

South Africa Mission Trip -- Philip Ling

I am very thankful to the Lord for giving me an opportunity to serve Him in South Africa this summer. Even though I went to minister to Pastor Wu's three churches, I felt I was blessed immeasurably by the body in South Africa. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

I could see the hand of God move during our time there. The Lord provided an extraordinary circumstance to allow us to spend more time with the brothers and sisters there. There was a miner strike during the three weeks we stayed in Rustenburg. Many of the Chinese own convenient stores that cater mainly to the miners. The strike made it possible for them to spend more time with us in studying the Bible, praying, and discussing church issues.

We held 6 Bible studies on the book of Philippians in the garage of a brother's home. We had an average attendance of 20 people each time. Praise God that they found the class and the material beneficial and applicable to their lives. We also discussed church issues (i.e. Sunday service operation, Bible study, prayer meeting, and spiritual life) with the five church lay-leaders. That time of sharing allowed us to gain insight into their way of life, their spiritual obstacles, and their vision and hope for the church.

Pastor Jimmy and I were able to encourage them to live holy lives set apart for Jesus and to set their eyes on God alone, not on earthly treasures (i.e. focusing all their energy on making money, drinking without self-control, not tithing regularly). We encouraged the church to make it a habit to gather weekly for worship and fellowship; they previously only met twice a month. We also talked about the importance of corporate prayer because the lay-leaders refused to lead prayer publicly. We are pleased to share that they had teachable spirits and were willing to make all the changes we suggested above.

During our time in Rustenburg, Pastor Jimmy and I also visited many brothers and sisters who had not attended church for awhile. They were all glad we spent time ministering to them in prayer.

People who know me know I love food. And one of the unexpected blessings we experienced was how the brothers and sisters cooked delicious Fu-Chow food reminiscent of my childhood! I truly felt the bond of Christ in South Africa, even though I was thousands of miles away from home. This spiritual bond is a foretaste of what heaven will be like!

Please continue to remember the churches in South Africa, that they would thrive without the shepherd of their pastor. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide the lives of the believers and their walk with Jesus. Please pray they will be transformed in their minds for heavenly things and committed to living godly lives to honor God alone.