



## God again turned my disobedience to obedience

Stephen Tsang

Looking back every time when I go for short term mission I realize I am disobedient every time. But God turned my disobedience to obedience so that I can witness the amazing works He is doing overseas. The original plan for 2019 was to rest, and to slowly move away from my day-to-day office work - going onto another missions trip was not in my plan. After I decided to help out in the Perspectives course this semester, I thought that was it for *my* 2019, but God had more for me. When they reached out to me for the Brazil trip, my initial thoughts was a straight no, and I was able to find convincing excuses not to go...God again turned my disobedience to obedience. After my routine Saturday basketball, I was driving home and ended up finding myself parked in the parking lot of the CCIC Cupertino church. After sitting in on the "information session", again I found myself having all those excuses to not go on the trip. However, God changed my heart over the week and I reluctantly agreed to go on one condition, "leading games ONLY". Of course, I wasn't being flexible and it ended up that God forced me to when I was "ordered" to increase the responsibility.

As I was preparing the message, "How does God see me?" God gave me the opportunity to reflect on my own life and how my life changed over the years through His love. As I was preparing the message, God gave me His heart for the young people there and I started to see the teens the way He sees them and my heart started to ache for them. As I was preparing the testimony, I finally found out why God wanted me to be on the team: I myself was one of those teens before with low self esteem, not knowing what my value was, not loving myself...But God called me and I am able to live in freedom today. "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." I finally obeyed, surrendered, and found enjoyment preparing everything for the teens in the midst of all other obligations.



of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." I finally obeyed, surrendered, and found enjoyment preparing everything for the teens in the midst of all other obligations.

There are two things I would like to mention at the camp, which was leading the small group and presenting the message.

Leading small group – at the beginning I had not expected to lead a small

group, when arrived at the camp the local leader assigned four twelve years old boys for me. The first night we had small group time and they shared openly about their struggle at home. One of them even suggested to read the Bible before going to bed. In Brazil even though life is tough, family is dysfunctional, and the language difficult to learn, but God used these to attract them to be close to Him.

Presenting message – On the third day, presenting the message How God sees us, a follow up of the previous messages, how you see yourself, how others see you. Using the Bible characters and a few examples of modern men how God treasures each and everyone of us, at the end using my own example to illustrate the love of God. In

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for Rev. Douglas & Whitney Wu 's pioneering work in Johannesburg. In June they'll start Chinese Sunday worship in the venue borrowed from a South African church. May God provide local believers to serve.
2. Pray for the health of Whitney Wu, so she could have proper rest despite her busy schedule.
3. Pray for Alex & Nicole Ko's ministry in shepherding the Pretoria church. Ask God for His grace and guidance.
4. Pray for brothers and sisters of the Pretoria church to use their gifts on evangelical and other ministries, and that they can serve together with one heart.
5. Pray for the believers of the Rustenburg church to grow in God's word. Pray for Mrs. Wu's beginning Chinese class for children. Also pray for the safety of Rev. & Mrs. Wu's travels between Pretoria and Rustenburg.
6. Ask God to bless the believers of the Belo Horizonte church as they continue their worship in a new location. Also ask God to give strength to the coworkers, so they may serve with one heart and share the burden in spreading the gospel.
7. Because of the economic situation in Salvador brothers and sisters have either returned to China or moved to other cities for better opportunities, and only two families of believers remain to continue the Sunday services. May God have compassion so that they are not discouraged despite having just a few people. May the believers love one another, and be good witnesses for spreading the gospel.
8. Pray for brother Lin's work in leading brothers and sisters of the Recife church a Bible study group through WeChat, that they can grow in their faith.
9. Pray for the youth in Happy Teens, Sao Paulo that they may be attracted by God's love and want to know God better. Pray for the teachers to have wisdom in helping the youths grow spiritually.
10. Pray for God's blessing for the pastor and elders of the Porto Alegre church as they lead the brothers and sisters in knowing God better and in learning to serve. Especially remember their gospel work among the small businessmen from China, and may God open their hearts to accept Jesus Christ.
11. Pray for God's blessing for the coworkers at the Campinas church so they are able to work together with one heart to spread the gospel and equip the believers. Pray for the STM team due to arrive at end of July to help in the ministry to spread the gospel.
12. CIM Brazil STM team will visit churches at Porto Alegre, Recife, Salvador, and Campinas from 7/11 to 7/31.
13. Pray for CIM Canada's continuing focused cross cultural ministry at Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God for guidance in the gospel work with the Roma people and for more believers to participate in the ministry.
14. Pray for the STM team of the Burnaby Pacific Grace church. They will be traveling to Ukraine from 6/11 to 6/22 for their first contact with the Roma people and to share the gospel with them.

the beginning I asked them "If you think you are not valuable raise your hands", about half of the group raised their hands. Then I asked "If you died tonight does anyone mindful of that", again almost half of the group raised their hands. When I saw hands raised one by one I almost cried. After the message there are some who be mindful of that?" and again almost half of the group raised their hands. When I saw their hands raised one by one I almost cried. After the message there were some wanted to know about Jesus more. The moment that touched me most was that a fourteen year old boy hugged one of our teammates and cried. God uses the difficulties to tell young people how much He loves them.

I am grateful that I was on the team - I was able to once again witness God transforming life like He always does. Life may be hard in Brazil, and family maybe dysfunctional, language maybe hard to learn, God uses all these to draw young people to Him. Seeing those young people worshipping God, breaking down crying in the camp just melted my heart.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2019

	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>General</b>	\$5,531	\$7,127	<b>-\$1,596</b>
<b>Missions</b>	\$7,414	\$11,275	<b>-\$3,861</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$12,945	\$18,402	<b>-\$5,457</b>

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