



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

04.01.2018

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## Everyone a Soldier in Spirit

Anyone who has traveled to Israel wouldn't be surprised to see armed soldiers patrolling the streets. It also wouldn't be surprising to see soldiers standing guard at many tourist spots, for in this modern nation of Israel, every citizen is a soldier.

Amazingly, God has already used the term "Everyone a soldier" to call the nation of Israel at the beginning of Exodus. "At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt." (*Exodus 12:41*) If we picture the "Lord's divisions" in Exodus, it'd be the 600,000 Israelite men of military age as recorded in the Bible. But they couldn't possibly have been well-equipped, riding on war horses and chariots as they triumphantly departed Egypt. Instead, this rag tag group of people, who have endured hardship in several hundred years of cruel slavery with all dignity stripped from them, in sheer excitement after having witnessed the ten plagues brought on by God's mighty power, herding their livestock along with the old and young, with all their possessions strapped on their bodies, shouting in cacophony while lumbering in the rolling dust on the way out of Egypt. Such was the image of what God

mentioned as the "Lord's divisions", which was quite a departure from a well armed troop with fine weaponry – something truly worthwhile for us to realize that God doesn't think like us, and God doesn't do things like we do.

So can today's believers fit the label of "Lord's divisions"? And how does God see today's believers? The Bible recorded Jesus' Great Commission to the disciples just before he was taken up to the heaven in Matthew 28:18-20. Since the Lord Jesus is the commander-in-chief with all the power of heaven and earth, so isn't the Great Commission like a military order? But then where are his troops?

Although the Bible didn't record much details of the latter part of Israelites' wondering in the wilderness, but it's certain that God didn't forget His people. The manna from heaven didn't stop until the eve before the day the Israelites entered the Promised Land. The Lord's 600,000 men-strong army, under the lead of "Commander of the army of the Lord" (*Numbers 26:51, Joshua 5:13-15*), set out to conquer the city of Jericho. Bible didn't say that they had bright shining armor, and their clothing were probably not much different from when they left Egypt. It was

only through Joshua that God revealed the strategy to His army (*Joshua chapter 6*). Therefore the Lord's army – His people – simply followed the commander's orders to battle each day. The Bible recorded how this battle unfolded and the miracle outcome, all because the Lord has already given them the city. (*Joshua 6:16*)

We often use the Great Commission to encourage believers to participate in the evangelical ministry. To participate is foremost, because it is the Lord your God himself who will fight for you. (*Deuteronomy 3:22*) But even though this is the case, believers living in post modern times still need to be spiritually alert and battle ready. Apostle Paul gave us good instructions in Ephesians 6:13-18 on how to be prepared. Although it's not to say just by those preparations alone would save the lost souls of unbelievers, but rather they help the believers everyday in defending against the enemy and Satan's trickery. We need to be able to stand firm, for we're not battling against that of the flesh.

We thank the Lord that His Spirit helps us as we keep up our battle readiness daily. May our spiritual life grow stronger everyday so we can be of more service for the Lord.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Wu will be in U.S. from April 3 to June 19 for their furlough. Please pray for their well being and travels.
2. Pray for God to lead the Pretoria church's Young Adult Fellowship to grow in the Lord through their Sunday afternoon Bible Study. May God also encourage them to invite unbeliever friends to join the fellowship.
3. Pray for God to help brothers and sisters in South Africa to rely on Him amid the unsettled political and civil environments, and for God to keep them safe.
4. Brazil's economy is on the downturn along with high crime rate. Pray for brothers and sisters' well being of their bodies, hearts, and minds. May the Lord help them to have faith and be filled with peace, joy, and hope from Him, and to overcome all the adversities in their surroundings.
5. Ask the Lord to provide more Sunday School teachers for the Belo Horizonte church. Pray to encourage and support the youths for their serving.
6. Pray for the brothers and sisters of the Salvador church to be more diligent in their Bible reading, steadfast in their faith, and also to practice caring and interceding for each other.
7. The brothers and sisters of the Recife church, due to various reasons, have stopped their Sunday worship for several weeks. Pray for them to understand the importance of perseverance and not stopping the meetings. Pray for the Lord to provide a pastor they desperately need.
8. The co-workers of the Brasilia church have the willingness to please God and want to spread the gospel. Pray for more opportunities for them to serve in the church.
9. Ask the Lord to lead the elders and co-workers of the Porto Alegre church to be willing in their serving together, and that they would appreciate the more joy from more serving.
10. There are about 17 Chinese corporations investing in Brazil. Pray for the Sao Paulo Chinese Church with their plan to invite CIM to focus on evangelizing the Chinese employees of those corporations.
11. Pray for the various ministries in Ghana and Togo. May the Lord raise up more believers to participate in cross-cultural STM teams to share the gospel with the West Africans.
12. Pray for the new cross-cultural evangelical ministries with the Roma people (Gypsies) of Ukraine.
13. Pray for the preparations for Brazil STM trip and recruitment.
14. Ask God to bless the co-workers with wisdom and to serve together faithfully.
15. Ask God to prepare for more co-workers to join the team.
16. Continue to look to God to provide abundantly for the financial needs of CIM.

### 2018 CIM Short Term Mission: Brazil

Salvador and Recife June 28 - July 11, 2018

Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre July 11 - 25, 2018

Sao Paulo Youth Camp March 1 - 11, 2019

#### South Africa

#### Family Retreat

Dec 12 - 27, 2018 or Dec 29, 2018 - Jan 8, 2019

#### West Africa

#### Ghana and Togo

(July 20 - 31, 2018 pending)

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2018

	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>General</b>	\$5,773	\$7,428	<b>-\$1,655</b>
<b>Missions</b>	\$16,291	\$12,739	\$3,552
<b>Total</b>	\$22,064	\$20,167	\$1,897

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Please make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA Thank you!



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