



# Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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## Reflections from the Short-Term Mission in Recife

~Li Li Chen

Coworker from Recife Chinese Christian Church

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Peace be to brothers and sisters:

On July 15, 2024, Rev Jorge Loo, Mrs. Loo, and Elders Fu, Jennifer, and Victor from the North American CIM short-term mission team came to Recife to provide free medical consultation and visit the compatriots living here.

Coworkers worked together and performed their services. On the afternoon of the 16th, a free clinic was held at the church. Because we were familiar with the city center, brother Qi Fei and I were responsible for accompanying the pastor to visit the free clinic. There used to be a free clinic set up in the city center, renting a place and waiting for fellow countrymen to come to the clinic. This time the pastor said that we should take the initiative to go out and visit overseas Chinese stores and conduct free clinics. I did not initially agree with that suggestion. The stores are small, so how could we provide a free clinic? How do the elders from the U.S. preach the Gospel? The preaching approach is frowned upon. I was psychologically prepared and knew that I must stay calm.

Hallelujah, I really didn't expect that starting on the 17th, this visit would go on non-stop for three and a half days with the pastors and elders and their wives, and elders. I didn't really believe how to do a free clinic inside stores. It is very difficult to preach the gospel in the culture that has been dominated by Buddha and Mazu (a popular Taoist and Chinese Buddhist goddess of the sea.) I thought we would do this one or two days and then that's it. I made a plan in advance to visit the free clinic for just one day. If I could not finish it, I would continue the next day. As a result, the more I walked, the more passionate I became. I really wanted to go all the way to the center of Recife, so that more fellow countrymen could feel this love, the love of Jesus, from our short-term mission team.

This time I followed Rev and Mrs. Loo, and the elders, and I really benefited a lot. Everyone should know that our fellow Chinese are very reserved. Just like the free clinic, no one took the initiative to sign up, so each family needs to be contacted individually. Following the pastor and his wife, we conducted free clinics focusing on those who had signed up and visited them along the way. Mrs. Loo spoke softly and combined the visits with free clinics. After checking pulses, cupping, and acupuncture, people were smiling and happy, saying that their bodies felt much better. For those with some serious problems, Rev and Mrs. Loo patiently gave guidance and suggestions, and the people listened attentively. It was a pity that I did not know anything. Otherwise, I could do more to help. Seeing Mrs. Loo being so busy and organized, I felt a light shining in her.

Elder Fu, Victor and Jennifer were so patient, caring, and greeting and chatting, also helped with the supplies. I was worried that their preaching and other things would cause resentment. As it turned out, I was worrying too much. When we went to every store, we felt like we were going to the store of our own brothers and sisters, greeting them, caring and helping them.

As a result, Rev and Mrs. Loo concentrated on the free clinic, and they were chatting about daily lives. But brother Qi Fei and I both got anxious. We were thinking, "why didn't we talk about God or Jesus yet?" Later I realized that I was just small-minded. This is how the seeds of the Gospel were sown. It's in the hearts where things are moistened silently, watered slowly, and became beautiful. Germinate, blossom, bear fruit...

Use your heart to feel your soul and use your life to influence others' lives. It is more effective than any preaching!

I was worried about two things. One was that I was afraid of spreading my cold to others, so I prayed every day to ask for the Lord's precious blood to cover me. Second, I was afraid that everyone will become tired. We are all quite old, especially Rev and Mrs. Loo, who should be at home enjoying their family and taking care of themselves in their old age. Brother Qi Fei was the base and Mrs. Loo was the forerunner. I could only scurry all the way and followed as much as I could. I really admired them. On the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, I walked around the streets non-stop and visited free clinics. On the evenings of the 19th and 20th, free clinics continued at the church. Dr. Shi Hong and Dr. Guo-Zheng from Recife also joined the free clinic despite their busy schedules. How great was this kind of love? The strong and tired body persisted without slacking off.

There is another feeling I want to share... Someone asked, how much does it cost for diagnosis and treatment? I said none needed. *Por amor de deus* (Portuguese for "for the love of God"). I was very proud when I said this. Not only was I proud, I also felt a power, a powerful

force. Because Almighty God is our God, our King, our rock, and our fortress, unshakable and omnipresent!

I have said this before, but it seems to be a very popular mantra. This time through the love released by the pastors, teachers, wives and elders of the short-term mission team, I feel this love deeply in my heart, and I also feel this—the power of love. If I say this again in the future, I think it will come from my heart.

Another thing is also very touching. Not only our countrymen, but also our coworkers in need, local friends, pastors and their wives were also very kind and meticulous. I still have a bit of nationalism and put Chinese people first. However, the pastor and his wife treated everyone equally and asked about acupuncture treatment seriously. People could not help but sigh at how the pastor and his wife could be so patient... Then they suddenly realized that in the kingdom of God, we are all one family. So are we not all brothers and sisters? My horizons are just too small...

I feel that I am ignorant and weak. I am not young, yet I am still so immature in my spirit. I am not preaching, just personal actions that I like to inspire you, and the light shines on you, attracting you to want to get closer. I think of Rev and Mrs. Loo who came to Recife more than 20 years ago, because I felt the light was emanating from them. I couldn't help but get close to this team. Wow, thank you and praise the Lord! Today I am also in this team. Although I am still very naive and shallow, Lord, I am willing to work hard and follow in your footsteps.

Thanks to the free clinic team and the CIM North American short-term mission team, the seeds of the Gospel were deeply planted in Recife.

May the Lord's spring rain and autumn rain irrigate it, take root, sprout, and thrive! All because of our Lord! *Por amor de deus* (For the love of God)!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thank the Lord for leading Pastor Alex Ko and family to successfully complete their home assignment trip in the U.S. and return to South Africa safely. They have a deeper sharing, more knowledge and understanding with the pastors, brothers and sisters, and hope to have more connections in future ministries.
2. Thank the Lord that after returning to South Africa, Pastor Alex had the opportunity to take Rev and Mrs Qiu to Cape Town for three days before they returned to Canada, and they had a wonderful and pleasant fellowship.
3. Pastor Alex Ko and their family have been away for more than a month. After returning to South Africa, they have many ministries to prepare for: there will be co-worker development classes, seekers need to follow up on classes, and they will prepare for the Mid-Autumn Festival Gospel Sunday. Please ask the Lord to give them strength and grace. .
4. In the second half of the year, Pastor Ko and his team plan to visit two cities (Ladybrand and Polokwane) to see if there are any opportunities for ministry expansion. Ask the Lord to arrange a suitable time to reveal His will.
5. Pray for the new course to be started in the discipleship training class of Belo Horizonte Chinese Church in Brazil on Mondays: Coworkers Shaping Leaders And Cultivation.
6. Brother Renfei, a classmate who was in discipleship, will return to Qingdao, China to work at the end of the month. Pray that he will continue to participate in discipleship.
7. Pray for the discipleship training classes held every Thursday evening at the Belo Chinese Church.
8. Pray for Pastor Isaac as he finalizes plans for a trip to Ghana and Togo in September.
9. Pray for CIM Canada coworker, Janice, in Ghana as she continues with her ministry after her maternity leave. Pray that she can find balance between her work with CIM and caring for her daughter, Lucy. Pray for the process of obtaining an indefinite residence permit.
10. Pray for the pastors and teachers that we support in Ghana. Inflation is still greatly affecting their lives. Pray for wisdom to know how to support pastors on how to empower church members to support their churches in these economically challenging times. Pray for peace as it is an election year. Pray for rain for the farmers who are greatly affected by climate change.
11. Pray for the finances of CIM Ministries. Pray for new donors and a healthy general fund to run our ministries. In order to run our ministries effectively, we are currently seeking monthly donors.
12. Please continue to 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.
13. 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

July 2024

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>General</b>	\$30,769	\$8,771	\$21,998
<b>Missions</b>	\$45,815	\$38,158	\$7,657
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$76,584</u>	<u>\$46,929</u>	<u>\$29,655</u>

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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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