (Jesus), “What must we do to do the works God requires?”
 6:28 “Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

Recalling the history of the development of Chinese mission work in South Africa, since the late Rev. Clarence Pi (founder of CIM) invited CCCOWE to host the first Symposium on Chinese Mission Endeavour in Africa in 1998, the number of churches in South Africa had grown from three, found by older generation, and four, consists of mostly new immigrants, to nineteen. Number of converts increased from about 250 to approximately 750 (these are conservative estimates). Missionaries who focused on ministering to Chinese only increased from 3 family to about 10 family (at the most twenty units in total). In whole, many missionaries came to South Africa. However, the field is too great, many are still in need of the Gospel, Whitney and I will always plea to the Lord sending His worker to harvest the field.



Pastor and Mrs. Kung preaching at PEFCCC / PECCC / RECCC

Our oldest daughter, Sharon, finally soars on wings and flew away from us. We adopted her 19 years ago. Since then she accepted us as her real parents. Sharon just graduated from University of Pretoria. She determined to serve the Lord based on the Bible and utilize the psychology learned in university. Master program in Counseling Psychology at Moody bible Institute in Chicago has granted her admissions. In the future, she hopes to serve children of single-parents, so that they may know God, receive inner healings, and blossom-- similar to what she had experienced. She plans to go back to Taiwan in mid July and prepares to apply for U.S. visa. May the Lord keep her, bless her, experience God’s grace in a deeper way, and develop the habit of firmly trusting in God . She had served as a piano accompanist at church for a decade, one of our best worship team members. She also gave herself to the youth in the church, stayed consistently close to God through her daily devotions. Sharon was a constant encouragement to Whitney and I. May she soar on wings like eagles.



Student Fellowship blessed Sharon with prayers

Brother Shi’s family / Brother Wu and his wife came to send off Sharon

John 4:3-4 “So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. Now he had to go through Samaria.” When I first read the passage, I did not understand why the disciples avoided going through Samaria, yet Jesus had to go through Samaria. After living in South Africa for years, we began to realize that we would definitely avoid going through certain villages and trotting on certain roads because we don’t want to be robbed! I also want to admit, there are certain local officials, we can’t afford to offend. Others, such as the beggars,

we despise and treat them as nuisance. If I have a choice, South Africa would not be the country where I “had to go through.” However, Jesus became our example by making such choice. Acts 8:26 “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” Philip demonstrated how he understood the “must” and followed the angel’s instruction. Furthermore, Apostle Paul also followed the vision of a man of Macedonia when he was in Troas. How about Thomas, why did he choose to go to India, etc...

Thank God for His faithfulness, Alex Ko and his wife, Nicole, has been accepted by CIM as missionaries after interviewing at CIM’s headquarter in California. However, they still need to complete their last year’s of studies in seminary and raise 100% of the support they need. May Jehovah-jireh provides their needs and fulfill His own promise.



Alex Ko's family at CCIC-Cupertino

CCIC-NV



Victor giving Bible MP3

Pastor and Mrs. Kung

Wu family picture

My Blog ... <http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/>

My E-mail address: douglas1218@telkomsa.net or douglas@cdts.org.tw .

THANKSGIVING

1. Thank God for keeping Pastor and Mrs. Kung safe during their three weeks of service in South Africa. May the Lord lead them to South Africa quickly.
2. We are thankful for Rustenburg brothers and sisters’ hospitality and willingness to co-work with Pastor and Mrs. Kung.
3. Alex Ko and his wife, XinYue Zhang, have been accepted by CIM as missionary candidates!!
4. After Sharon received From I-20 from Moody Bible Institute, on June 30, she also received an interview notice from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. May the Lord direct her path because Moody planned to send their documents for Sharon’s U.S. visa next week.
5. The sarcomas in Whitney’s lung and abdomen are shrinking, the pain is also gone. The follow-up inspection appointment is set two months from now.
6. Praise God that Clarence’s GPA has improved to 80 and passed his driving road test.

SUPPLICATIONS

1. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will work mightily among brothers and sisters in PECCC, PEFCCC, and RECCC, so that they may fellowship and spread the Gospel in one accord. Many will rise up to serve the Lord.
2. Please pray for our health, so that we would be strengthened physically, emotionally, and spiritually by His grace.
3. Continue to supplicate for South Africa's politics and public security. The continual riots raised concerns about security ahead of the August 3 general elections. Please pray for stability in South Africa and Chinese immigrants getting use to South African way of life. May our kinsmen experience transcending peace from trusting in Jesus.
4. Please pray for a suitable place for our year-end retreat.
5. May the Lord continue to raise up His own laborers from local churches to serve the African Chinese and make disciples. Our greater hope is to send out more missionaries through CIM to harvest God's field.

North American Donations:

Mail to : C I M Headquarters

Title: Chinese International Missions

P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, U.S.A

Please specify the offering is for "Douglas Wu - South Africa Missions"

Taiwan Donations:

臺灣奉獻帳號：華泰商業銀行、石牌分行

帳號：1761000047661

戶名：財團法人臺北市中華基督教長老會石牌信友堂

◎請注明奉獻 CIM 南非宣教士吳元國

Immanuel

Douglas / Whitney

Sharon/Helen/Clarence