



1.31.2014

From the Heart of our Board Member

Theresa Poon

I used to think my penchant for adventure and appetite to visit new places were the reasons I keep going on mission trips. But the Lord showed me His plan for our partnership—He leads and I follow. I have the honor of being sent as an encourager to servants of the Kingdom in all corners of the world. And He, in turn, stands as my encourager before, during, and after every trip.

Having gone on a dozen or so short-term trips in the last decade, some jokingly consider me a “mission junky”. Many who have also ventured down this missions path have wondered, as did myself, if we, as short termers, make any difference to the ministry in the mission field. I mean, the seemingly short amount of time, the large amount of resources in manpower and money, and the efforts the local believers and coworkers put forth in hosting and helping us. Are they worth it? Do they count? Well let me tell you, we do. And they do.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that I am so valuable and gifted that without me, whatever program planned will not take place. In fact, it's far from it. I believe time and time again I was being placed in a position that God has equipped and situated me for “such a time as this”.

What convicted me to go every time has been my unwillingness to miss out on any blessings I will get from serving in every corner of this world. God is indeed at work, mightily, in even the smallest, most remote and desolate places that are known to mankind. And until you see and taste the Lord's goodness, you may never get to take a glimpse of what Heaven looks like, right here on earth. This is so just as Jesus prophesized through the apostle Paul in Revelations 15:4 that, *“All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.”* Amen!

Answer the Call to be a CIM Missionary

God's grace is the crown of this New Year. At this beginning, let us plan a new beginning—welcome and receive God's grace in Christ, committed to the will of how to serve our Lord.

As before, God gave opportunities to CIM to serve Him in various countries. Using this monthly newsletter, we wish to, more or less, bring to you updates on how the Gospel is being spread in South Africa and Brazil as well as the commission and needs of bringing people to Christ. We sincerely hope that you will continue to actively participate in the line of duty to serve Him, bringing God's grace to once again pour out on us, allowing us to live a more abundant and more wonderful life. Just like our Heavenly Father said to Jesus in John 12:28, ““I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

We are all familiar with the Great Commission mentioned in John 24:14 that, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” We all await our Lord's second coming. However, Jesus will not return until the end of the world. How can we try to hasten the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? It means we have to earnestly and rapidly take this Gospel to the world, allowing the number of people saved to satisfy the arriving of that glorious day and the Lord will come. “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”—Roman 10:14. We can all quote this passage well. Therefore, we respectfully invite you to join us as our Gospel partner, sharing Christ' love with the world together. We welcome you to our work! Join CIM and go out to tell others of the Good News and be doubly blessed!

“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.” (Exodus 23:20). We only need to have faith, partner with CIM to serve the Lord in the frontline, do our part in bringing the Good News to the local Chinese as well as the indigenous people, allowing them to have the hope of an eternal life. Let us remember to encourage each other. It has never been easy to do God's work. You and I are fearful we will face difficulties and risks. But God's grace is sufficient for us. This large field of missions can ignite with just a spark. Ask the Lord to open a path for more people to join in this mission work.

The two main areas of needs in the CIM fields are:

★ Strategy Focused on Churches with no Full-Time Pastors

Actively plan to train the local workers, allowing them to learn how to lead brothers and sisters, in the absence of a local pastor, to have a systematic mentoring and training to strengthen their faith on a basic level, to learn church administration, as well as provide resources for bible studies. The focus should be on equipping disciples, studying the Bible, involved in missionary work, and encouraging each other to take seminary studies to become pastors.

Alex Ko and his wife from South Africa is a good example. Under the training and encouragement of Rev. Douglas Wu, they enrolled in a Taiwan seminary last year. We hope that more and more brothers and sisters are willing to answer God's call, respond to His love, take a step further into participating in missionary work.

★ Develop Ministry for the Youth Generation

Using youth activities to complement mission policy to maximize the young people's advantages of near-



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culture and foreign-culture in the area of missions to foster them to use the native language to reach the next generation. Thereby continuing the Great Commission by growing, advancing, and going after God's own heart, to be used as a vessel for the new generation.

Another exciting ministry is happening at the Pretoria church in South Africa: their youth will be making use of their two-week winter break in July to do STM in Taiwan. This is to follow-up on a plan that was formed after five days of VBS at a local African church last year. May the Lord raise up more young people to have a burden in the Great Commission.

Believers in the present age, especially in North America, are at an advantage in terms of resources and opportunities with missions when compared to before. We have to take hold our present advantages and do our best for the sake of the Gospel. "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"--Esther 4:14.

God's plan is for every believer to share the Gospel. This is a commandment. Woe to those who do not obey. Because the day of Christ's return is coming and the opportunities to labor will soon be gone. On God's appointed, Jesus will descend from the cloud with might. The Lord's second coming is near. Are you, or am I, ready?

May God's mercy, grace, and peace be with us. Are you willing to respond to this challenge, "Whom shall I send?" "Who is willing to go?" May you be blessed at the beginning of this new year. Please do not be miserly in sharing this Gospel of the Good News with others for if we do share, it will make our lives be more enriched.

We need those of you who are willing to commit to the work of missions! We need more brothers and sisters to be missionaries, willing to commit to partner in the work of missions. Please contact us as soon as possible.

STM Trips with CIM for 2014

Country	Dates	Targets	Language	Location	Sign up by
Brazil	7/24-8/6	Chinese immigrants (adults and youth)	Mandarin / English	Sao Paulo/ Belo Horizonte	3/30
South Africa Youth	7/7-7/15	Chinese (youth)	Mandarin/ English	Pretoria	3/30
South Africa Family	12/31-1/11/15	Chinese immigrants (adults and youth)	Mandarin	Pretoria, Rustenburg	3/30
Ghana and Togo	May-Oct (2-3 wks)	Ghanaians and Togolese	English/ French	Ghana, Togo	3/30

☆ PRAYER REQUESTS

1. The Lord will raise up His servants to help support various ministries in South Africa while Rev. Douglas Wu will be returning to Taipei on Feb 22 to begin receiving his treatment. Also ask that the Lord will care for Mrs. Whitney Wu and their three children and that they will have peace and know to rely on Him for everything. The costs involved in Rev. Wu's medical treatment as well as for those God's servants to travel to South Africa and help with ministries are estimated at around US\$30,000. May the Lord provide for everything and to bless Rev. Wu with a quick healing.
2. The Pretoria Church in South Africa has filed registration paper but have not received approval in six months. Please intercede and ask that the Lord will guide its passage.
3. Continue to pray that the Lord will equip Alex Ko and his family in Taiwan.
4. The Happy Kids and Happy Teens have begun their new school year. Ask the Lord to help the incoming and the current teachers to serve together to plan for the curriculum. Also ask that the Happy Teens can hire a math teacher.
5. Pray that the brothers and sisters in the churches of Brasilia, Belo Horizonte and Curitiba will have a heart to seek the truth and will receive the appropriate guiding.
6. Public safety in South Africa seemed to have gone even worse with the election (May 7). Ask that the Lord will bless everyone with peace, safety, and prosperity amidst the unceasing riots and strikes.
7. Pray for the expansion of the Village School Ministry in Ghana and that He will raise up short-term teams to help with the ministry.
8. Ask the Lord to raise up French-speaking coworkers to join the ministries in Togo.
9. Pray for the organizing and planning of this year's short-term mission teams.
10. Pray to the Lord to grant abundant providence to CIM's financial needs in this year.

☆ FINANCIAL REPORT — January to December, 2013

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$43,763	\$64,116	-\$20,353
Missions	\$46,959	\$48,622	-\$1,633
Total	\$90,622	\$112,738	-\$22,016

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, please send in a check payable to CIM and mail it to P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA. Thank you!

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