

Prayer Letter of Douglas Wu and Family

March 1, 2017

The second half of February was the most difficult two weeks of my ministry in serving God; it was such that I almost gave up! I struggled to finish reading Revelation for my 27th reading of the Bible. When I started my 28th reading, the words from *Genesis 21:12* “*But God said to him, ‘Do not be so distressed... Listen to whatever Sarah tells you....’*” thoroughly awakened me. I recalled one morning in January Whitney talked to me about Clarence’s struggle with his college application. It was because his grades from his junior year in high school weren’t very good, so he couldn’t apply for admission to a South Africa university this year. Instead he had to rely on his college entrance test scores from end of 2016 to apply for admission in 2018. But his math and science test scores weren’t good enough for him to apply to the dentistry program as he wanted, but instead he only qualified to apply for the program to study for dental mold making! That morning Whitney wanted to discuss with me if it’d be possible for Clarence to apply for admission to a U.S. community college in September? At the time I raised my voice and was very emotional in my response, and it triggered a mild depression in Whitney! The incident caused a rift in our husband-and-wife relationship, and worse, because of Whitney’s prolonged six-day depression (compared to usually two days before), it caused me to feel as if the end of my ministry was coming. It was truly my most serious spiritual crisis after having accepted the Lord, and all because I didn’t listen to my wife! It was my first time feeling I couldn’t continue my ministry, and I didn’t realize it was me who affected my wife and caused distress to the whole family. During this time I meditated on the deeper meaning of *Amos 3:3* “*Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?*”, which was “*Listen to whatever Sarah tells you.*”

I’m thankful for the consolation, prayer, understanding, and support from our CIM Executive Director, the sharing with Pastor Balex, as well as the psychological consultation from a God’s angel – sister Ruth. I was able to see my own weaknesses and shortcomings, and I confessed my sins to God and repented! Now I clearly understand the service of a husband and wife team is truly of one and together! If there are any fruits of my service, they’d actually have resulted from Whitney’s gentleness in her support for me. God has given me this enormous blessing from day one till now. Similarly, when I encountered any burden, Whitney was there, together with Jesus, to bear the burden with me. And yet, I had overlooked all of it! *1 Peter 3:7* “*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs*

with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.” I thank the Lord I was able to grow my knowledge, begin to learn to respect her, so that nothing will hinder our prayers together. Although I’m just beginning to learn at age 55, but it’s never too late if God is in charge. I thank the Lord that He led me back to the state of my first love with Him, and from there to continue to learn to love my wife. If I don’t love God then how could I love my wife with all my heart and mind within God’s teaching?



Reading Bible in the dark due to electrical wire theft

Potluck in PECCC

Evening worship in Rustenburg

In February there were fierce anti-foreigner riots in South Africa, which were focused on alleged refugees from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Pakistan. South Africans believe those foreigners brought drugs, sex, and immorality into their communities, as well as robbing their job opportunities. The riots mainly occurred in the city of Pretoria where we live. Although the riots may be 20 kilometers away, but we still had to stay away. Brothers and sisters who own stores informed each other to close their stores, and they also prayed for God to send peace to this corner of the Dark Continent. The riots stopped by February 24.

The Ministry of Interior in South Africa continued to tighten their immigration policy. Everyone applying for a temporary visa, with the exception of family accompany visa and student visa, all had to return to their original country of residency first and then apply there. In parallel, the government also started to aggressively examine the store employers and sending them to court for heavy fines if they were found to have hired illegal aliens. These various policy tightening measures have led a few of our brothers and sisters to decide to return home. But on the other hand there are still people coming to South Africa, albeit fewer than before, and most are accompanying relatives or newly married spouses. We’ve lost about half of the attendees in each of our three worship locations, which now number about 20-25 people each, so we’re still very busy! I hope Alex and Nicole Ko would return to South Africa to serve with me after they complete their studies in October. I urge God to lead them through their fundraising efforts, so that they’d experience God as Jehovah jireh and also as God of Ebenezer!



Anti-Nigerian, Zimbabwean, and Pakistani riots in the Atteridgeville area of Pretoria

On the other hand, we've also heard of Chinese missionaries who won't be returning to the harvesting field of South Africa. There are also two missionaries still waiting for visa extension after theirs have expired. The harvesting field of South African Chinese needs workers, and we really need to look upon the Lord of the Harvest to dispatch the workers Himself. Maybe we'd only get non-Chinese to come to South Africa to serve and to do short term missions in the future.

We thank the Lord for His grace to enable sister Chrisna to come and reinforce our pulpit. The Lord also brought sister Fiona from Hong Kong to help with the Youth Fellowship and sermons. She is only 24 and is an OM missionary. She gladly comes to us every weekend and serves the local Chinese alongside with us. We thank the Lord for her over and over.

I want to give thanks for the support and prayers from brothers and sisters of South Africa, and also for their firm beliefs towards God. I'd also like to thank you all for your incessant supplication, such that Whitney and I can experience God's abundant love between us, and furthermore with the Holy Spirit firmly supporting us. Immanuel.



Ms. Huang & Mr. Xie - the two little sweethearts

Rustenburg Children Sunday School

Dinner at brother Xie's home



Helen visiting old Ms. Elizabeth

Praying for Sister Huang before selling her business

3G – Grow/Give/Go



.....[Douglas & Whitney's Blog http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/](http://douglaswufamily.blogspot.tw/)

My E-mail address : douglas1218@telkomsa.net or douglas@cdts.org.tw

THANKSGIVING

1. Thank God that Whitney is recovering from minor depression. During her physical examination while visiting Taiwan, she was diagnosed with a benign tumors on her ovary and uterus. Thank God, she had a good Christian gynecologist who treated her.
2. Thank God who listens to Brother He's prayer for his daughter's marriage, and granted her a husband in God. Also thank God for Brother Zheng's son has found a wonderful sister in Christ.
3. Thank God, Clarence got approval for re-taking math and science examinations. He completed his math test on February 24 and 27 successfully. Please also pray for his preparation on science subject which is on March 03 and 06.
4. Thank God, Clarence and Helen renewed their South Africa passports successfully. The application procedure was completed in less than three weeks.
5. Thank God, Sharon is finally settled in and found a church in Chicago.

SUPPLICATION

1. Pray for Whitney's health and for her diagnostic report on cervical biopsy which she received on March 2. Please pray for her peace and early return to South Africa as soon as possible.
2. Please pray for Douglas and Whitney as they navigate through their relationship and spiritual life. May the Lord grant Douglas humility and perseverance, as he learns to be patient and faithful.
3. Please pray for the merge of the Pretoria Fuqing church and PECCC.
4. Please pray for good results on Clarence's Chemistry examination. Pray for his college admission application in dentistry.
5. Pray for Alex & Nicole Ko for joining the ministries of CIM, for the fundraising before their departure. Pray also for their last semester learning in the seminary, and open the paths for them after graduation.
6. Pray for Helen's application for her South African birth certificate. We hope it will not take 19 months like it did to Clarence.
7. Please pray for political stability, and that the Chinese immigrants would get used to the South African way of life. May our fellow Chinese experience peace by trusting in Jesus.
8. May the Lord continue to raise up His laborers from local churches to serve the African Chinese and make disciples. Our greater hope is to send out more missionaries through CIM to help reap the Lord's harvest.

North American Donations : C I M Headquarters

Title: Chinese International Missions

P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, U.S.A

Please specify the offering is for “Douglas Wu - South Africa Missions”

Taiwan Donations :

華泰商業銀行、石牌分行

帳號：1761000047661

戶名：財團法人臺北市中華基督教長老會石牌信友堂

◎請注明奉獻 CIM 南非宣教士吳元國

Immanuel

Douglas /Whitney

Sharon/Helen/Clarence