



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

05.01.2016

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## Sharing on the South Africa STM Trip 2016

**Johnson Lee**— Every STM trip brings a different vision, different serving, and a different impression. And it has been no different for this recent journey.

Different Vision: Many of the wildlife animals and local culture we've seen in zoos and movies before all appeared live in front of very eyes. "Better to walk a thousand miles of roads than to read ten thousand rolls of books" really rang true! South Africa is no longer foreign to me.

The local coworkers went out of their way to care for and look after our wellbeing. We had a very full schedule so the only limited contact we had was with the Chinese immigrants.

Different Serving: Other than the special topics, testimonies, caring for the young, visitation, preaching etc., the STM team was responsible for a three-day youth camp and another three-day retreat. For me personally, using the same theme in five consecutive messages on spiritual maturity in particular was quite a learning opportunity. Thank the Lord, because of the local brothers' and sisters' earnest attitude and humble acceptance, it brought about much encouragement to our team.

Different Impression: Among the several Chinese churches we visited while in South Africa, nearly every family experienced practical difficulties in the areas of money, education, work, future, and worries about safety. These struggles could cause people to lean on God more but

they they could also cause people to drift away from God more. The challenge facing the local missionary family in their caring



and shepherding is direct and weighty.

Compared to the churches in North America, there is great flexibility in how the missionaries here can arrange their ministries: the upside is there is more room to put plans into

motion; but there are downsides, 1) it's not as easy to train and disciple committed coworkers;

and 2) loneliness—not easy to find local spiritual partners. Rev. Douglas and Mrs. Wu are always busy with three Bible study groups and the major activities of the churches. Their not-ready-to-step-back spirit is worthy of our respect and admiration.

**Kevin Kuan**— Thanks be to God for leading an unworthy vessel like myself on a STM trip to South Africa to be near God, allowing me to be able to see and walk with Him in His harvest field. May all the glory be to Him, as everything is His grace.

This trip allowed me to experience some of what believers in other parts of the world encounter everyday -

corrupt governments, economic recession, currency devaluation. Yet a group of Fu-Qing risk leaving their homeland, come to this faraway place, and brave the dangerous living conditions to earn money to send back to China. Perhaps the traditional Chinese culture of saving face would not allow them to just give up and return to China to open similar businesses. In many cases where there are children and/or spouses separation between the two countries lead to relational problems. It's like while you can make a living and earn money, you do not get to enjoy the living. This is exactly like what's depicted in the Bible that, "For what does it

*profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

How can we as a team care for them? Only the love of our Abba Father and the word of God can personally comfort them, have mercy on them, and cause them to have true peace in their hearts! This is similar to my theme for the youth camp, "The Road to the Future, the Road to Richness, the Road to Holiness." No matter whether these youth stay or leave the country, study or get a job, only lives in the Lord will have hope and a future!

May the Lord shine His glorious light and allow the missions work in South Africa to continue, leading and safeguarding the brothers and sisters there and overflowing their cups to the fullest.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the spiritual revival of the churches in South Africa. Ask the Lord to ignite believer's hearts to serve alongside Rev. Douglas Wu so that they can be used as vessels in God's hands.
2. For the PECCC brothers and sisters to develop a thirst for God's word. Pray that they can organize a Bible study gathering as well as having a fellowship to start discipleship training.
3. For Rev. Douglas Wu's health and guard his coming and going.
4. For Rev. Douglas Wu's children, Sharon, that God will guide the road ahead; for Helen, to get adjusted to college life; and Clarence, that he will concentrate in his college admission examination.
5. For civil order deterioration, theft, robberies in South Africa, with brothers and sisters of the churches there being robbed at gunpoint in their stores recently. Please fervently pray for the safety of this country.
6. For the political environment, public safety, and economic turmoil in Brazil.
7. The CIM Brazil STM team will be serving in Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, and Salvador in June and July. Pray for all the logistics and support of the ministries.
8. Ask God to raise up brothers and sisters in Brazil who are willing to host the STM teams in July.
9. Pray for teachers of the Happy Kids and Happy Teens ministries in Sao Paulo. Pray that they will prepare their hearts at the teachers retreat in July.
10. For the core group in Belo Horizonte church that God would grant them strength to support each other, learn from each other, and serve one another with confidence.
11. Continue to pray for the BH Church in search for a new gathering venue and in a convenient location for them to gather.
12. Pray also for the BH church youth to have a longing for spiritual growth. Ask the Lord to guide and bless their studies and their work.
13. Ask the Holy Spirit to safeguard and strengthen the hearts of believers in Porto Alegre, raise up workers willing to participate in serving at the church.
14. For the Lord to lead the Salvador Church and to bless them with strong faith spiritually and emotionally so that they will serve the Lord and love others.
15. Pray for all the Salvador church coworkers that they can work together with one heart, laying down their own prejudices for the sake of the gospel.
16. Ask the Lord to raise up brothers and sisters for the short-term missions trips to Ghana and Togo.
17. Pray for Rev. Isaac Quan to be blessed with wisdom and discernment as he adjusts to being the Executive Director of CIM Canada.
18. Ask the Lord to raise up more workers to participate in CIM's various ministries.
19. Ask the Lord to abundantly prepare all the ministries' financial needs.
20. Ask the Lord to add new missionaries to join us.
21. Pray for guidance for the couple who visit South Africa in May. Ask that God's will be shown to them.
22. For Alex Ko and family who will visit to meet with CIM's board in June.

**Wendy Lien**— South Africa was my last area of choice for either business or leisure travels. But because of the Lord's mercy, He allowed me an opportunity to serve Him. I returned having experienced His abundant mercy, blessings and experience.

It did not matter if it was during the youth camp, doing visitations, or special topics sharing, I was able to understand a little more about how the lives of the local believers there were

not easy. If it was not love from, or real joy, real peace and grace granted by the Lord, no one can last, and no one can withstand. The Scripture said, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* I give thanks to God.

I lift up the local pastor and coworkers and give thanks to God. Amidst the difficult environment, I saw how they lived out the extraordinary life of, *"We are hard pressed on*

*every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair."* All these are from God.

Before we set out, many brothers and sisters asked me curiously, "It is dangerous in South Africa, why do you want to go? But we will pray earnestly for your team." I am very happy to say that I simply believe in the Lord's leading. And thanks to God for allowing me to experience His presence and His faithfulness.

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### FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2016

	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>General</b>	\$11,238	\$5,109	\$6,129
<b>Missions</b>	\$4,793	\$3,331	\$1,462
<b>Total</b>	\$16,031	\$8,440	\$7,591

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, please go to our web: [www.cimusa.org](http://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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