



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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## New Insights in Short Term Missions

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This past July we wore the full armour God had given us and embarked on the journey of CIM's STM to Brazil. As I look back at the entire two weeks of missions, thank the Lord! It gave me an opportunity to serve and learn with a group of striving and joyful teammates in the Lord. It was a period of joy and good memories for me. At the same time, I had to prepare for my testimony and to think it over to arrive at the best result. Not only did I aim to encourage others, but to renew myself again. However, in the process of my serving, I felt all the effort was worth it and God had already granted me sufficient returns.



This time I went to two cities, Porto Alegre and Recife. There are not many Chinese in these two cities, and there is only one church in each. Every activity we carefully prepared included some unknowns, or there are some changes in the itinerary. For example, we found that because of language barriers, giving testimonies and preaching must have Portuguese translation. And sometimes the effect of the interpretation is not known. But thank the Lord for putting us in situations of learning to rely on Him, allowing us to witness the work that belongs to Him. The last two gatherings in Porto Alegre were much better than what we expected. I think missions will really test a person's faith. By faith we were there to receive God's step-by-step leading in our serving and the providence in our lives each day. Thank the Lord for knowing our needs. He also gave us enough strength to serve Him. There the environment, resources and personnel of church worship are less than sufficient. One can imagine the structure of those activities, especially in Recife. The church is in an atypical situation. How badly is a pastor needed to carefully shepherd and lead. On the other hand, our churches in N. America have excellent gathering conditions, wonderful ministries, no pressure, and no risk. But do we really believe in what we claim to believe, to always look to the Lord's cross and obey the Lord's Great Commission? In the past two weeks, another lesson I learned is that in ministry, God wants us to do our best and be prepared, and also we had to believe that He will lead and use it personally. Each night we went through every detail, summarized and meticulously prepared for the next day. Most of the time during the day, we went to Chinese shopping malls to evangelize, hand out booklets, and to visit brothers and sisters. Due to the tight schedule, it was very tiring. But then I realized that these activities were necessary, and it was helpful as training of my faith.

Looking back now, each of the STM trips has its own unique features. It also allows me to reflect on some of the misunderstandings about STM. Two issues I thought of: 1) If it is equally evangelistic, one can participate in local church gospel activities instead. Why go far to do the same thing? 2) Most missions are in areas of poverty and backwardness. Brazil is a fast-growing Christian country. Is it a wise use of money and energy to go there? It took many years from when I joined the church, got baptized, to being

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for Rev. Douglas and Whitney Wu in their pioneering ministry in Johannesburg and their pastoral ministry in Rustenburg. Pray for healthy bodies and minds, and wisdom. Also ask Him to guard their coming and going.
2. Pray for Pastor Alex and Nicole Ko as they serve in Pretoria. Ask the Lord to give wisdom and grace as they lead the Sunday School teachers, and also that he would open doors to new contacts.
3. The churches that CIM has been in contact with in Brazil are in great need of a stable shepherd to lead the congregations. Ask God to give local leaders and pastoral staff in North America to join the ministry team, equip the believers and spread the Gospel.
4. The economic downturn is affecting the church in Salvador. There are only five or six believers who regularly attend the Sunday worship. Pray for God's mercy and that they not to be discouraged by the small number of people, and strive to spread the Gospel.
5. Ask God to bless the brothers and sisters of the Recife Church, to participate in Bible study, and to take root in their faith. Pray for the new believers to grow in their faith.
6. Ask God to continue to lead the young people of Sao Paulo and Happy Teens Ministry and for the teachers to have wisdom and discernment to help the students to not only excel in their studies, but also grow in spirit.
7. Ask God to bless the pastoral staff in the Porto Alegre church with preaching the Gospel and leading believers to use their gifts to participate in ministry. Pray especially for those who came from China to operate small businesses that the leaders can evangelize to them and open their hearts to Christ.
8. Pray for coworkers at the church in Campinas to work together to spread the Gospel.
9. Ask God to bless the Church in Belo Horizonte, that the believers have a faithful heart to attend church. Ask God to provide brothers and sisters to partner and serve, and grow by serving.
10. CIM Canada is working hard to carry on cross-cultural missions in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God to guide the direction of evangelism to the Romas and ask God to send more believers to participate in the ministry.
11. Pray for the upcoming annual board meeting on October 7 and 8. Ask God to bless and lead the development of CIM's ministry next year.
12. Ask God to give wisdom to coworkers at headquarters as they participate in the ministry. Ask God to increase the number of brothers and sisters to serve and support the ministry of CIM, and make God's kingdom more prosperous.
13. Ask God to enrich CIM's ministry, especially in the general funds budget.

nurtured. Although involved in some ministries, I rarely got involved in missions outside the church door. What I saw with my eyes, heard with my ears, and experienced in my surroundings have been mostly associated with the Chinese in well-off societies in N. America. I have no first-hand experience with the gospel field outside my life circle. And I could not see God's workings in the world. On the contrary, because of my simple life and serving area, my worldview revolves around my own life trajectory. What I think of are my own challenges and disappointments, and perhaps some insignificant serving. Since coming back from Brazil, I realized that the STM field and the STM members gain from each other. Maybe the latter benefits more. The trip helped me open my eyes and see what God's hand accomplished everywhere, which is irreplaceable by other means.



Dear brothers and sisters, let us take advantage of the dawn and hasten to prepare ourselves to be equipped with the Lord, to walk into the mission fields and proclaim His name. Because *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

August 2019

	Income	Expense	Balance
<b>General</b>	\$5,301	\$7,939	-\$2,638
<b>Missions</b>	\$13,100	\$9,636	\$3,464
<b>Total</b>	\$18,401	\$17,575	\$826

To contribute to CIM ministries:

- 1) Make checks payable to “CIM” and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
- 2) Donate online via credit card, go to: [www.cimusa.org](http://www.cimusa.org). Click on “Give” and follow directions. Thank you!



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