



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

10.01.2024

Amazing Walk of Grace—Pretoria, South Africa

~Rev Chiu Chien-Wan
Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church, Canada

The church I serve has a six-month sabbatical starting from mid-March, so I booked a flight to go back to Taiwan for two months in early April. I arranged to visit some old pastors, old classmates from the seminary, and teachers I hadn't seen for a long time. I returned to Canada at the beginning of the month. Before returning to Taiwan, I was chatting with Mrs. Christine Pi. Christine asked if I was willing to go to South Africa for missionary work. It happened that the missionary family Pastor Alex Ko of the Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian Church (PECCC) there was returning to the United States from the end of June to the end of July to share their work with supporters. Perhaps during their absence, I can go to South Africa to temporarily support the ministry of the PECCC. God's timing is always so wonderful.

The missionary journey of the PECCC in South Africa was an experience full of meaning and challenges. During this month and a half, my wife and I were responsible for the main ministries of the church, including Sunday worship, women's Bible studies, elderly gatherings to share meals, small group Bible studies and other activities.

Sunday Worship—This is the core of church life. Every Sunday, I led the congregation in worship and preached the Word of God. My sermons need to be prepared to ensure that the message motivates and encourages the congregation. During the worship service, I prayed and sang hymns with the congregation (my wife helped lead hymns and children's Sunday school), and once held the Holy Communion with the brothers and sisters there. This is a time for everyone to be spiritually renewed and inspired.

Women's Bible Study—This Study is a great opportunity for female believers to study the Bible in depth. In these gatherings, sisters can be guided to study scriptures and explore their application in modern life. This is not only a time for biblical learning, but also an opportunity to share life experiences, support and encourage one another. Through these Bible studies, sisters are able to grow in their faith and find spiritual strength in their lives.

Elderlies' Gathering to Share Dinner—This is an event specially set up for the elderlies in the church. The current theme and sharing content of the gathering are mainly based on the Gospel of Matthew, but also in order to give them an opportunity to exchange beliefs and life experiences with each other. The progress of the Bible study is a little slow, and the meal sharing after the meeting is an important part. Everyone can enjoy delicious food in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere and enhance mutual understanding and affection. Not only does this allow them to feel cared for by the church, but it also deepens the connection between them.

Small Group Bible Study—This Study is an important activity for exploring the Bible in a more in-depth manner and strengthening connections among believers. There is currently a small group where members can share their insights and experiences during the Bible study process and learn and inspire each other. The discussion of the problem can be interpreted from different angles. This enables members of the small group Bible study activities to better understand the Bible and practice faith in daily life.

Interlude—While supporting the church PECCC, a non-Christian Hong Kong woman suddenly was faced with the passing away of her husband. Although the service was left to the funeral home to handle the necessary government procedures, she had no one to help with the funeral ceremony. She went to inquire about the local Buddhism. The liturgy was not only a cumbersome process but also expensive. So, through the church sisters and Pastor Ko, my wife and I arranged and led the Sabbath service for their family. We also took the opportunity to preach the gospel to all the relatives who attended during the service. We have become close friends with her, and we hope that the Holy Spirit will continue to work so that the seeds of the gospel can grow and thrive in their family.

Receiving love and care—During this missionary process, my wife and I deeply experienced the love and care of brothers and sisters of PECCC. Their support in all aspects makes us feel like home. Whether it is assistance in ministry or care in life, brothers and sisters gather to pick up and drop off for the worship service, deliver gas heaters to those in need, entertain us with meals from time to time, and take us to various scenic spots in South Africa to appreciate the beauty of God's creation in our free time. As soon as Pastor Ko

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returned to Pretoria after their trip, he did not unpack but took us to Cape Town, the Cape of Good Hope, etc. These love and caring will become very important and unforgettable memories for my wife and I while in South Africa.

Conclusion—This missionary trip to the PECCC in South Africa was not only a practice and test of faith, but also a profound baptism of one’s own spiritual life. Through various activities , we witness the work of God during this time, and experience the richness and growth of spiritual life in the process of serving others. I am grateful for God's grace and deeply grateful to CIM for its trust and support.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Thanks to the Lord, Mrs. Gao Ke has successfully returned to China to visit her aging parents. Please pray that the Lord will continue to take care of their health.
2. During the period when Nicole Ko is away from South Africa, please pray that the Lord will protect and help Pastor Alex’s ministry and life and give him sufficient physical strength and energy.
3. Pray for God’s continued guidance for Rev Lin Yingcong’s service at Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church.
4. Pray for the two brothers in the discipleship training class: *Xiuhe You* (graduated from the South American Chinese Christian Seminary in Brazil this year) and Brother *Zishan Ou*. Pray that through the equipping, God will use them greatly to serve the kingdom of God in the future.
5. 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 her obtaining an indefinite residence permit.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

Aug 2024

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$34,095	\$9,804	\$24,291
Missions	\$52,941	\$43,976	\$8,965
Total	<u>\$87,036</u>	<u>\$53,780</u>	<u>\$33,256</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 online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on “**Give**” and follow directions. Thank you!



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