



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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Missions begins in our own heart

Nicole Ko

When in seminary, I heard from a pastor who had been serving for over 40 years. He noticed that many churches establish a missions ministry, caring ministry, etc. to engage to believers with different gifts and to better serve the church. He made a note that brothers and sisters might mistake missions for being the responsibility of others who are gifted in evangelism.

Two years ago, we returned to S. Africa as missionaries. During these two short years, limitation in time and competence has prevented us from balancing gospel work and caring ministry. My inability reminds me of this pastor's sharing even more vividly. Indeed, church ministering and missions go hand-in-hand. I am realizing that ministry in general boils down to caring about people. The key is to be a living testimony in activity and service.

God changed my vision while working with a longtime seeker. This seeker shared a similar background to my husband and me in both age and family background. Therefore, it was easier to establish a bond to share the Gospel. We didn't have a good start though. As much as we strategize to reach her, she kept a distance intentionally. Not until God opened up a way did she gradually warm up to us. With an improvement in our relationship, we thought we were one step closer to our goal. Finally, she started sharing her stories, her past and present. One day during my devotional time, I gave thanks to God for my closer relationship with her. I was reminded, "Is she your friend? Why is it a purposeful relationship? Do you love your friend?" Yes. She is my friend. I should love her with Jesus' love, not with strategized conversation or working to reach a certain goal. I should live out my belief in my actions and conversation. I thank God for reminding me of the basis of shepherding and missions. Although this friend hasn't accepted Jesus yet, God is working in her heart bit by bit.

Missionaries face tremendous challenges in the field. They are eager to work for God. However, the most important thing is to be a healthy spiritual being. Without adjusting our service attitude, it is easy to rely on schedules and goals rather than on the Spirit, and on the outcome rather than cultivation of souls. Living out our beliefs and integrating spiritual teaching into our own lives is vital. Once in the past, our two children mentioned that we didn't take them for outings. Yao-En asked me: "Why don't you have time to be with us ever since you became missionaries?" After explaining the why's to them, they didn't ask us anymore. Our younger daughter's bedtime prayer says, "Jesus, please help my dad finish writing his sermon quickly and after that, please don't let daddy and mommy work that much anymore." When being busy, those being ignored are usually our family. Sometimes, we forget that life itself is a service. May God help us to know ourselves better as we seek to know him better, and knowing God's will more and being renewed constantly.

Jesus says we are the light and salt of the world. Light and salt are special characteristics of Christians. These characteristics stay the same no matter who or what you encounter. We need help from God and a reminder from the Holy Spirit! Let's start from where God has put us to live out Christian missions among friends and family. Missions is not only a slogan. The gospel begins in life and integrates into life. Thus, no matter where God leads us, be it long term or short, or staying local, we are to be missionaries and Gospel soldiers.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Gatherings in Rustenburg and Johannesburg are suspended because of the COVID-19. Believers are afraid of going out but welcome visits and Bible study from Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Wu at their houses. Pray for their health and travel protection.
2. Pray for Rev. Wu's plan in training Bible study leaders in Rustenburg.
3. Pray for Rev. and Mrs. Wu's search for a safe residence in Johannesburg since their commute has increased in distance and time.
4. Pray for Alex and Nicole Ko and their service at the Pretoria Church. May God give them wisdom and guidance. Adult Sunday school is planned for discipleship so future co-workers can be built up to serve with their gifts.
5. The Taiwan church helping to transfer offering for Alex Ko will stop doing so in June. Pray for a new church or organization to help with this service.
6. Pray for preparation for STM's in South Africa and Brazil for this year.
7. CIM plans to recruit local leaders to join the ministry team. Pray that God will move in people's hearts to participate in finance and in action to serve together in those un-shepherded churches to glorify God.
8. Pray that God will raise up mature Christians to shepherd and care for believers at the Recife Church.
9. Pray that God continues giving wisdom to teachers of Happy Kids and Happy Teens as they help children and teenagers in academics and spirituality.
10. Pray that God will strengthen pastoral staff in Porto Alegre church to train believers to learn to serve. May God open up people's hearts during the special monthly evangelistic gathering for new immigrants.
11. Pray that God blesses co-workers at the Campinas Church so they will work together to spread the Gospel.
12. Pray that God blesses believers in Belo Horizonte Church with a heart for continuous fellowship.
13. Pray for Pastor and Mrs. Hsieh at the Brasilia Church for their service, that they go from strength to strength.
14. Pray for CIM Canada and their cross-culture ministry in Ghana, Togo and Ukraine. Pray that God moves in people's hearts to care and support cross-cultural missions to spread the Gospel. Pray for new co-worker to Ghana and for God's sufficient grace physically, mentally and spiritually.
15. Pray that God will bless co-workers at CIM headquarters with wisdom in their work. Pray also for more believers to serve together.
16. Pray for abundant provision of all financial needs.

2020 STM

Brazil

Application Deadline: May 01, 2020

Date : September 3 — 15

Location : * Salvador
* Recife

Date : September 16 — 30

Location : * Campinas
* Porto Alegre

South Africa

Applicaton Deadline: July 01, 2020

Date: December 20 — 29

Location: * Pretoria

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$11,776	\$6,761	\$5,015
Missions	\$11,093	\$12,945	-\$952
Total	\$22,869	\$18,806	\$4,063

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 Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!



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