

2012.09.30**SOUTH AFRICA**

[Brian Chen]—Thanks to the Lord's leading that allowed me to go to South Africa. Originally, because my father needed his surgery, my family and I decided it was best to participate in a domestic mission trip this summer, but ultimately God's all-powerful healing allowed my father to recover fully from his operation, which allowed me to be on this trip.

In the small group I led, there was already a brother who had been baptized for a while. Even though he had



already accepted Christ, he would stop whenever he came to a difficult spot in reading the Bible. He was also not steady in attending the small groups at church. During different activities within the camp, I watched him slowly warm up to everyone. I truly saw God's leading and protection. On the morning of the last day, he told me excitedly that he looked forward to studying the Bible from because his faith has been re-ignited. It is God's almighty power once again drew him to Himself.

The makeup of this year's team was quite "unique." At the end of the camp, I prayed, hoping that I can at least take the lead and open my mouth. And miraculously God used a most amazing way: as soon as we got to Cape Town we started having "Fellowship Sharing Time". I thank the Lord for granting me this valuable opportunity to interact with co-workers.

Praise the Lord that He kept our journey from the beginning to the end. May He receive all the glory!

[Spring Huang]—I never thought there would be a day that I would go to South Africa! I started praying at the beginning of March when our team leader invited me to join. At the time our family's financial situation would not have allowed me to take this overseas missions trip. I began to seek God. One day during my prayer, I felt I should ask God for a seal of approval. So I prayed, "In the coming week, if I were to read the words "ends of the earth" in the Bible, then I know it is Your will." The morning after that that, I read in Psalms 98:3 that, "He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." Even though the words were different in Chinese, they were the same in English. Praise be to the Lord that this opportunity allowed me to lead and provide for me

opportunities to put my faith into practice. The result had far exceeded what I could ask for or imagine!

Once we arrived in South Africa, we joined Rev. Douglas Wu's church Sunday service. In our prayers, I felt the abundant love that God had bestowed upon the brothers and sisters there. This love, not limited by the boundaries of time or place, deeply encouraged me. The theme verse for the four days and three nights Youth Camp was I Tim 4:12, "*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*" During our team training before the trip, this verse gave me much strength. I was the youngest among the seven members of our team. Before the trip, I was worried. Many in the camp would be older than me. Would they be unwilling to hear my sharing just because I am younger? But God kept using this verse to remind me, to encourage me, to turn my eyes upon the Lord.

During the second morning of the camp while I was in the middle of sharing my message, the electricity suddenly went out! As a result, the microphone and the Power Point slides were out of commission! At that time, I had only



one thought— to finish my sharing. After I finished and had time to reflect, I knew that if it were not for God's peace that dwelled in me, there was no way I could accomplish it. On the last night of the camp there was a campfire. We encouraged the youth to be committed to model Christ-like behavior and asked them to share their thoughts. Among them some came from broken families; some were going through difficulties in their studies; and some just heard the Gospel for the first time. But we all saw how the Holy Spirit amazingly worked in their lives. Thank You, Lord, for Your presence and Your faithfulness every day while we were in South Africa. I saw God's love, the blue sky, the vast ocean, the free-roaming animals, a group of brothers and sisters with incredible faith. All these have deeply ingrained in my heart that I will not soon forget. I don't know if I will have the opportunity to step foot in this land again but in my prayer, my heart is already closely knitted with it.



2012.09.30

BRAZIL

(Paul Chiang) This STM has allowed me to see how beautiful it is for brothers and sisters to serve together. Thank you, Lord! Even though we ran into some difficulties during these 15 days, I did not hear of any complaints. We had a lot of time to share and communicate, which brought even more harvests to the journey. We also felt the dedication and burden of the local brothers and sisters in preaching the Gospel. We



hope that they are able to continue to serve in that manner.

This trip also allowed me to see how much grace God is bestowing to North America, especially the churches in the Bay Area. We have a lot of God's

blessings that are non-existent in other places. And yet I saw how our brothers and sisters in Brazil were serving others faithfully even among all the difficulties. May the Lord keep their hearts and their labor, and unite their hearts in order to continue to fight this battle for Him. I also ask God to bring suitable full-time workers to shepherd this flock. There were a lot of Cantonese-speaking new immigrants in Curitiba. May the Lord bring a Cantonese-speaking shepherd to share the Gospel among these people, especially because the Jehovah Witnesses are already using Portuguese language to attract them as well.

(Raymond Yip) None of the churches we visited on this trip had a full-time preacher to shepherd them. However, I did witness a group of faithful and zealous brothers and sisters serving in the churches. Many of them are willing to open their homes to serve our team. Some even closed their shops so they had time to accompany us to share the Gospel. I was quite touched by the willingness to serve.

We had many opportunities to share the Gospel with the local non-believers. But because they work very hard and had to care for their children, very few were able to attend the regular gatherings at churches. The shopkeepers all have long workdays, some even work seven days a week. That makes it impossible for them, physically and logistically, to attend church. Others live too far from the church and so they rarely went. Most of them did not show great interest in the faith. Most of the new immigrants have a low level of education so it'll be quite difficult for

them to read the Bible. This STM allowed me to reap so much. During the gathering in Brasilia, I led a group of teenagers in activities. On the last day our team arrived at the elementary school for that evening's evangelistic meeting. I saw a youth who had been attending our gatherings sitting alone under a tree in a corner, listening to music. I walked over to chat with him. He came with his parents to Brazil more than three years ago. He only finished high school, not understanding any Portuguese. His mother had already accepted Christ but his father had not. She's the one who usually brought him along to the church. He seemed interested in the Gospel, or at least he stopped listening to his music.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Praise God that brother Lin has left the hospital. Please continue to pray for his complete healing and recovery.
2. Pray for Alex and Nicole Ko, believers in South Africa, who are seeking the Lord to lead their way ahead into full time ministry.
3. The Pretoria Fu-Qing Evangelical Christian Church was established in September (formerly Pretoria Fu-Qing Fellowship). Four brothers were ordained to be deacons. Please pray for them in their service to the Lord.
4. Churches in Belo Horizonte and Brasilia invited CIM to plan STM teams to lead camps there in February and July of 2013. Please ask the Lord to motivate and raise up workers for these two trips.
5. Pray for the financial needs of CIM, especially in the area of administrative expenses.
6. Pray that the Lord will bring more workers to serve together with CIM in planning and promoting of CIM's ministries.

FINANCIAL REPORT August 2012

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$2,825	\$3,793	-\$968
Missions	\$2,909	\$4,912	-\$2,003
Total	\$5,734	\$8,705	-\$2,971

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