



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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Cooking for Strangers:

Learn from the Lord how to Share the Gospel to Strangers (part 2)

Rev. Yoman Man

The last article encouraged you to be mentally prepared for the obstacles when preaching the Gospel cross-culturally, much like what the short-term team members face when they set out to do the same. This article continues to encourage you to learn from our Lord Jesus Christ and to skillfully share the Gospel with strangers.

Leveraging your Strength

In Chinese martial arts, there is a method that allows you to leverage your strength. Briefly stated, this is when you take the strength your opponent is using to attack you and turn it around to add to your strength to attack him, causing your opponent to receive double dose from the force of the blow. Of all the times our Lord Jesus Christ shared the Gospel with strangers, the most detailed account was recorded by the Apostle John in the fourth chapter of his gospel. It described when Jesus encountered a foreign woman at the well, He was also acting as the “weak one” asking help from the “strong one” tactic to reach out to her. After the ice was broken, He stepped back while pressing on, allowing His object to take the lead in choosing the topic of their conversation. Deep down He was leveraging the woman’s strength to His advantage.

On the surface, not only was

the woman able to choose their conversation topic: at times she would answer with a question to Jesus’ question; other times she would refute; she would make requests; she would ask questions; and still other times she would comment. It was as if Jesus was doing His best just to keep up.

The topics of conversation, such as: the Jews, the Samaritans, her ancestors, her needs; prophets, the Sabbath, and the Messiah, were all initiated by the woman herself. The process of their conversation would seem she’s the one who’s in the lead, strong-arming Jesus to align with her vocabulary and her topics to carry on their exchange. It is precisely this reason that she became more and more interested in talking to this stranger.

But in reality, it was Jesus who purposely persuaded the woman to talk to Him, continuously encouraging her to take the first step. As she kept bringing up new and categorically different questions one after another non-stop, Jesus very ingeniously used those topics to steer her to think of her belief, prompting her to have much interest in them and ultimately she arrived at the point where she had to answer to the question, “who is Jesus?”

Lord Jesus was willing to inquire and listen attentively, seeking to understand the woman step by step. And in the process,

He often focused on her background and her personal needs. Through the topics of conversation she chose and the vocabulary she used, He skillfully helped her to begin from her own thoughts. That is, starting with where she was and guided her to arrange, and to go after, her own problems and needs, thus nurturing a thirst for spiritual matters. Even though it’s something she never knew before, Jesus gradually led her to realize that Jesus Christ is her answer!

“Leveraging Your Strength” is an important and effective way to share the Gospel to a stranger. It is the process of using the topics your subject is interested in and the vocabulary of choice to focus on the subject of faith.

Chef on Tour

By using this method, we are no longer the philanthropists who simply go out to distribute canned goods to satisfy the needs of the displaced but, rather, the chefs who prepare the meals for these strangers. If we can ignite the spiritual appetite of others, we are taking advantage of what ingredients they already have, and frequently use, to prepare the Gospel cuisine, allowing the bread of life, Christ, to satisfy the hunger of everyone.

Come! Let us learn to be a chef who is in a foreign land and cook for the foreigners there!

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the spiritual revival of the churches in South Africa. Ask the Lord to ignite each believer's spiritual heart and serve alongside Rev. Douglas Wu so that they can be used as vessels in God's hands.
2. For the PECCC members to develop a thirst for God's word. Pray that they can organize a Bible study gathering and fellowship. For Rev. Douglas' health and travel safety.
3. For the graduate school application of Rev. Douglas' elder daughter, Sharon, that God will guide the roads ahead; for their second daughter, Helen, to get adjusted to college life and for their son, Clarence's college admission examination.
4. For the STM team that will be heading from the California bay area to South Africa at the end of March. Pray for the logistics and all aspects of their ministry.
5. Continue to ask the Lord to raise up his servants in the churches in South Africa.
6. Pray for Alex Ko and his family for a smooth process as they apply for visitors visa to the U.S.
7. Civil order deterioration, theft, robberies still happen all the time in South Africa. Please fervently pray for the safety of this country.
8. For the political environment, public safety, and economic turmoil in Brazil, allowing brothers and sisters to live a safe and prosperous life and to serve the Lord without worries.
9. CIM is planning a two-week STM trip to serve in Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, and Salvador of Brazil in June and July. Pray for the Lord to call brothers and sisters to participate and support the ministries.
10. Ask the Lord to raise up brothers and sisters in Brazil who are willing to host the STM teams in July. Pray also for the logistics of all ministries and programs.
11. The Happy Kids and Happy Teens ministries in Sao Paulo began their new school year on Feb 1. Please pray for students and teachers class assignment as well as all other school business.
12. For the newly established group in Belo Horizonte church that God would grant them strength so that they will support each other, learn from each other, and serve one another with confidence.
13. Continue to pray for the BH church in their search for a new gathering venue, a convenient location that will better allow the Gospel to go out even more.
14. For the brothers and sisters at BH church to love the Lord more, to seek and experience God more. Pray also for the youth to have a longing for spiritual growth. Ask the Lord to guide and bless their studies and their work.
15. For the Porto Alegre church members' desire to be equipped and reach out to share the Gospel. Pray also for the ministry of caring for the congregation.
16. For the Lord to lead the Salvador church, and bless them with strong faith and growth spiritually so that they will serve God and love others.
17. Ask the Lord to raise up brothers and sisters to go on short-term missions trips to Ghana and Togo and support the ministries.
18. Pray for Rev. Isaac Quan to be blessed with wisdom and discernment as being the new Executive Director of CIM Canada.
19. Ask the Lord to raise up more workers to participate in CIM's various ministries.
20. Ask the Lord to abundantly prepare all the ministries' financial needs.
21. Ask the Lord to add new missionaries to join our team.

2016 Short Term Mission

South Africa

July 1 - 12, 2016

Youth Camp

Dec 23, 2016 - Jan 5, 2017

Family Camp

Brazil

June 29 - July 14, 2016

July 14 - July 31, 2016

Visitations, personal evangelism, discipleship training, and youth camp

Ghana / Togo

May - October, 2016

Cross Culture Mission
(two to three week intervals)

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FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2016

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$5,714	\$4,212	\$1,502
Missions	\$3,291	\$3,684	-\$393
Total	\$9,005	\$7,896	\$1,109

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, please go to our web: www.cimusa.org, or send in a check payable to: CIM, and mail it to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA. Thank you!



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