



Chinese International Missions, Inc.

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New Year Hope:

Learn from the Lord how to Share the Gospel to Strangers (part 1)

Rev. Yoman Man

At the beginning of this New Year, have you thought of finding someone to share the Gospel? Sharing it with someone you already know is okay, but to preach the Gospel to complete strangers is also good. If everyone is willing to preach to strangers, just as a short-term mission team does, the Gospel will spread at a quicker pace.

Be Prepared to Surpass Barriers

Sharing the Gospel to strangers is very difficult, with especially many barriers to overcome. When compared to sharing it with a friend, more mental preparation is needed. Jesus often preaches to those He did not know. The most detailed record of his practice was in the fourth chapter of the Gospel by the Apostle John. It is very clear that this Gospel writer wants his readers to learn from the Lord these skills. Try to imagine Jesus preaching to a strange woman at the well. If we were the Lord, we have to step out of our personal comfort zone, cross multiple social barriers, but also be careful of any moral temptations. This is no small challenge.

First, there was the inter-racial gap in their society. In those days, Jews and Samaritans do not have any dealings with each other (vv. 9). Today the Chinese people also choose not to have any dealings with some races. The Lord did not allow Himself to be hindered by this social barrier. Today we have to beware of the trap of setting up restrictions on ourselves. These

self-imposed obstacles may also be borne out of our avoidance from followers of other religions. We may choose to isolate ourselves from those who worship Guanyin; to be alienated from avid Buddhist disciples; to sever friendship with argumentative atheists; to be fearful of Muslims; to avoid psychic spirits and the like; or to reject homosexuals. During those days, the bad impression the Jews had with the Samaritans originated from many complex reasons. But our Lord was already psychologically prepared to preach the Gospel to them by rushing out of religious, historical, social customs levels to have communion with them.

Today we will advice believers to avoid unnecessary temptations: to avoid preaching to those of the opposite gender on a one-on-one basis. But in those days, there was another reason why Jewish men do not talk with a woman in a public place (vv. 27). Being bound by the custom of sexism, they are even banned from talking to their own mother, sister, wife or daughter on the streets. However, Jesus' respect for women is on the same level as revealed in the Old Testament. He followed the scripture and was not afraid to break off from offensive practices. Therefore, we are also to pay attention to the blind spots of our own perception when we preach the Gospel. We should build on the teachings and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the example of the Lord Jesus, and the character of our Lord to

surpass an erroneous and imbalanced worldview and to befriend and treat kindly those we meet.

There are many differences between local evangelism and foreign missions work. But both require that we have a willing heart to transcend those barriers by being psychologically prepared. This is precisely, *"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season."*

Fast Food Store is an Ideal Place

A few months ago on a Saturday afternoon, a middle-aged couple from my church, born in the U.S. and grew up in Taishan families, was ordering their meal at a McDonald's fast food restaurant on the outskirts of Chicago. Two other men were also waiting. Somehow they not only began talking to each other, but proceeded to sitting down as well. As the couple shared the Gospel with the men, they invited them to church the next day. They actually showed up. And so began the first page of their contact with the Gospel. From then on, one of the men comes every Sunday to attend worship at my church. It seems the time for him to make a decision is not far away. I want to mention in particular that these two strangers came from Hong Kong, speak mainly Cantonese, and are elderly men in their mid-seventies. Just imagine how many various obstacles you can think of!

As we begin 2016, let's also try to find an opportunity to share the Gospel to a stranger.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. For God's blessing of abundant grace and effective ministry. That our brothers and sisters will glorify God and benefit others.
2. To raise up his servants in South Africa & Brazil to serve the local Chinese as well as send missionaries to harvest the field. Pray for God's will to be done in bringing success to candidates that He has called.
3. To provide a late-model second-hand car for the field in South Africa. Ask the Lord to protect all who travel in the current vehicle.
4. For Rev. Douglas' 2/10-2/15 trip to Taiwan to have his next annual set of screening to make sure the Hepatitis C virus has not returned. Pray for Whitney to have strength and wisdom to take over the ministry during his absence.
5. For the college applications of Rev. Douglas Wu's two daughters, that God will guide the roads ahead and their footsteps.
6. For the safety of South Africa, as civil order deteriorates and robberies continue often.
7. For Brazil's political, social, and economic turmoil. Pray that the brothers and sisters can live in peace. Pray also for peace in the world.
8. CIM 2016 Brazil STM trip is serving in Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre, and Salvador in June and July. Pray for the Lord to call brothers and sisters to participate and support the ministries.
9. The Happy Kids and Happy Teens ministries in Sao Paulo began their three-week Summer School on 1/11. The new school year will begin 2/1. Please pray for students and teachers class assignment as well as all other school business. Pray also that the construction for the extension of classrooms conversion during school holiday will be finished in time.
10. For the newly established coworkers group in the Belo Horizonte church: that God would grant them strength so that they will support, learn, and serve one another with confidence. Also that they would seek to know and experience Him more. Continue to pray for the BH church in their search for a new venue. Pray also for God's grace to provide a convenient location that will better allow the Gospel to go out even more.
11. The attenders of BH church who work at the Oiapoque Mall would have faith in God to take the Sabbath to worship God.
12. The youth of BH Church. Especially pray for the ones who were newly baptized to receive guidance and blessing in their studies and work.
13. For those who have left the Salvador church to China, or other cities: that God would lead their footsteps, bless them with strong faith, and grow them physically, mentally, and spiritually. For those brothers and sisters remaining in the Salvador, pray for them to serve and love the Lord as well as people with more zeal.
14. The church in Porto Alegre: to have strong faith and to raise up more coworkers to join in the church ministry.
15. Porto Alegre church to be able to use their old building site for youth programs and fellowship ministry planning.
16. Pray for the Village Schools Ministry in Ghana. Ask the Lord to call brothers and sisters to participate in STM teams to help support this ministry.
17. Ask the Lord to raise up brothers and sisters to join in ministering in Togo.
18. Ask the Lord to raise up more workers to participate in CIM ministry.
19. Ask the Lord to prepare for all the needs of our ministries and bless us abundantly.

2016 Short Term Mission

South Africa

July 1 - 12, 2016

Youth Camp

Dec 23, 2016 - Jan 5, 2017

Family Camp

Brazil

June 29 - July 14, 2016

July 14 - July 31, 2016

Visitations, personal evangelism, discipleship training, and youth camp

Ghana / Togo

May - October, 2016

Cross Culture Mission
(two to three week intervals)

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FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2015

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$21,567	\$7,739	\$13,828
Missions	\$6,489	\$3,395	\$3,094
Total	\$28,056	\$11,134	\$16,922

January ~ December 2015

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$70,175	\$60,381	\$9,794
Missions	\$51,444	\$58,315	-\$6,871
Total	\$121,619	\$118,696	\$2,923

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, please go to our web: www.cimusa.org, or 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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