



5.31.2014

~Christine Pi

In recent years short term missions has been the trend among Chinese churches, and Chinese churches in South Africa is no exception. The number of new Chinese immigrants flooding into South Africa has continued to increase for quite some time. Rev. Douglas Wu has been working with the Chinese in the cities of Rustenburg in the west and Middelburg in the east, as well as Durban to the south of Pretoria. Thinking back to when we established PECCC, our vision was to use the church as a base to evangelize to those in our vicinity and beyond. The main goal is spreading the gospel as a mission church. Every believer is to be a witness of the gospel, and missions is the purpose of the existence of our church. The youth of PECCC will be joining the Taiwan Yung He church's short term mission team for two weeks during their winter break this year. Now missions is being extended across countries. We thank God for that.

While I was in South Africa these past few weeks, I took the opportunity to provide a few training sessions in the hopes of equipping these youth with the basic concepts of missions. They were very attentive to the sessions as they learned that it is the duty of every believer to spread the gospel. My hope is that they will be renewed through this



experience and compel to serve God when they come back from the trip. May serving God fervently

become part of their lifelong journey as their world view is transformed to be more sensitive to the God they love and serve.

The youth have been busy planning for their upcoming program, practicing songs and preparing games. They are so excited about this encounter. I asked them why they want to go to Taiwan for short term missions, and the following answers are some of their responses to my questions:



“God has given me this opportunity to learn how to evangelize and to spread the gospel and I want to submit and to learn how.”

“Last time when our church was going to Durban, I did not have enough faith to go. When they came back and shared their experience I regretted not going. I know this time I am not going to miss this chance. Even though I still have not enough faith, I want to give it a try.”

“The Bible teaches us that as believers, we should spread the good news and I want to do it.”

“I am not sure if I will be a full time minister or a career missionary. I want to have firsthand knowledge and experience it myself.”

“Going to a different country to spread the gospel is what Bible teaches us; despite the anxiety and fear I would like to try.”

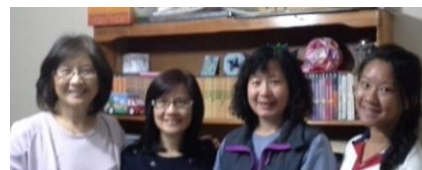
I am very pleased with all their answers and I thank God for their faith and courage.

In spite of growing up in challenging environments and being busy with school work, they



set aside time to meet once a week to pray, to bond, and most importantly, to serve their God. I hope their love for the people out there will ignite a spark of fire inside their hearts and hope that they have discovered the core of God's mission, being filled with his vision, insight and passion. We hope that through their service they will be edified and continue to follow God and pursue his holiness.

This last visit to South Africa also allowed me more time visiting and talking with the Fu Qing believers, which gave me greater understanding and insight of this special people group. Many of them shared their stories and concerns and opened



their hearts for counsel. They worry about their children who are left behind in their villages in China - they often

are in danger and become the targets of the gangs because they identify them as a special group with money. A recent threat besides bullying at school is falling victim to 'security fees'



where the drug dealers take advantage of their innocence and control them, using them to work among their peers. Mothers cry and fathers worry because their loved ones are too far away and out of their protection.



Long separations, poor communication - who can understand their concerns and help them when they are in despair? "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed

within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my savior and my God." Psalm 42:5

The overall situation in South Africa is quite chaotic at times with a recent presidential election, the depreciation of their currency, and economic crisis all leading to many shop owners having to move to other cities or close their shops. The restaurants were hit very badly with no one daring to go out to eat during lunch hours. The wholesale shops used to be packed but now there are few who dare to shop nowadays. The Fu Qing brothers and sisters have been greatly affected also. Some of them are going back to China and taking time off because of the slow business. They go back to visit their family, have medical checkups, and take their South African born babies to register with the Chinese government.



In the past, taking time off and closing their shops was a very rare occasion in this community. This is telling of a door that may be closing permanently; with the ever-changing policies of the government and the unrest within the country, opportunities to spread the gospel may not always be a possibility. We should use these experiences as reminders to ourselves that we ought to treasure every opportunity that the Lord provides for spreading the gospel to the lost, and that while there is daylight we should hurry in our work!

A missions experience can change a person's entire perspective in life. We hope that God is working in the hearts of believers and that he will bring someone full of compassion to care for those who are in need. We hope that perhaps you will accept God's calling to participate in missions to teach and equip those who are in need spiritually and physically. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, 'Here am I, Send me!'" Isaiah 6:8

PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. Please continue to pray for the treatment of Rev. Douglas Wu's Hepatitis C. Ask the Lord to heal him completely.
2. Pray for the short term interim team who is ministering in South Africa in the month of June, that the Lord would bless them with safety and grace.
3. Ask the Lord to bless the success of the Pretoria youth fellowship's STM team as they serve in Taiwan in July.
4. Pray for Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Church's reapplication with the government office.
5. Pray for Alex Ko and his wife in Taiwan as they continue their seminary studies and training.
6. The Brazil STM team will be heading to Salvador, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte this summer from July 16- August 2.
7. Pray for the Sao Paulo medical team, led by Rev. & Mrs. Loo, that we can work together with one heart.
8. The Belo Horizonte Chinese Church begins their prayer project: 'the minute that can affect and change,' - each day they stop everything for one minute at noon to pray especially for our short term team.
9. Please lift up the Village School Ministry in the villages of Ghana.
10. Ask the Lord to raise up French-speaking coworkers in Canada to join in the various ministries in Togo.
11. Ask God to provide for the needs of various ministries at CIM, especially for all the projects this year.
12. Please continue to pray for Mrs. Pi's eye illness and her health.

FINANCIAL REPORT: April 2014

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

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