

2013.08.31

Sharing from the South Africa Youth Retreat

[Michael Jin] This mission trip to South Africa allowed me to realize the meaning of “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” Our church, the Taipei Yonghe Church, started supporting this camp since 2008, assisting missionaries and Chinese churches in bringing youth to Christ and helping them grow in their spiritual lives. We thought this time would be just like previous years, but to our surprise the youth were all yearning for God and were ready to accept Christ. Some even became our helpers in leading small groups. The biggest change



was that they were willing to care for their peers.

They were supposed to be the receivers but now they were willing to care. During the camp they experienced God’s mighty work.

I also saw the change in the lives of Fu-Qing believers on this trip. For these Chinese who left their country to come here, their only goal is to make money. But after they believed in Christ they were transformed from takers to givers, having experienced so much of God’s grace. Even though public safety is lacking and robberies are common, they are still able to experience peace and make a living by God’s grace.

Lastly, the missionaries allowed me to experience the increasing blessings upon the church. Rev. Wu offered help to every Fu-Qing family with visa applications, repairing washing machines, tackling problems big and small. All these might not seem to have a direct relationship with preaching the gospel, but because of his sacrifice, brothers and sisters from the community have been coming to Christ and thirsting for God’s word and the church is slowly growing as a result.

[Vanessa Ouyang] Something I noticed on this trip is that the youth in South Africa are very innocent. In their sharing, some of them expressed much contentment and thanksgiving over seemingly simple things. They encouraged and reminded me to have a pure, child-like faith in God.

We were worried about the prayer meeting on the last night of the camp, but the Lord once again did a miraculous thing and allowed us to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit during the meeting. Seeing how these young people, so touched by God and willing to stand

up in response to His call also touched me. When I laid hands and prayed for each one, I was filled with God’s love. I had an indescribable longing for them to truly know God’s heart. All in all, it was a wonderful night.

After camp, Rev. Wu took us on visitations. This period of time made a deep impression on me. I saw the harmonious relationship between Rev. Wu and the brothers and sisters. I also realized through these visits how much the ministry is in need of coworkers. In this place where crime is so prevalent, people can have real peace only by having and knowing God.

I am thankful to the Lord for broadening my worldview and allowing me to have burden to pray for their needs.

[Dave Ka] I was not sure what to expect from this camp, only that I went every year for the past five years and I enjoyed it. Then we were asked to write down what we wanted to gain from the



experience this year and I wrote that I wanted to get to know God more. One of the team members, Diana, shared how she had to choose between prolonging her studies for her Master’s Degree in order to come to South Africa or to finish her studies as she had previously planned. Through her testimony I realized that if we willing to lay down our hopes and desires for God, He will never let us regret that decision. He is a loyal, faithful and trustworthy God. Another team member’s testimony further proved to me that through God all things are possible and that He has His perfect timing for our lives for His glory.

At camp I was put in charge of a small group through whom I learned so much. Clarence is five years younger than me, and he mentioned near the end of the camp how he noticed me looking after him as a younger brother. This really touched my heart. Through this



experience I was able to understand a little more how God is patient with us and looks after us, gently



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guiding us and helping us fix our mistakes along the way.

Chiara was the one I learned about the most at this camp. She had been attending our church for three months but I had not found a way to interact with her. We were in the same group and as we shared our life stories, I got to know her more as a person. I learned that communicating with people is not as difficult as we may think. God also speaks to us in ways that we never expect.

Ultimately, God did not just to teach me about Himself but also he taught me how to emulate His character as He walked me through the process of growth and sanctification.

[Sharon Wu] At the youth camp this year, the STM team showed us a movie. It was about a boy named Simon who was different from any other boys since birth. When he was going through the most difficult time in his life, he leaned on God who went through the tough times with him and was a good friend. There were two things about this movie that touched me. For his whole life, Simon trusted in what God had in store for him. The first sentence Simon spoke in the movie was, "I'm a miracle!" He understood the grace God had bestowed on him and knew that he had to live for Christ. This made me think of the parable of the talent told by Jesus in Matthew 25:14 when He said, "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them." I believe everyone is given certain talents in this life. Whether it is a lot or a little, it should be used for the Lord. I hope that we can

all have the Lord's reward as our goal and have Him say to us, "you good and faithful servant."



Simon also befriended a pal who stayed by him during times of trouble. Their relationship provided courage to each other. I ask that the Lord will impress upon us believers to also leave footprints in other people's lives and be a good influence on them.

Thanks to the Taipei Yonghe Church who has been sending STM teams since 2008 to sow many seeds of the gospel. Their testimonies became examples and encouragement to us. We truly understand that none of this has been easy but could only be accomplished through God's mighty power. Every year the camp has left beautiful memories and footprints in my life,

guiding me to walk this road of faith: "along the way there's you" Lord, may you use this weak vessel to follow the footsteps of these mission team members. That is, the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one they follow, and share the gospel of truth and love to the ends of the earth.

★ PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Ask that God will strengthen Rev. Douglas Wu physically and spiritually.
2. Continue to pray that God will protect and guide Alex Ko and his family while they are studying at the seminary in Taiwan.
3. Pray for wisdom for sister Chrisna as she teaches English to the Fu Qing brothers and sisters to be satisfactorily at various levels.
4. Elder Chris Chen, pastor of Chinese Church in Christ - North Valley in California will be heading to South Africa to lead a three-week discipleship training early in Sept. Pray for fruitful out come.
5. Rev. Douglas Wu will be on home assignment to the U.S. starting at the end of September. Ask that the Lord will grant him and Whitney safe journeys.
6. Many churches in South Africa and Brazil do not have pastors. Ask that the Lord will send forth workers to be shepherds.
7. Pray for CIM's financial needs, especially the administrative expenses.
8. Ask God to raise up coworkers to serve at CIM.
9. Pray for Mrs. Christine Pi's eyes be healed and that she will have good health.

★ FINANCIAL REPORT July 2013

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$1,263	\$3,803	-\$2,540
Missions	\$2,935	\$3,525	-\$590
Total	\$4,198	\$7,328	-\$3,130

If you have the burden for the CIM ministries, you may 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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