

Douglas Wu Family Prayer Letter

01.Jan, 2012

We finally moved into our new home even though we still live in the same community, Enkeldoorn, meaning *a tree* in Afrikaans language. When we first came to South Africa in 2004, we lived in #31. In 2006, we moved to #68. Currently, we are settled in #52. Observing our moving history reminds us ancient Israelites' unnecessary predicament of wondering in the wilderness for 40 years. Therefore while we give thanks to a cheaper rent, R5250/month for the next three years which is R1550 lower than #68's, and an extra room for Helen and Clarence to enjoy some privacy, we caution ourselves not to fall in the same trap as the Israelites. A slight taste of God's provision is one thing, as recorded in Deut. 29:5: "Yet the LORD says, "During the forty years that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. 6 You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God." Following God's guidance through faith is another. In between, we learned the key to Joshua's success in campaigning against the Amalekites-- it was through prayer, your prayers specifically, His promises may come to fruition.

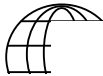
Since our children are out of school for one month, we have more time to go visit outside the home. Through visitation, we found out that nothing drastically happened to the people we care for except two Gospel-friends who were robbed before Christmas but remain unharmed. It seems like the government has made some progress in the area of public safety. But we still want to keep watch and pray with our brothers and sisters for a heaven-sent peace within. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)

After months of anticipation for the short-term missionaries to arrive for our annual Church Retreat, we finally had the joy of picking up Deacon Chang, Rev. Gong, and their family members at the Johannesburg International Airport on December 29, 2011. The preparation period had many ups and downs, such as Rev. Gong's visa application, change of style in youth leadership, and fear generated from South Africa's upheavals. Nevertheless, we learned to submit our burdens to the Lord in prayer. At the Retreat it was a joyful time in God's Word and Christian fellowship as we crossed over to the New Year. On June 2010, Whitney and I shared the CIM vision at Chicago New Light Christian Church. This mission effort is definitely a fruit of the CNLCC's response to God's call.

More surprisingly, Rev. Gong openly announced at the Retreat that he has made the decision to send in his missionary applications, so that he and his family may move and join in African Chinese ministries here in Africa! May the Lord's will be done.



Chicago mission team arrived safely/Retreat preparations in our new home/Start the ministry with prayer



In retrospect, the Retreat had many obstacles. Inflation jacked the fees up to US\$90/2days. Time conflict was another issue. To some brothers and sisters, December 31 is the only day in year to sell firecrackers. Christmas break is long enough for students to visit home. So we prayed profusely for recruitment. Pretoria Evangelical Chinese Christian church, Pretoria Fu-qing Fellowship and Rustenburg Fu-qing Fellowship also supported the effort in prayers. God gave us 46 adults and 5 children not including the five short-term missionaries, and Retreat staffs. This year, we are particularly grateful for Alex Ko and his wife's assistance during the entire operation. Revelations 7:9-10 says, "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

'Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.'"

No doubt, retreat highlights made indelible marks on our lives. Examples are numerous, I'll just list two. Brother Chang and his wife's workshop, "Journey to Intimacy," motivated many married brothers and sisters to hold hands with their spouse in public. This is an incredible improvement for reserved African Chinese. Furthermore, Christina and Jean, two young university students, led our youth program with fresh and dynamic approach. Their ministries bought much hope to our mission work. However, Satan did not stay in idle. First, thieves broke in Brother Ong's shop. Fortunately, he was away for the retreat and not at the crime scene, so timely reports and prompt police response saved him from losses and headaches. Second, sister Li's car was vandalized on New Year's morn at 2:45. She lost an extension cord plus a window to fix. In spite of these disturbances, the Retreat came to a fruitful conclusion -- 4 people came to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. That's how we crossed over from 2011 to 2012.



Christiana and Jean led 15 youth in Retreat



Urgent prayers for Brother Ong & wife



SIM missionary, Eugene Zhuang & family came to visit us in Pretoria



Group photo at 2011 Christmas Retreat



..... Douglas and Whitney's BLOG
<http://tw.myblog.yahoo.com/douglas1218@kimo.com>

Thanksgiving

- 1、 We give thanks to God that Pastor Gong, Deacon Chang of Chicago New Light Christian Church brought their family to South Africa for our church's Christmas Retreat, and they returned home safely.
- 2、 We give thanks for many who came to the Retreat and were built up with peace.
- 3、 Thank God for moving into our new home.
- 4、 We are grateful for our Caucasian neighbors who helped us in accommodating short-term missionaries in their home. May the Lord bless their hospitality.
- 5、 We rejoice over Shijun Ma, Xiufen Yu, Zhichao Luo and Qunying Zeng's new lives in Christ.
- 6、 Thank God for bringing SIM missionary, Rev. Eugene Zhuang's family to visit us from Durban.

SUPPLICATION

- 1、 Please pray for the follow-through work after our youth retreat conducted from Jan.3rd to 5th.
- 2、 Continue to pray for Douglas' healing from nettle rash or urticaria.
- 3、 We are moving Friday fellowship to Brooklyn Reformed Church. Please pray that everything will go smoothly.
- 4、 South Africa is in need of missionaries. May the Lord of harvest send His own labors.
- 5、 South African public safety is despicable. Please pray earnestly for our safety, and our kinsmen to gain an awareness of home safety. May the Lord protect them wherever they go.

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Douglas/ Whitney

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