

Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu & Family

January 1, 2017

In 2015 near year end and before 2016, we held a gospel camp. This year, also near year end 2016 and before 2017, we gathered here again to receive God's grace in the new gospel camp.



LHCC Short Term Mission team leading 2016 Christmas gospel camp

Ice breaker by Clarence



2016 Christmas gospel camp

Gospel camp Sunday School

Gospel camp youth fellowship

Matthew 6:33 “*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*” God has given me this verse, through the 2016 gospel camp “Love in the Storm, Heaven in my Home” by Living Hope Community Church (LHCC) short term mission team from Silicon Valley, as my goal and vision in 2017.

It was a very special short term mission team. One Brother had to return to the US on the sixth day because he came solely for this Christmas gospel camp. Another member was drafted and came to South Africa just after returning to US from finishing another short term mission elsewhere. And I heard yet another member was designated to serve in this short term mission! They started to serve in worship the day they got off the plane, and didn't have any rest until the tenth day when they departed South Africa. During this time two members of the short term mission team had gotten sick! From their attitude of serving the Lord with all their energy, my wife and I had a deeper understanding of the importance in the order of *first seek His kingdom and His righteousness!* Furthermore, we felt the encouragement the short term mission team had brought to the Christians in South Africa. Yet even more precious was the appreciation of the verse for my wife and I on the importance of “*seek first his kingdom and his righteousness*” in the work to spread the gospel.



“Decompression” seminar in gospel camp

Visiting PEFCCC before camp

Visiting RECCC before camp



Visiting PECCC before camp

Christmas service at PEFCCC first day just off the plane

I remember in my seminary’s Practical Hermeneutics class we had discussed the meaning of the phrase “**kingdom of God**”. There are four interpretations of this phrase in the New Testament. 1. Luke 17:21 “*Nor will people say ‘Here it is’ or ‘There it is’ because **the kingdom of God is within you.***” Here it refers to the sovereignty of kingdom of God. In v20 Jesus said kingdom of God is not visible, instead it is supreme and not limited to the third or fourth dimensions in space! Its infinite sovereignty is over our minds and thoughts. We are God’s children and that exceeds the sovereignties of worldly governments of South Africa, United States, and China. Furthermore, the phrase “***The kingdom of God is within you***” is for everyone to believe and accept Jesus into their hearts. Such is the commission of evangelism, and it’s especially the goal of all short term missions. There was a Papa Lee in the gospel camp this time and he sincerely told me if he were the Chairman of China, he would use all his power to have everyone in China accept Jesus into their hearts.

2. Matthew 12:28 “*But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then **the kingdom of God has come upon you.***” Here it refers to the manifestation of the sovereignty of kingdom of God through His son. Although there was no service to cast out demons by this short term mission team, but clearly it brought up the challenge of the South African Brothers and Sisters of serving both Mammon and God. Through the short term mission team, a strong calling was made to Brothers and Sisters to close their shops for three days so they can attend the gospel camp. From this we saw clearly **the kingdom of God** has come upon us. This time a couple and two Brothers actually closed their shops and attended the gospel camp, and many Sisters were also cured of their sickness.

3. Matthew 5:3 “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.***” God’s promise or bestowment is mentioned here. Rewards are mentioned in the Beatitudes,

meaning Christians can rule along with Christ. My wife and I once again observed the short term mission team's attitude of humbled to learn in the evangelical ministry, and that led our family back to experience the first love from Jesus. Amid all the busy work of serving in those couple days, we really had the heavenly peace and joy within us.

4. II Peter 1:11 “and you will receive a rich welcome into the *eternal kingdom* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Here it refers to entering the kingdom of God in the future, which would be in the new heaven and earth.



Service at PECCC the next day



Service at RECCC



Children Sunday School at PEFCCE

The time of the evening worship on Christmas day at Rustenburg coincided with the Christmas day morning service at CCIC San Jose, so the CCIC English congregation invited my wife and I to have an online worship for fifteen minutes with them via Wi-Fi Hangout. It was a big challenge to me at South Africa! Because the Internet connection outside of home Wi-Fi at South Africa is not very stable, besides we were with the short term mission team at Rustenburg at the time. It was strange that at ten minutes before the agreed time that night, the electricity suddenly went out in our area and we weren't able to get any cell phone signal. When we immediately drove to look for a signal. We thanked the Lord that there were no bandits to disturb us at the place where we parked, and there was good cell phone signal so we had a smooth and peaceful worship. When we drove back to the church the electricity was restored.



Children Sunday School at Rustenburg



Zhao Guihua baptismal

Zhao Guihua came from Xinjiang and she had already heard the Gospel in China. After we discussed the truth of obtaining righteousness through faith, she was willing to be baptized while she was in gospel camp, to be a testimony for the name of Jesus Christ. We fervently

prayed for her at 65 years old to be able to tolerate the water temperature of the swimming pool! We thank the Lord that He led all of us to experience His peace and promise. Glory be the Lord!



LHCC STM team & group picture

Online worship with CCIC English congregation

At the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017, my wife and I looked back at the past year's ministry and we saw many Brothers and Sisters' lives improved through material wealth. Many had gotten everything they dreamed for, such as wife, wealth, house, car, and a newborn son. But in their lives, despite all the worldly gains, it seemed they haven't really enjoyed the multitude of blessing from God's promises: "*Then God blessed them!*" and "*All these things will be given to you.*" May the Lord help us so that we first experience God's abundant grace. "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" We received first God's blessing on our family through the evangelical ministry, perhaps we can also lead other Brothers and Sisters to the Lord to receive the same blessing.

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

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

THANKSGIVING

1. Living Hope Community Church of Silicon Valley Short Mission Team arrived safely and served Christmas worship services in three local churches.
2. 60 participants enrolled in Christmas Gospel Camp.
3. Thank God that Guihua Zhao accepted Jesus Christ as her savior and was baptized.
4. The 2016 Christmas Gospel Camp was successfully and peacefully held.
5. The last session of bible study classes ended Friday night.
6. Sharon successfully completed her first semester. We are grateful for Chang and his wife who took care of her in Chicago, and that she will enjoy her winter vacation with CIM Executive Director Christine Pi in California.

SUPPLICATION

1. Please pray for the LHCC short term mission team's safe return to the U. S. We heard that their flight was delayed and they will stay in Dubai for a day.
2. Please pray for Pastor Ching to recover soon from influenza and for his ministry service.
3. Please pray for the five Gospel friends of Pretoria Fuqing Fellowship to accept Jesus Christ as their savior and allow the Holy Spirit to be working in their lives.
4. Please pray for Clarence's Matric Exam results on January 04. Pray that he will be able to apply for university in January otherwise, he has to apply in April for admission in 2018.
5. Please pray for Brother Dave, Robert, Yang, and Heting of the Youth Fellowship. They expressed interest at the Gospel Camp to serve the Church and ask that the Lord to give us wisdom and lead them.
6. Please pray for Alex & Nicole Ko and the fundraising as they join the CIM family. Pray for their last semester in the seminary, that the Lord will open the path for them after graduate.
7. Please pray for political stability and that the Chinese immigrants would get used to the South African way of life. May our kinsmen experience peace by trusting in Jesus.
8. 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 help reap the Lord's harvest.

North American Donations**Mail to: CIM Headquarters**

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

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