

Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

January 1, 2018

A review of God's faithfulness to us in 2017:

At the beginning of the year, my son Clarence applied for college admission. Because his chemistry test score was one point short so he wasn't able to apply for his desired major; he received many rejection letters as well. It was too much pressure for Whitney, which led to disagreements and arguments with me! However, the Lord's faithfulness in this situation would continue to play out through events taking place in the upcoming months.

By mid-year, many members of the Pretoria Fuqing Church had left South Africa to return home to China while others moved to neighboring countries to continue their livelihood. Only two families remained, consisting of nine adults and two children. We urgently asked God to tell us if He wanted us to end the church meetings? We thank the Lord, who spoke to us through the two families that if the meetings were stopped, then there'd be no place to go if a Fuqing brother or sister wanted to worship God. Therefore we have maintained the church meetings until now.

We saw the Lord moving in other circumstances as well, including the cancellation of my trip to California for my furlough and the 25th anniversary celebration of CIM all because it took over four and half months to get my U.S. entry visa! But I'm thankful that Whitney was able to represent us and could attend the CIM celebration. Also because we didn't have our year-end family retreat, I had much free time to talk and ask God to reveal himself through all these circumstances and situations.

Things I'm thankful for:

In early August, Paul Buttrey, retired OMF missionary and teacher in Christ's Disciples Training Seminary, came to visit us on way to serve in a short term mission. Through the visit of this old servant, God gave me a needed boost of encouragement during this difficult year. It is that we're "in Christ" in the past, present, future, and forever. Professor Buttrey was such a good role model in showing his care and concern of his previous co-workers, even personally paying them a visit from afar! In our full admiration of this godly character, Whitney and I also remembered several other God's servants with great fondness and appreciation.

To our great joy, my son, Clarence, received the admission notice for

University of the Witwatersrand Oral Hygiene department for the 2018 school year, while he accompanied his mother to California. God has greatly blessed him, and gave him this gift to build up his understanding of the Lord’s great provision and love, helping to strengthen his faith in God.

Another instance of God’s faithfulness this year was that Alex Ko and his family were officially accepted as CIM missionaries and returned to South Africa in October to start serving God!

Finally, in November I received the clearance of a five-year U.S. visa, praise God.



Birthday party for Whitney

Gifts from Taiwan Shi-Pai church

New tie & pin from brothers & sisters



Birthday party for us by brother He

College group farewell meeting

College group bid farewell to OM missionary

Genesis 29:20 “So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.” Whitney and I have served 14 years in the South Africa mission field! Thinking back to when I first put my faith in God and became saved, God took my life out of darkness and into His kingdom of light! It was such an enormous grace for me! First I was able to become a child of God, then I was called into full time ministry through the encouragement of Rev. Clarence Pi! As I sought to repay the grace of God, He blessed my family even more. Looking back at these 14 years seems to be just a few days. I experienced none of the hardship of “heat during the day and cold during the sleepless nights” as seen in the 20 years of Jacob’s service. Although I don’t have two troops like Jacob had at the western bank of Jordan River, I still felt unworthy of all the love and faithfulness from God! May God continue to rope us in His love and lead us.



Helen delivering additional documents to Immigration

Night time at South Africa... but little brother Xie prays for us



Christmas decoration in church at Rustenburg

New brother Wang (Far right) attended RECCC night service

Christmas has just passed. My thoughts turned to our Lord Jesus who came to this world so that He could go to the cross for us and overcome Satan's power of death. *Hebrews 2:3a "How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?"*

Thinking back in 1998, when Rev. Pi had a heart attack in Pretoria and was taken home to be with the Lord. This was shortly after I was called into ministry and Whitney and I wondered, what does God have in mind for us now? Through the Lord's great providence, we went to Taiwan to attend seminary and receive training for the Lord's work. We returned to Pretoria in 2004. In consideration of my children's schooling, the CIM missionary Pastor Liu who had been serving the church in Pretoria expanded the ministry in other area so we could serve in Pretoria. In 2009 Pastor Liu contracted cancer and returned to the U.S. for treatment. These seniors before me followed Jesus' footsteps and strived toward the goal in their evangelical work. They served with all their might, even giving up their lives. All these living testimonies are vivid images for me and Whitney.



Praying for Hsuan's knee inflammation Taking blood pressure after Bible study

Blessing of sister Xue's new shop



Jesus said let the children come to me



A children-loving pastor's wife



Christmas gifts

In 2017 Alex Ko joined CIM to be a part of bringing the good news of the gospel to the Chinese in South Africa. I am facing a new challenge in co-working with the next generation. Although the Chinese immigrant population has not grown since the South Africa Interior Ministry tightened the immigration policy, I firmly believe that there is still work to be done here. From my predecessors' living testimonies who understood that **"He must become greater and I must become less"** and **"a kernel of wheat"**, and their messages of the **"job of counseling others to reconcile with God"** and **"treasure the time"**, as well as the Christ's Disciples Training Seminary motto **"I no longer live but Christ lives in me"**, plus teaching from the elders to **"be examples of the believers in our language, action, love, faith, and holiness"**, Whitney and I have clearly seen the work of the Holy Spirit in all that God has accomplished so far. With respect to CIM's mission statement of **"Making a difference in world evangelization through Chinese missionaries"**, we continue to rely on the Holy Spirit as we strive toward the day when people from every tribe, nation, and tongue stand before his throne in worship. Therefore, Whitney and I ask for Holy Spirit's help, as Hudson Taylor's prayer **"We should offer ourselves for others' lives, for it is weakness if we refuse to give up our lives. Bearing the cross is required if we want to bear fruits. There are no two Christ, where one is the easy-going Lord for lazy and comfortable Christians, and the other one is the toiling Lord of hard-working Christians. There is only one Christ! Are you willing to be linked with the Lord so that you can bear bountiful fruits?"** May the Lord help us and lead us in our growth.

As we welcome the new year, Whitney and I would like to ask you, our dear co-workers, to raise your hands and pray for us as we expand our ministry in South Africa. We hope we can become a platform that is both intra-cultural and cross-cultural, dedicated to evangelism for African Chinese, not just limited to South Africa only. We hope all the churches we plant can participate physically and spiritually as we join efforts to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Regardless of how many years this effort may take, may the Lord fulfill His will.



The best Christmas gift is our Lord Jesus Christ

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

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Thanksgiving

1. During the Christmas holidays in 2017, God kept all brothers and sisters safe and secure.
2. The Bible study with sister Wu is scheduled on every Thursday.
3. The bank account registered three brother and sisters' signatures, and we organized our church account operation.
4. Helen successfully pass all her final exam, and continues her junior year in college.
5. We have more time to pray for the direction of CIM in South Africa. Pray that God will bestow clear instructions and wisdom so that we may serve well together with Alex in South Africa.

Supplications

1. Pray for us as we serve the Chinese in South Africa as we enter another year of service! We trust in our Lord as He continues to be our pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.
2. We are planning our furlough to the United States in March and ask that the Lord leads the way.
3. Pray for Clarence as his university registration starts in January. May God bless him as he leave home and lives independently. May he be able to adapt quickly to his new environment and that he continues to serve Him in his new capacities and surroundings.
4. Please continue to pray for LiMing Xue's daughter custody lawsuit. We pray that the court will come to a decision on February 9, 2018.
5. Please pray for Helen's South African birth certificate application. The two missing documents were delivered on early January. Hope the application can be approved soon.
6. Please pray for political stability, public security, and that the Chinese immigrants would adjust to the new way of life. May our fellow Chinese experience peace by trusting in Jesus.
7. May the Lord continue to raise up His 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.



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