



2013.03.31

Heart Tied to Brazil [Christine Pi] Ever since going on missions to Brazil in 1989, my relationship with the land has grown closer and closer. The brothers and sisters, coworkers, the South American Chinese Seminary that we helped establish, those who graduated with masters degrees those first years are often in my prayers.

When we arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, our original plan was to share the gospel to second generation, native-born Chinese. However, God was so much greater than that and gave us the vision of establishing a seminary there. The goal was to train the "1.5 Generations" believers, the youth and adult Christians who immigrated there at an early age and who speak fluent Chinese and Portuguese. We asked God to use their language abilities and educational background, as well as their familiarity with the local environment and culture to be witnesses to their peers as well as native-born Chinese. Even though we left Brazil in 1993 and were called to return to the U.S. to assemble a North American mission agency, we kept in touch with our friends all these years. In 1997 when Clarence was still in South Africa, he helped to start the Happy Family Association (Happy Kids and Happy Teens Ministry). The strategy was to reach out to the native-born children with the goal of reaching their parents and



families with the Good News. It also allowed the Chinese children there to receive a Christian education early on. The gospel work among the Chinese in Brazil did not

stop after we left. After almost twenty years later, the graduates from the seminary have been serving in various churches, becoming the main force of most of the Chinese churches there. Happy Kids has educated several generations of children and is now the children's academy most endorsed by the Chinese community.

We came back to California from Brazil and then went on to South Africa with the hope of reaching more Chinese Christians with the gospel. There were times of discouragement and not wanting to step out of our comfort zones. Unfortunately, this is also the temptation that many believers in North America face. Here in America we are very blessed and yet believers are not willing to commit to missions.

I was invited to join the board of directors at CIM in 2000 and became the Executive Director in 2008. This has allowed me to have more opportunities to go to Brazil and promote partnerships in the familiar places, as well as paving the way for short term mission trips from North America to connect with the churches in Brazil. From 2010 to now, brothers and sisters from the congregation of

seven churches have been joining us in short term missions learning teams and working together to promote gospel work. Prayers, people, and financial gifts have made this possible. I give thanks for God's grace and mercy that has allowed us these many opportunities to be missionaries to many different places.

This year we have been invited to Happy Teens in Sao Paulo, Brazil to hold a retreat camp. The hope is that through meetings and fellowshiping together, we can sow the seeds of the gospel in their hearts. These young people mostly come from immigrant families. They come with different backgrounds, customs, and language from the Brazilians. They are seen as an alternate group who cannot catch up academically, cannot speak Portuguese, do not have motivation and do not have hope. Their parents do not know how to help. The young ones feel that their parents do not understand them and that there is no way for them to communicate.

Most of their parents came from working class. They work for a living all day and have no



time to talk with their children. The Happy Teens center plays a strategic role, tutoring these young people with their homework and strengthening their motivation to excel. We give thanks to the local teachers at Happy Teens. They teach these youth not only their homework but bring them to church to know God. They hope that the young adolescents will invite some new friends who have never been to this camp and share the gospel with them. This camp will take place during their winter break. However, some of the youth might have to help out with their family



business and will therefore not be able to participate. We need to ask God to make a way for them to come. In addition, the cost of joining the camp is not simple.

We have to also pray that God will provide and prepare the local workers to partner with us and serve these young people together.

Lastly, I hope all the short term team members can bring their first-hand experience in the field back to their churches and stir up a passion for missions within their congregations. Are you willing to be that small fire that can ignite a whole forest? Are you willing to support this ministry prayerfully and financially? Are you willing to be



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a partner? Willing to intercede for us with the many activities of this trip every day? Willing to pray for the team's safety and health?

Brazil is a gorgeous country. There are mountains, rivers, and world-famous beaches. Financially, it is one of the BRICS countries—rich in gold, gems, lumber. Unfortunately corruption has made people's lives difficult. The immigration of Chinese began at the end of the 1950s. Immigrants from Taiwan and Hong Kong started coming in the 1960s and 1970s. Then the number of immigrants was greatly reduced by the end of the 1980s. Finally, starting in 2000, Chinese from mainland China have been immigrating here in large number. However, because many of them have come in illegally, it has led to many 2. social problems.

Sao Paulo is the biggest city in Brazil, with 19 million people living there. There has been more than two generations of Chinese living there, going into the third 4. and even fourth generations. Socioeconomically, there are many levels of people with upper class business tycoons, university professors, bankers, import and export businessmen, as well also working class roadside vendors. Currently all the new immigrants from China operate their own businesses, with lower educational backgrounds. Some of them are Buddhists. They often live in loneliness and isolation in this new land. Since they have no way to take care of their children because of the demanding



nature of their work, most of their children are sent back to China to be cared for by family members. They come to Brazil to start businesses, but

because they do not know anyone or anything, they need our care even more. The hope is for our team to have an opportunity to bring the gospel to them.

We have to be like the apostle Paul, preaching the word and being prepared in season and out of season. Also to become all things to all people so that by all possible means we might share the gospel and see that God will give us opportunities to serve Him.

Besides holding a youth camp, this year's team will visit the local believers and new immigrants. We will go to their workplace to share the gospel and will also go to the marketplace and flea market to hand out gospel tracts. In addition, the Sao Paulo medical team will partner with us in Belo Horizonte. While they provide free medical service, we will take the opportunity to share the gospel to those waiting in line. The result of this approach was fairly good the last two years and a few of them accepted Christ. I thank God for the opportunities that have allowed me to go to various places in Brazil and visit the churches. What

saddens me is that there are more and more new immigrants and not enough preachers for the demand. They continue to cry out to us just like the Macedonians did: "Who is willing to come?" Clarence and I heard the same call more than twenty years ago. It led us to leave our comfort zone and head to this far away and unfamiliar place, Brazil. I long for more Chinese Christians in North America today to be bold enough to come out of their comfort zone and join in long term missions. This could be you!

PRAYER ITEMS

- 1. Ask that God will continue to heal the condition of Rev. Douglas Wu's blood thickening and to recover fully.
2. For success for PECCC's registration process with the South Africa government.
3. That the Lord will send more missionaries to reap the harvest in South Africa and Brazil.
4. Continue to pray for Alex Ko that he will learn how to serve in the church. Ask that God will strengthen his efforts toward dedicating his whole life in serving Him.
5. Ask that God will raise up workers for the youth fellowship at PECCC to counsel and to lead.
6. Ask that God will lead new leaders of the Chinese students in University of Pretoria to have a common influence and effort to learn how to serve God together.
7. Public safety in both South Africa and Brazil has been getting worse. Pray earnestly that the Lord will watch over our brothers and sisters as well as the Chinese diaspora living there for their safety.
8. For the financial needs of CIM.
9. Continue to pray for the complete recovery of Mrs. Pi's eye and her health, especially for her April trip to South Africa and Ghana. Ask that the Lord will grant her travel mercy.

FINANCIAL REPORT: February 2013

If you have a burden for CIM ministries, you may send in a check payable to CIM and mail to: P. O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA. Thank you!

Table with 4 columns: Category, Income, Expense, Balance. Rows include General, Missions, and Total.

Box containing CIM Staff list (Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Editor), CIM Board of Directors list, and CIM regional boards (Hong Kong, Canada, Australia).