



A Personal sharing from a recent STM trip to Togo

Pastor Joel Uong

I never thought of going to Togo for a STM with my two older siblings, Aiwah and Kim. Back in March 2019, when Aiwah told me that she was planning to go for a STM to Togo for the third time, I felt right away that she would like me to join her, although she did not mention it. I said to myself and to God that I was not going. I said my strongest and seemingly invincible argument: my youngest 8-year old Emmanuel died suddenly two months earlier with a cardiac arrest at home without any warning sign, due to the neglect/error of the medical staff, within 12 hours after a simple medical procedure of dilatation of his bowels. My family was so devastated, we were so grieved. Our lives were so shattered that we were just trying to pick up the pieces to carry on. I was the one who needed to be comforted and healed and restored, and being in such a miserable state, how could I bring any good news, encouragement, comfort or hope to others?



To my surprise, God was not upset at all and He did not even argue with me. Yet, in His most amazing grace and unfathomable wisdom, He very gently used my argument to show that He understood me perfectly, because He has been there with the loss of His very own Son. As Romans 8:32 says, *“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all.”*

Will I give up my son in exchange for anything? Absolutely not! And yet, out of His love, God did not even spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us. This is unfathomable to our human minds, yet God did it. Yes, for us all, including the people in Togo. God’s sacrificial love melted away my defenses, comforted my heart, and brought healing to my soul. I then said to God, “I don’t know how much You could use me in Togo, but if You want me to go, I will, as You lead me.”

I will never regret the decision to go on this trip because this STM turned out to be a life-changing experience for me and my siblings, as well as to

all the people we met. Throughout the trip, God reminded me that He desires all men to be saved. God’s heart desire was so strong that Jesus Christ offered up Himself as a ransom for all (see 1 Tim. 2:3-6). Such is His great love that is so unconditional, boundless, selfless and self-sacrificial. Every day in Togo, God touched my heart and put me to tears as He shared His heart desire. I was in awe of the most amazing intimacy that I had with God. I came to the Lord for more than 33 years and have been in pastoral ministry for 25 years, but I never experienced God’s intimacy to this degree. I was amazed at how close I could be to God, and how quickly I could download His instructions whenever I needed and cried out to Him.

We went to visit a Christian brother in a village where the chief was very anti-Christian and hostile to the Gospel. Because of this, God’s work there was hindered for quite a while. Upon our arrival, God put a burning desire in my heart to visit the chief right away. God clearly instructed me to not share the Gospel this time but showed me two words instead: to show “respect” and “appreciation” to the chief. As a result, our



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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. The number of people infected with Covid-19 in South Africa has increased every day recently. Chinese diaspora is also infected! Please pray for the situation and for the church. Ask God to keep them from being infected.
2. Pray for the health of Rev Douglas and Whitney Wu and Alex and Nicole during this extraordinary period with the global pandemic spread.
3. Later in November, Alex Ko and family are returning to Taiwan for home assignment. Because of the epidemic, he does not know if they can pursue according to plan and ask God to lead them.
4. Rev Douglas Wu used video visits, caring, and leading Bible studies because he was worried about anyone being infected by the virus; brothers and sisters who asked for individual prayers are getting more and more! Pray for mercy!
5. In addition to preaching, Alex is also taking seminary courses. Ask God to give him wisdom, learn how to allocate time, and study in safety.
6. Pray for the overall Covid-19 situation in Brazil and for the infection rate to slow down.
7. Pray for the Chinese community as most of them are small businesses owners who are hit hard financially by the situation.
8. Pray for the members of the various churches there for God to keep them safe from the virus.
9. Pray for God to strengthen the church leaders to keep up with the fellowship and shepherding when they can't meet personally.
10. Pray for the Christians there to have faith and peace in the Lord during this time of uncertainty.
11. Pray for CIM Canada's cross-cultural missionaries in Ghana, Togo, and Ukraine. Ask God to grant wisdom and guidance on when to start sending out STM teams to work on the Lord's harvests.
12. Pray that more donors will give financially to CIM Canada in 2020. Though many of their ministries have been put on hold, they still have financial obligations with their partners to care for the church planters and village schoolteachers.
13. Pray that God would grant wisdom of 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 funding needs.

meeting was so refreshing with singing and dancing at the end with Ps 133:1, *"How pleasant and good to dwell in unity"* (in French). There were several incidences where I was uninformed of the church gathering, and the Holy Spirit gave me words to share with the congregations on the spot. I was amazed of how close the Spirit was to me and how He instantly answered my prayers for the edification of the church. On one occasion, the Spirit gave me revelation when we were casting out demons for a sister, and that saved the day! There were so many other incidences where our team experienced the closeness and intimacy with God, uniting our hearts with God and with each other.

All in all, together under the leadership of CIM Canada Togo Ministry Director Pastor *Matthieu Ayena*, our team was able to lead a workshop for the women, Sunday school for the kids, a business workshop for the church, music classes (piano and guitar) for the youth, Biblical training for the church planters (pastors, leaders and Bible college students), and to daily visit the villages to share the Gospel with the villagers.

God earnestly wants us to share His heart's desire. Let us open our hearts and enter into a deeper intimacy with Him, so that we will passionately share His love with others. For God our Savior desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 1:3-4).



FINANCIAL REPORT

May 2020

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$6,780	\$6,446	\$334
Missions	\$14,363	\$5,563	\$8,800
Total	\$21,143	\$12,009	\$9,134

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- 1) Make checks payable to "CIM" and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA
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