



2011.08.31

Thoughts on the Brazil Mission trip

(Wang Li) After months of waiting, our team was finally leaving. Up until this time we had learned what to expect of the trip psychologically. But as we stepped foot on the plane, I felt that we had not prepared enough.

This is a city with many Chinese. The families work very hard to earn a living. When they have kids, they would send them back to China to be cared for by family members. After they are more settled, parents would bring their children back to Brazil (some of the children we met had only been in Brazil for a few months.) The target of the Happy Kids and Happy Teens Ministries is ministering to these children who live in a relatively more stable and well-off environment. They teach these children Chinese, Portuguese, and provide other tutoring



services. The teachers also use this opportunity to share the gospel with them. Their ultimate hope is that the Good News can turn these

families into healthy families.

We saw that the hard-working Chinese in Mogi really need the gospel; they did not show any resistance to the church. This could indeed be a harvest field worthy of the gospel. Oh Lord! May you send your workers for the harvest!

Our last stop was the city of Curitiba where there is only one Chinese church. Even though they have the desire to spread the gospel to other groups of Chinese, language is a big barrier. The busy lives these Chinese lead is also a great hindrance. Curitiba is a difficult and hard field. But we also saw that this was similar to the call from Macedonia. Who is willing to respond to this call?

This trip gave me a great shock. In the U.S., we live in a most comfortable and abundant environment. Even those who work in manual jobs have a lot of time to rest and faith is one of the things we have the freedom to choose. However, for most of the Chinese in Brazil, they only have one choice: to work hard for their living. The gospel is something that is very far away for them. They do not have, nor do they see the importance, of the Good News, unless someone can

bring the gospel to their midst, unless someone can share God's love with them. Oh Lord! Where are your workers?

(Lily Li) During this STM to Brazil we encountered a vast land for the gospel and the unreached people. The Presbyterian Church in Mogi understood that short-term missions teams can help with the spiritual growth of the local believers carry out God's will. Many people came for the evangelistic meetings. Our three days of VBS in Curitiba where church members poured themselves into the task of evangelism and where some even closed their businesses to serve in the church was a huge source of encouragement.

(Kuie-ting Ma) This short-term mission trip to Brazil was indeed a journey of abundant grace. Why Brazil? The reason is simple: if Rev. Pi was willing to offer up his whole life and all I needed to offer was just a little time for the Chinese in Brazil, it's a no-brainer! Yet when the time drew nearer, I asked God, "Do I have to go?" I asked God to give me His word and when I turned to the Bible, He said, "Do not be afraid!" So I decided to depend on His words and continue to march on.

After we arrived in Brazil, we realized it was not what we could offer but how we could partner with God on this amazing journey. Whether it was talking with the local youth on the topic of friendship; with parents from the church about parent-child relationship; or with the teachers from Happy Kids Ministry on how to nurture their students, it was more of a sharing and exchange of experiences than workshops. I knew well the limits of language and that only by the Holy Spirit can move the hearts of others so that their lives can be transformed. The difficulties they face and the uncertain futures they have are ingrained in my heart. I believe that even though we are now apart, we are connected in the Spirit through our Heavenly Father.



After my return, I am still thinking why did God want me to go? He wants me to know that I do not need to be afraid. As long as I can lay down myself and give it all to Him, He will lead me step by step and show me the way. Lord, how much you love me that you will choose



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me to participate in this grace-filled and abundant journey to Brazil.

SOUTH AFRICA

There are more than 350,000 Chinese in South Africa and PECCC in Pretoria is situated among these unreached people. Just recently Douglas went to Johannesburg for business and he passed by the "China town," with five big shopping malls each holding about 200 more small shops inside; they work very hard. In this vast unreached land, there are Jehovah Witnesses and other cults working amongst the people already. We can only cry out to our Lord of Harvest to extend our tent and send more Christians to work together in spreading the gospel to save the souls, to serve these fellow Chinese.

The crime rate is increasing because of inflation, which is leading to many difficulties among the Chinese as a whole in South Africa. Chinese become the target - because of the language barrier, they tend to give money to the police in order to be at peace without realizing that this will cause many problems in the long run. People also know that Chinese use cash to deal in business and they also know that Chinese prefer to keep money in their houses. Pray for safety for the Chinese in South Africa, and pray against the corruption and injustice.

The Christian Fellowship at the University of Pretoria launched their first meeting on campus and 17 students attended. We are excited about this outcome and hope that God will equip the co-workers to develop a plan to introduce the gospel to the university students.

GHANA

Since January 2010, CIM Canada has expanded its ministry to a French-speaking Togo. Our Lord has brought Pastor Matthieu Ayena to join us as our Togo Ministry Director. He has been doing a faithful and fruitful ministry in that country. Pastor Ayena speaks French, English and Mandarin. He is a native Togolese and has immigrated to Canada for more than a decade. He travels to Togo regularly but he is open to church invitation to share what God is doing in Africa. For the past 20 months, CIM Canada has been working in partnership with a local Togolese church group, Eglise de la Grace en Christ (The Grace in Christ Church), to conduct church leadership training, church planting, micro-financing

and scholarships for needy families. We have followed a holistic model which we have found necessary in the context of Africa.

We are recruiting STM teams to support the church leadership training and church planting ministries in Togo. People joining our STM teams do not have to be French-speaking because we can find local pastors to translate from English to French or to other local dialects.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. The Brazil short-term mission team started a monthly prayer group to pray for Brazil. Pray that the Lord's grace will sustain them in their passion that their serving may bring forth fruits.
2. Ask the Lord to grant wisdom to the Chinese Christian Student Society at the University of Pretoria coworkers and that the Gospel may be spread all throughout the campus.
3. God will raise up workers to serve in South Africa, long term or short term, to meet the urgent spiritual needs of the Chinese there.
4. Please pray that Rev. Wu's rash condition will be completely healed soon.
5. Pray for our ministries now going on in Togo, that our ministries will help strengthen the local churches effectively.
6. Mrs. Pi's eye will be completely healed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: August 2011

	Revenue	Expense	Balance
General Funds	\$1,579	\$3,273	-\$1,694
Mission Funds	\$3,963	\$7,672	-\$3,664
Total	\$5,542	\$10,900	-\$5,358

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