



Brazil News updates

We are happy that Rev. Jorge Loo, our longtime partner in Brazil is joining our CIM team as the local missionary in our Brazil field.

As many of you know, we have been seeking the Lord's provision to send missionaries to Brazil to reopen this field and continue to develop Chinese gospel ministry there. In 2010 we decided to launch Short Term Missions. By God's grace, for the past decade, Brazil Short Term Missions teams served in churches in the ten most populated Brazil State capitals. Most of the churches in these cities are without pastors and they need encouragement and substantial help. During this period, Pastor Jorge Loo began leading the São Paulo Gospel Medical Team in the ministry with our STM team since 2012. He and his team provide a free clinic to Chinese churches serving believers and overseas Chinese immigrants. The medical team helps people with physical needs while the STM team helps with their spiritual needs.

God has continued opening doors for us. The Chinese churches that we have visited for many years continue to invite our STM teams to help. They even hope that we will send long term missionaries to shepherd them. In the past few years, we have invited pastors in the US to travel to Brazil at different times in order to equip church leaders to gradually become self-reliant through systematic teachings and training. However, to a certain degree, these pastors have been hampered by their lack of language skills in communicating with the Brazilians. This includes coordinating the logistics of transportation among the believers and their shops. They needed someone to be their guide in every aspect of life while they were serving in these cities.

Therefore, we prayed that God would raise local co-workers in Brazil to serve. We learned that Pastor Loo retired from the São Paulo Baptist Church at the end of 2019, and that he would be willing to participate in CIM's ministry in Brazil at a greater capacity. Pastor Loo grew up and served in Brazil so he will not have the cultural, logistical, and language difficulties that co-workers from the US would, resulting in greater efficiency in the use of his time. Pastor Loo is an ideal candidate. Not only is he a very experienced pastor, but he also served as the academic dean at the seminary. He is seasoned in training fellow workers and was the chairman for the CIM Brazil Committee for many years. Therefore, after much prayer, Pastor Loo has felt the call of the Lord to join our CIM team. Pastor Loo's appointment as the local missionary of the Brazil field starts in June.

We are very grateful to God and pray that God will greatly use Pastor Loo in advancing the gospel ministry in Brazil. Please pray for him in this ministry.

In other news, while in general Brazilian life was already tough, the pandemic has made things much worse. The president's denial of Covid-19's seriousness has put many more at greater risk, and contributed to the suffering. In addition to the pandemic, there have been recent catastrophes in Brazil, including a flood in Belo Horizonte, and a great fire in the Amazon jungle.

The shelter-in-place lockdown was put into effect in March, with no church activities and schools temporarily closed. All the churches are using online worship and Bible study via internet services.

We have been keeping close contact with the Chinese churches in different cities. One pastor wrote worriedly: "We are concerned about the church's program this year. It has been sixty days without church service." Indeed there are so many uncertainties in the days ahead, we have to trust God for His mercy and care.

After consulting with various church leaders, sadly we have decided to postpone all Short Term Mission trips until mid 2021.



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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray that national and local leaders govern according to God's wisdom.
2. Pray for God's guidance and provision for those who have lost jobs, income, and benefits.
3. May the pandemic be under control sooner so that gatherings can resume. Pray for God's healing, protection and that people will turn to Him and know Him in this crisis.
4. After South Africa (SA) announced that stores could resume business, it is a dilemma for brothers and sisters: the risk of being infected if they open, and bringing on an economic crisis if they remain closed. Pray that God will grant wisdom to protect them and for them to rely on God.
5. Pray for those working in combating the pandemic in SA. May the Lord help the people of SA to cooperate with the government and fight the virus together.
6. Pray for the health of Rev Douglas and Whitney Wu and Pastor Alex and Nicole during this extraordinary period with the global pandemic spread.
7. For now, all Sunday worships in SA can only be done online. May the Lord give wisdom to support and encourage brothers and sisters to continue to grow. Pray for families who are still unable to use online video Bible study and can only listen to audio.
8. A heretic church, South African Good News Chinese Church has invaded the SA Chinese churches. It is suspected that the coordination headquarters is in Pretoria. Pray for the local Chinese churches in particular, so that the believers could distinguish what is real and what is not.
9. After factories and large organizations resume work in June, there may be a new round of intermittent power outages. If this happens during gathering time, the wi-fi network connection will be affected. Please pray.
10. Pray for God's help to Alex and Nicole Ko in effective time management. At present, there are multiple levels of Bible study classes and lessons for new believers Monday through Friday.
11. Pray for all the churches' ministries. Since brothers and sisters are not attending church meetings in person, offerings are almost nil. Please ask God to provide.
12. Grateful that Pastor Jorge Loo has joined the CIM team to expand ministries in Brazil. Pray for strength and for his service with the Chinese churches to spread the Gospel and save more people.
13. Pray for CIM Canada's cross-cultural missionaries in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God to grant wisdom and guidance as to when to start sending STM teams to work on the Lord's harvests.
14. Pray that God would grant wisdom to coworkers to do their duty to complete the ministry entrusted by the Lord. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to participate in serving so that the kingdom of God will be more prosperous. Pray that God will provide for CIM's financial needs.

South Africa

On March 5 the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed; it was brought in by someone who recently returned from Italy. We thank God that it was not someone from China and that this did not allow xenophobia any foothold. On March 26, a national lockdown was enforced in order to contain the virus. Coupled with the comorbidity of TB and HIV which are prevalent in South Africa, there is an increased risk of high mortality rates throughout the country with the spread of the virus. Starting May 1 the government announced a change to level 4 blockade, which means that some shops could be opened; they may allow people to resume inter-provincial travelling, church gatherings or fellowship activities soon.

Both Rev. Douglas Wu and Pastor Alex Ko have been able to conduct online services for Sunday worship and Bible study. Even though some of the congregation are not familiar with the internet, they were able to communicate through WeChat in order to listen to the messages. Because they have not been able to go to work, they have had more time to commit to Bible study online. Also, this has allowed the opportunity for some non-believers to participate in the Sunday worship online since they do not have to attend church. Praise God for his mercy and provision. We pray that these new methods of communication will spur both believers and nonbelievers toward a stronger faith during these unprecedented times.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$8,111	\$6,466	\$1,645
Missions	\$9,983	\$5,232	\$4,751
Total	\$18,094	\$11,698	\$6,396

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