

Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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New Year's Devotional Message: "I'm Not Ashamed of The Gospel"

~Rev. Yoman Man

Have you ever been afraid to share the Gospel? Why are you afraid? Who is it that makes you feel afraid to share the Gospel with?

The apostle Paul said to the believers in Rome: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes ..." (Romans 1:16) Why did Paul emphasize that he himself is not ashamed of the Gospel? He wanted to tell the believers in Rome that sharing the Gospel to the Romans would not make him timid, nor would he be ashamed to speak out, and he dared to go to Rome to preach the gospel. He said in the previous sentence: "That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome." (vs. 15)

The city of Rome is the capital of the Roman Empire, gathering the elites of the entire empire. Those who can live here will not only be proud of themselves, but, in fact, they are indeed the best talents in the empire. Today, in front of rulers and leaders, some believers may not dare to open their mouths to preach the Gospel, thinking that the content of the Gospel will make them feel that it is not enough; The content is so simple that it makes the other party feel ignorant and does not reach the level of their philosophy and their thought. In the presence of such people, those who are ready to share may feel cowardly. But Paul insisted that he would not have such idea. The reason why he dared to go to Rome to share the Gospel was he was "not ashamed of the Gospel."

To overcome one's own psychology of "being afraid to share the gospel", one must have a stronger belief in one's mind than the environment. The reason why Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel was because he knew that "the Gospel is the power of God". In fact, the Gospel is a manifestation of "God's power" and a revelation of "God's justice" as a simple way of salvation or even as a foolish doctrine to ordinary people. Paul knew that the Romans would laugh at those who share the Gospel and even persecute them, but Paul had the belief that "the Gospel is the power of God" in his mind, so he went to Rome to preach the Gospel.

Therefore, if you want to overcome the mentality of "being afraid to share the Gospel", you must have the knowledge that is stronger than the obstacles. Why "I'm not ashamed of the Gospel", because I know God's power is great, and God can save all people. Whether the other party is a ruler or leader, a high-level intellectual, a radical religious person, or someone with a stubborn heart of stone, the Gospel is the power of God to save and transform people. I know that God can save all believers. No matter who they are. As long as they sincerely believe, the Gospel will be effective. The only condition for "salvation" is to believe humbly. God's deeds in believers are beyond our imagination, and the wonders of God's deeds are also beyond the other party's expectations.

After the saved first heard the Gospel we preached, they saw God's justice in their hearts, and knew that they were a perishing sinner; Believe in Christ, accept Christ, rely on Christ, follow Christ. Those who believe in this way will surely receive Christ's redemption for them, free themselves from the power of sin and death, be justified by God, and gain eternal life. Those who believe are reconciled to God, adopted as children by God the Father, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. In this life, there is the presence of God and the nurturing of the Holy Spirit; in the future, the body will be resurrected and enjoy glory. The scope of the Gospel covers the beginning to the end of time, the effect of the Gospel extends to the entire human race and all creatures, and the content of the Gospel is extensive and profound. How can such a Gospel not be great enough? How can such a Gospel not be deep enough? How can such a Gospel be a shame to those who deliver it? On the contrary, those who dare to share the Gospel are certainly not ashamed of it.

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Next time, when we meet someone we are afraid to share the Gospel with, we must have such a strong belief: firmly believe that the Gospel is the power of God, and will save all who believe.

(The content was previously shared in the Chicago Short-term Mission Outreach Center)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1. Please continue to pray for Johannesburg Stanton Church's gospel development work and contact with new friends, ask the Holy Spirit for help, lead the lost sheep outside His circle, and add the number of saved souls to His own church. Pray the same for Rustenburg.
- 2. Whitney had returned to Taiwan for physical examination, CT scan, colonoscopy, gastroscopy, etc. Please pray for the Lord's peace, and please pray for her and their son's (Clarence's) smooth recovery of health insurance.
- 3. Please pray for Nicole's mom in China as she has contracted COVID more than once. She had also needed oxygen tank.
- 4. After PECCC's Christmas season activities, ask the Lord to lead brothers and sisters to actively participate and provide for all needs for their serving.
- 5. In January next year, the discipleship training class of *Belo Horizonte* Chinese Baptist Church and the preaching training class of *Machala* Church will be resumed every Tuesday night and the Chinese Christian Fellowship Bible study classes in these two churches every Thursday. Please ask the Lord for guidance and blessing.
- 6. Please pray for the Belo Church to begin gathering at a new location in *Barro Preto Baptist* Church starting next year.
- 7. Pray for our new 2023 Board of Directors at CIM Canada. Pray for Ukraine as Russia continues their invasion of the country. Pray for House of Mercy and the HOM community as they are helping refugees who have flocked to their area. Praise God that Tomson and Lisa have returned safely to Canada after their trip to Ukraine where they brought encouragement to our supported Roma communities and House of Mercy. They also helped with humanitarian aid.
- 8. Pray for the pastors and teachers that CIM Canada supports in Ghana and Togo. Inflation is currently very high and the cost of living including petrol, food, and power have increased significantly and many are struggling to get by financially.
- 9. Pray for the recruiting effort underway to fill job vacancies in CIM for a Director of Ministry to oversee STM and daily operations, and an Executive Director successor. If you know of anyone who is interested and qualifies, please contact us.
- 10. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the ministry so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

NOTE

Please call 408-596-4567 to contact CIM for questions or comments. Thank you for your continual support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Nov 2022

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	Balance
General	\$63,641	\$16,161	\$47,480
Missions	\$117,699	\$93,860	\$23,839
Total	<u>\$181,340</u>	<u>\$110,021</u>	<u>\$71,319</u>

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 <u>online</u> via credit card, go to: <u>www.cimusa.org</u> Click on "Give" and follow directions. Thank you!

